

## ~HEBREWS, LETTER TO THE (1290)

- Purpose Of The Letter
- Jewish Opposition
- Superiority Of Christian System
- Writership And Time - Place Written
- Highlights Of Hebrews

- An inspired letter of the **Christian Greek Scriptures**. Evidence indicates that it was written by the apostle Paul to the Hebrew Christians in Judea about **61 C.E.** To those Hebrew Christians the letter was most timely.

- It had then been about 28 years since Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. In the earlier part of that period severe persecution had been brought upon these Jewish Christians in Jerusalem and Judea by the Jewish religious leaders, resulting in the death of some Christians and the scattering of most of the others from Jerusalem.

- Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him. On that day great persecution arose against the congregation that was in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. (**Acts of Apostles 8:1**)

- The scattered ones remained active in spreading the Good News everywhere they went.

- However, those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the Good News of the word. (**Acts of Apostles 8:4**)

- The apostles had stayed in Jerusalem and had held the remaining congregation together there, and it had grown, even under stiff opposition.

- When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)

- Then, for a time, the congregation entered into a period of peace.

- Then, indeed, the congregation throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria entered into a period of peace, being built up, and as it walked in the fear of Yehowah and in the

comfort of the Holy Spirit it kept on multiplying. (**Acts of Apostles 9:31**)

- **Later, Herod Agrippa I caused the death of the apostle James, John's brother, and mistreated others of the congregation.**
- **About that particular time Herod the king applied his hands to mistreating some of those of the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:1**)**
- **He did away with James the brother of John by the sword. (**Acts of Apostles 12:2**)**
- **As he saw it was pleasing to the Jews, he went on to arrest Peter also. As it was, those were days of the unfermented cakes. (**Acts of Apostles 12:3**)**
- **And laying hold of him, he put him in prison, turning him over to four shifts of four soldiers each to guard him, as he intended to produce him for the people after the Passover. (**Acts of Apostles 12:4**)**
- **Consequently Peter was being kept in the prison, but prayer to God for him was being carried on intensely by the congregation. (**Acts of Apostles 12:5**)**
- **Sometime after this, there developed a material need among the Christians in Judea, giving opportunity for those in Achaia and Macedonia in about 55 C.E, to demonstrate their love and unity by sending aid.**
- **Now concerning the collection that is for the holy ones, just as I gave orders to the congregations of Galatia, do that way also yourselves. (**1 Corinthians 16:1**)**
- **Every first day of the week let each of you at his own house set something aside in store as he may be prospering, so that when I arrive collections will not take place then. (**1 Corinthians 16:2**)**
- **But when I get there, whatever men you approve of by letters, these I shall send to carry your kind gift to Jerusalem. (**1 Corinthians 16:3**)**
- **Now concerning the ministry that is for the holy ones, it is**

superfluous for me to write you. (2 Corinthians 9:1)

- For I know your readiness of mind of which I am boasting to the Macedonians about you, that Achaia has stood ready now for a year, and your zeal has stirred up the majority of them. (2 Corinthians 9:2)
- But I am sending the brothers, that our boasting about you might not prove empty in this respect, but that you may really be ready, just as I used to say you would be. (2 Corinthians 9:3)
- Otherwise, in some way, if Macedonians should come with me and find you not ready, we, not to say you, should be put to shame in this assurance of ours. (2 Corinthians 9:4)
- Therefore I thought it necessary to encourage the brothers to come to you in advance and to get ready in advance your bountiful gift previously promised, that thus this might be ready as a bountiful gift and not as something extorted. (2 Corinthians 9:5)
- So the Jerusalem congregation had suffered many hardships.

