

Subject: *Know Your Bible – Part 28*

Scripture: *Hebrews 1:1-14*

Time, Place, and Purpose of Hebrews

1. The human author of Hebrews is unknown. We do know this book was inspired by God and was written sometime between 64-67 A. D., when the Temple was still standing and Jews still worshiped there. Herod's Temple was completed in 64 A. D. and it was destroyed by the Romans during the invasion of Titus in 70 A. D.

2. Hebrews begins with a profound statement about the person and work of Christ.

- A. Christ is the ultimate word from God (Heb. 1:1-2)
- B. Christ is the appointed heir of all things (1:2)
- C. Christ is the sovereign creator of all things (1:2)
- D. Christ is the visible expression of God's glory (1:3)
- E. Christ is the exact representation of God's character (1:3)
- F. Christ is the powerful sustainer of all things (1:3)
- G. Christ is the sufficient sacrifice for all sins (1:3)
- H. Christ is the exalted high priest seated at the Father's right hand (1:3)

3. Hebrews is more like a sermon than a letter. The writer refers to his letter as a "word of exhortation" (13:22). The writer urged his readers 13 times using the expression, "Let us."

- A. Let us therefore fear (Heb. 4:1)
- B. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest (4:11)
- C. Let us hold fast our profession (4:14)
- D. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace (4:16)
- E. Let us go on unto perfection (maturity) (6:1)
- F. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith (10:22)
- G. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (10:23)
- H. Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works (10:24)
- I. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily beset us (12:1)
- J. Let us run with patience (endurance) the race that is set before us (12:1)
- K. Let us have grace (12:28)
- L. Let us go forth therefore unto him outside the camp (13:13)
- M. Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually (13:15)

4. Hebrews also provides clear exposition of selected Old Testament texts.

1:1—2:4	Exposition of verses from Psalms; 2 Sam. 7; Deut. 32
2:5-18	Exposition of Ps. 8:4-6
3:1—4:13	Exposition of Ps. 95:7-11
4:14—7:28	Exposition of Ps. 110:4
8:1—10:18	Exposition of Jer. 31:31-34
10:32—12:3	Exposition of Hab. 2:3-4
12:4-13	Exposition of Prov. 3:11-12
12:18-29	Exposition of Ex. 19—20

5. The key word of Hebrews is better. This word is used 13 times (Heb. 1:4; 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6 [twice]; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40). The writer focused on the superiority of the Christian

faith over Judaism and the superiority of Christ's all-sufficient sacrifice over the repeated and imperfect sacrifices of the Levitical system. In Christ believers have a better hope, covenant, promises, substance, country, and resurrection.

- A. Christ is better than the prophets
- B. Christ is better than the angels
- C. Christ is better than Moses
- D. Christ is better than Aaron and the priests
- E. Christ is better than the Old Covenant
- F. Christ is better than Jewish animal sacrifices

6. Hebrews was written primarily to Hebrew believers who were tempted to forsake Christ and return to Judaism because they faced possible intense persecution (Heb. 10:32-39; 12:4). The readers were not new believers, but immature believers who were wavering in their faith (3:1, 12-14; 5:11-14).

7. Hebrews stresses the present ministry of Christ as High Priest. Hebrews has been called "The Fifth Gospel." The first four gospels describe Christ's ministry on earth, but Hebrews describes His ongoing priestly ministry in heaven.

8. Hebrews must be studied in connection with Jewish worship as described in the Old Testament, especially in the books of Exodus and Leviticus.

9. Hebrews contains the classic chapter on genuine faith (Heb. 11). In keeping with the theme of the entire book, this chapter is a call to perseverance in faith.

10. Hebrews includes several warning passages designed to alert the readers to examine their relationship to God and His truth.

- A. Warning about drifting from the gospel of salvation (2:1-4)
- B. Warning about doubting God's voice (3:7-14)
- C. Warning about dullness toward spiritual maturity (5:11—6:20)
- D. Warning about disregarding God's truth (10:26-39)
- E. Warning about despising God's grace (12:15-17)
- F. Warning about departing from God (12:14-29)

Outline of Hebrews

1. Superiority of Christ over the Prophets (1:1-3)
2. Superiority of Christ over the Angels (1:4—2:18)
3. Superiority of Christ over Moses (3:1—4:13)
4. Superiority of Christ over the Old Testament Priests (4:14—7:28)
5. Superiority of Christ over the Old Covenant (8:1-3)
6. Superiority of Christ over the Old Testament Sanctuary and Sacrifices (9:1—10:18)
7. Superiority of the Christian's Walk of Faith (10:19—13:25)

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Hebrews

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- A. Christ is better than _____
- B. Christ is better than _____
- C. Christ is better than _____
- D. Christ is better than _____
- E. Christ is better then _____
- F. Christ is better than _____

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