#### .. Purpose Of The Letter

- The congregation in Jerusalem was comprised almost entirely of Jews and those who had been proselytes to the Jews religion. Many of these had come to a knowledge of the truth after the time of the most bitter persecution.
- At the time the letter to the **Hebrews** was written, the congregation was enjoying comparative peace, for Paul told them;
- In carrying on your contest against that sin you have never yet resisted as far as blood. (Hebrews 12:4)
- Nevertheless, the lessening of outright physical persecution to death did not mean that strong opposition from the Jewish religious leaders had ceased.
- The newer members of the congregation had to face the opposition just as the rest did. And some others were immature, not having made the progress toward maturity that they should have made in view of the time.

- For, indeed, although you ought to be teachers in view of the time, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God, and you have become such as need milk, not solid food. ([Hebrews 5:12](#))
- The opposition they faced daily from the Jews put their faith to a test. They needed to build up the quality of endurance.
- So, then, because we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put off every weight and the sin that easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. ([Hebrews 12:1](#))
- As we look intently at the Chief Agent and Perfecter of our faith, Jesus. For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ([Hebrews 12:2](#))
- Time was running out for Jerusalem. Neither the apostle Paul nor those in the congregation at Jerusalem knew when the foretold desolation would occur, but God did know.
- Furthermore, when you see Jerusalem surrounded by encamped armies, then know that the desolating of her has drawn near. ([Luke 21:20](#))
- Then let those in Judea begin fleeing to the mountains, and let those in the midst of her withdraw, and let those in the country places not enter into her. ([Luke 21:21](#))
- Because these are days for meting out justice, that all the things written may be fulfilled. ([Luke 21:22](#))
- Woe to the pregnant women and the ones suckling a baby in those days! For there will be great necessity upon the land and wrath on this people. ([Luke 21:23](#))
- And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled. ([Luke 21:24](#))

- There are seventy weeks that have been determined upon your people and upon your holy city, in order to terminate the transgression, and to finish off sin, and to make atonement for error, and to bring in righteousness for times indefinite, and to imprint a seal upon vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies. ([Daniel 9:24](#))
- And he must keep the covenant in force for the many for one week, and at the half of the week he will cause sacrifice and gift offering to cease. And upon the wing of disgusting things there will be the one causing desolation, and until an extermination, the very thing decided upon will go pouring out also upon the one lying desolate. ([Daniel 9:27](#))
- The situation would call for the Christians there to be alert and to exercise faith so that they would flee from the city when they saw Jerusalem surrounded by encamped armies.
- All in the congregation needed to strengthen themselves for these momentous events. According to tradition, it was just about five years after the writing of this letter that Cestius Gallus troops attacked the city and then withdrew.
- Four years after that, Jerusalem and its temple were leveled by the Romans under General Titus. But before either of these events took place, Yehowah had provided the inspired counsel that his servants needed.

### •• Jewish Opposition

- The Jewish religious leaders, by lying propaganda, had done everything they could to stir up hatred against Christ's followers. Their determination to fight Christianity with every possible weapon is demonstrated by their actions, as recorded in;
- Now they kept listening to him down to this word, and they raised their voices, saying; Take such a man away from the earth, for he was not fit to live! ([Acts of Apostles 22:22](#))
- Now when it became day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with a curse, saying they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 23:12](#))
- There were more than forty men that formed this oath-bound

conspiracy. ([Acts of Apostles 23:13](#))

- And they went to the chief priests and the older men and said; We have solemnly bound ourselves with a curse not to take a bite of food until we have killed Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 23:14](#))
- Now, therefore, you together with the Sanhedrin make it clear to the military commander why he should bring him down to you as though you intended to determine more accurately the matters involving him. But before he gets near we will be ready to do away with him. ([Acts of Apostles 23:15](#))
- And he summoned a certain two of the army officers and said; Get two hundred soldiers ready to march clear to Caesarea, also seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night. ([Acts of Apostles 23:23](#))
- Also, provide beasts of burden that they may have Paul ride and convey him safely to Felix the governor. ([Acts of Apostles 23:24](#))
- Five days later the High Priest Ananias came down with some older men and a public speaker, a certain Tertullus, and they gave information to the governor against Paul. ([Acts of Apostles 24:1](#))
- When he was called, Tertullus started accusing him, saying; Seeing that we enjoy great peace through you and that reforms are taking place in this nation through your forethought. ([Acts of Apostles 24:2](#))
- At all times and also in all places we receive it, Your Excellency Felix, with the greatest thankfulness. ([Acts of Apostles 24:3](#))
- But that I may not hinder you any further, I beseech you to hear us briefly in your kindness. ([Acts of Apostles 24:4](#))
- Therefore Festus, after entering upon the government of the province, went up three days later to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ([Acts of Apostles 25:1](#))
- And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews gave him information against Paul. So they began to entreat him. ([Acts of Apostles 25:2](#))

- Asking for themselves as a favor against the man that he would send for him to come to Jerusalem, as they were laying an ambush to do away with him along the road. (**Acts of Apostles 25:3**)
- They and their supporters constantly harassed the Christians, evidently using arguments in an effort to break their loyalty to Christ. They attacked Christianity with what might seem to a Jew to be powerful reasoning, hard to answer.
- At that time Judaism had much to offer in the way of tangible, material things and outward appearance. The Jews might say that these things proved Judaism superior and Christianity foolish. Why, they had told Jesus that the nation had as their father **Abraham**, to whom the promises were given.
- They replied to him; We are Abraham's offspring and never have we been slaves to anybody. How is it you say; You will become free? (**John 8:33**)
- In answer they said to him; Our father is Abraham. Jesus said to them; If you are Abraham's children, do the works of Abraham. (**John 8:39**)
- **Moses**, to whom God spoke mouth to mouth, was God's great servant and prophet.
- Not so my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. (**Numbers 12:7**)
- Mouth to mouth I speak to him, thus showing him, and not by riddles, and the appearance of Yehowah is what he beholds. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against Moses? (**Numbers 12:8**)
- The Jews had the **Law** and the words of the **prophets** from the beginning. Did not this very **antiquity** establish Judaism as the true religion? They might ask.
- At the inaugurating of the Law covenant, God had spoken by means of **angels**, in fact, the Law was transmitted through angels by the hand of the mediator Moses.
- You who received the Law as transmitted by angels but have not

kept it. (**Acts of Apostles 7:53**)

- **Why, then, the Law? It was added to make transgressions manifest, until the seed should arrive to whom the promise had been made, and it was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator. (**Galatians 3:19**)**
- **On this occasion God had given a fear-inspiring demonstration of power in shaking Mount Sinai, the loud sound of a horn, smoke, thunder, and lightning accompanied the glorious display.**
- **And on the third day when it became morning it came about that thunders and lightnings began occurring, and a heavy cloud upon the mountain and a very loud sound of a horn, so that all the people who were in the camp began to tremble. (**Exodus 19:16**)**
- **Moses now brought the people out of the camp to meet the true God, and they went taking their stand at the base of the mountain. (**Exodus 19:17**)**
- **And Mount Sinai smoked all over, due to the fact that Yehowah came down upon it in fire, and its smoke kept ascending like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain was trembling very much. (**Exodus 19:18**)**
- **When the sound of the horn became continually louder and louder, Moses began to speak, and the true God began to answer him with a voice. (**Exodus 19:19**)**
- **Now all the people were seeing the thunders and the lightning flashes and the sound of the horn and the mountain smoking. When the people got to see it, then they quivered and stood at a distance. (**Exodus 20:18**)**
- **For you have not approached that which can be felt and which has been set aflame with fire, and a dark cloud and thick darkness and a tempest. (**Hebrews 12:18**)**
- **And the blare of a trumpet and the voice of words, on hearing which voice the people implored that no word should be added to them. (**Hebrews 12:19**)**
- **For the command was not bearable to them; And if a beast touches the mountain, it must be stoned. (**Hebrews 12:20**)**



- Also, the display was so fearsome that Moses said; I am fearful and trembling. (**Hebrews 12:21**)
- Besides all these things of antiquity, there stood the magnificent **temple** with its **priesthood** instituted by Yehowah. Priests officiated at the temple, daily handling many **sacrifices**. Accompanying these things were the costly **priestly garments** and the splendor of the **services** conducted at the temple.
- Had not Yehowah commanded that sacrifices for sin be brought to the sanctuary, and did not the **High Priest**, the descendant of Moses own brother **Aaron**, enter the **Most Holy** on the Day of Atonement with a sacrifice for the sins of the whole nation?
- On this occasion, did he not approach representatively into the very **presence of God?**, the Jews might argue. (**Leviticus Chapter 16**) Furthermore, was not the **kingdom** the possession of the Jews, with one, the Messiah, who would later come, as they said; To sit on the throne at **Jerusalem** to rule?
- If the letter to the **Hebrews** was being written to equip the Christians to answer objections that were actually being raised by the Jews, then those enemies of Christianity had contended in this way. What did this new heresy have to point to as evidence of its genuineness and of God's favor?
- Where was their temple, and where their priesthood? In fact, where was their leader? Was he of any importance among the leaders of the nation during his lifetime this Jesus, a Galilean, a carpenter's son, with no rabbinic education? And did he not die an ignominious death? Where was his kingdom?
- And who were his apostles and followers? Mere fishermen and tax collectors. Furthermore, whom did Christianity draw, for the most part? The poor and lowly persons of the earth and, even worse, uncircumcised Gentiles, not of the seed of Abraham, were accepted.
- Why should anyone put his trust in this Jesus, who had been put to death as a blasphemer and a seditionist? Why listen to his disciples, men unlettered and ordinary?
- Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got

to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 4:13](#))

## **· Superiority Of Christian System**

- **Some of the immature Christians may have become neglectful of their salvation through Christ.**
- **That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things heard by us, that we may never drift away. ([Hebrews 2:1](#))**
- **For if the word spoken through angels proved to be firm, and every transgression and disobedient act received a retribution in harmony with justice. ([Hebrews 2:2](#))**
- **How shall we escape if we have neglected a salvation of such greatness in that it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him. ([Hebrews 2:3](#))**
- **While God joined in bearing witness with signs as well as portents and various powerful works and with distributions of Holy Spirit according to his will? ([Hebrews 2:4](#))**
- **Or they may have been swayed by the unbelieving Jews who surrounded them. Coming to their aid with masterful argument, using the **Hebrew** Scriptures, on which the Jews claimed to rely, the apostle shows irrefutably the superiority of the Christian system of things and of the priesthood and kingship of Jesus Christ. He Scripturally demonstrates that Jesus Christ is the **Son** of God, greater than **angels****
- **So he has become better than the angels, to the extent that he has inherited a name more excellent than theirs. ([Hebrews 1:4](#))**
- **For example, to which one of the angels did he ever say; You are my son, I, today, I have become your father? And again; I myself shall become his father, and he himself will become my son? ([Hebrews 1:5](#))**
- **But when he again brings his Firstborn into the inhabited earth, he says; And let all God's angels do obeisance to him. ([Hebrews 1:6](#))**
- **Greater than Abraham**

- For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him ([Hebrews 7:1](#))
- And to whom Abraham apportioned a tenth from all things, is first of all, by translation, King of Righteousness, and is then also king of Salem, that is, King of Peace. ([Hebrews 7:2](#))
- In being fatherless, motherless, without genealogy, having neither a beginning of days nor an end of life, but having been made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. ([Hebrews 7:3](#))
- Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. ([Hebrews 7:4](#))
- True, the men from the sons of Levi who receive their priestly office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, even if these have issued from the loins of Abraham. ([Hebrews 7:5](#))
- But the man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ([Hebrews 7:6](#))
- Now without any dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. ([Hebrews 7:7](#))
- Than Moses
- Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and High Priest whom we confess, Jesus. ([Hebrews 3:1](#))
- He was faithful to the One that made him such, as Moses was also in all the house of that One. ([Hebrews 3:2](#))
- For the latter is counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who constructs it has more honor than the house. ([Hebrews 3:3](#))
- Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but he that constructed all things is God. ([Hebrews 3:4](#))

- **And Moses as an attendant was faithful in all the house of that One as a testimony of the things that were to be spoken afterwards. ([Hebrews 3:5](#))**
- **But Christ was faithful as a Son over the house of that One. We are the house of that One, if we make fast our hold on our freeness of speech and our boasting over the hope firm to the end. ([Hebrews 3:6](#))**
- **Than the prophets,**
- **God, who long ago spoke on many occasions and in many ways to our forefathers by means of the prophets. ([Hebrews 1:1](#))**
- **Has at the end of these days spoken to us by means of a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the systems of things. ([Hebrews 1:2](#))**
- **In fact, Christ is the appointed heir of all things, crowned with glory and honor and appointed over the works of Yehowah's hands.**
- **Has at the end of these days spoken to us by means of a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the systems of things. ([Hebrews 1:2](#))**
- **Appointed over all the works of Yehowah's,**
- **You made him a little lower than angels, with glory and honor you crowned him, and appointed him over the works of your hands. ([Hebrews 2:7](#))**
- **All things you subjected under his feet. For in that he subjected all things to him God left nothing that is not subject to him. Now, though, we do not yet see all things in subjection to him. ([Hebrews 2:8](#))**
- **But we behold Jesus, who has been made a little lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, that he by God's undeserved kindness might taste death for every man. ([Hebrews 2:9](#))**

- **As to priesthood, Christ's is far superior to the Aaronic priesthood of the tribe of Levi. It is dependent, not on inheritance from sinful flesh, but on an oath of God.**
- **For when God made his promise to Abraham, since he could not swear by anyone greater, he swore by himself. ([Hebrews 6:13](#))**
- **Saying; Assuredly in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you. ([Hebrews 6:14](#))**
- **And thus after Abraham had shown patience, he obtained this promise. ([Hebrews 6:15](#))**
- **For men swear by the one greater, and their oath is the end of every dispute, as it is a legal guarantee to them. ([Hebrews 6:16](#))**
- **In this manner God, when he purposed to demonstrate more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of his counsel, stepped in with an oath. ([Hebrews 6:17](#))**
- **In order, that, through two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to the refuge may have strong encouragement to lay hold on the hope set before us. ([Hebrews 6:18](#))**
- **This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and firm, and it enters in within the curtain. ([Hebrews 6:19](#))**
- **Where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of Melchizedek forever. ([Hebrews 6:20](#))**
- **True, the men from the sons of Levi who receive their priestly office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, even if these have issued from the loins of Abraham. ([Hebrews 7:5](#))**
- **But the man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ([Hebrews 7:6](#))**
- **Now without any dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. ([Hebrews 7:7](#))**

- And in the one case it is men who are dying that receive tithes, but in the other case it is someone of whom it is witnessed that he lives. (**Hebrews 7:8**)
- And, if I may use the expression, through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes. (**Hebrews 7:9**)
- For he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him. (**Hebrews 7:10**)
- If, then, perfection were really through the Levitical priesthood, for with it as a feature the people were given the Law, what further need would there be for another priest to arise according to the manner of Melchizedek and not said to be according to the manner of Aaron? (**Hebrews 7:11**)
- For since the priesthood is being changed, there comes to be of necessity a change also of the Law. (**Hebrews 7:12**)
- For the man respecting whom these things are said has been a member of another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. (**Hebrews 7:13**)
- For it is quite plain that our Lord has sprung up out of Judah, a tribe about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. (**Hebrews 7:14**)
- And it is still more abundantly clear that with a similarity to Melchizedek there arises another priest. (**Hebrews 7:15**)
- Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an indestructible life. (**Hebrews 7:16**)
- For in witness it is said; You are a priest forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. (**Hebrews 7:17**)
- Also, to the extent that it was not without a sworn oath. (**Hebrews 7:20**)
- For there are indeed men that have become priests without a sworn oath, but there is one with an oath sworn by the One who said respecting him; Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret, You are a priest forever. (**Hebrews 7:21**)

- To that extent also Jesus has become the one given in pledge of a better covenant. (**Hebrews 7:22**)
- Furthermore, many had to become priests in succession because of being prevented by death from continuing as such. (**Hebrews 7:23**)
- But he because of continuing alive forever has his priesthood without any successors. (**Hebrews 7:24**)
- Consequently he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them. (**Hebrews 7:25**)
- For such a High Priest as this was suitable for us, loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners, and become higher than the heavens. (**Hebrews 7:26**)
- He does not need daily, as those High Priests do, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for those of the people. For this he did once for all time when he offered himself up. (**Hebrews 7:27**)
- For the Law appoints men High Priests having weakness, but the word of the sworn oath that came after the Law appoints a Son, who is perfected forever. (**Hebrews 7:28**)
- Why, though, did he endure such hardships and die a death of suffering? This was foretold as essential to mankind's salvation and to qualify him as High Priest and the one to whom God will subject all things.
- All things you subjected under his feet. For in that he subjected all things to him God left nothing that is not subject to him. Now, though, we do not yet see all things in subjection to him. (**Hebrews 2:8**)
- But we behold Jesus, who has been made a little lower than angels, crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death, that he by God's undeserved kindness might taste death for every man. (**Hebrews 2:9**)
- For it was fitting for the one for whose sake all things are and

through whom all things are, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Chief Agent of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ([Hebrews 2:10](#))

- And as it is reserved for men to die once for all time, but after this a judgment. ([Hebrews 9:27](#))
- So also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many, and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin and to those earnestly looking for him for their salvation. ([Hebrews 9:28](#))
- For that reason I shall deal him a portion among the many, and it will be with the mighty ones that he will apportion the spoil, due to the fact that he poured out his soul to the very death, and it was with the transgressors that he was counted in, and he himself carried the very sin of many people, and for the transgressors he proceeded to interpose. ([Isaiah 53:12](#))
- He had to become blood and flesh and die in order to emancipate all those who through fear of death were in slavery. Through his death he is able to bring to nothing the Devil, a thing no human priest could do.
- Therefore, since the young children are sharers of blood and flesh, he also similarly partook of the same things, that through his death he might bring to nothing the one having the means to cause death, that is, the Devil. ([Hebrews 2:14](#))
- And that he might emancipate all those who for fear of death were subject to slavery all through their lives. ([Hebrews 2:15](#))
- For he is really not assisting angels at all, but he is assisting Abraham's seed. ([Hebrews 2:16](#))
- He, having so suffered, is a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses and can come to our help, having been tested in all respects.
- Consequently he was obliged to become like his brothers in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people. ([Hebrews 2:17](#))



- For in that he himself has suffered when being put to the test, he is able to come to the aid of those who are being put to the test. ([Hebrews 2:18](#))
- For we have as High Priest, not one who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tested in all respects like ourselves, but without sin. ([Hebrews 4:15](#))
- Moreover, argues the apostle, this High Priest passed through the heavens and appeared in the very presence of God, not in a mere earthly tent or building that was only pictorial of heavenly things.
- Seeing, therefore, that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold onto our confessing of him. ([Hebrews 4:14](#))
- Now as to the things being discussed this is the main point. We have such a High Priest as this, and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. ([Hebrews 8:1](#))
- This very tent is an illustration for the appointed time that is now here, and in keeping with it both gifts and sacrifices are offered. However, these are not able to make the man doing sacred service perfect as respects his conscience. ([Hebrews 9:9](#))
- But have to do only with foods and drinks and various baptisms. They were legal requirements pertaining to the flesh and were imposed until the appointed time to set things straight. ([Hebrews 9:10](#))
- For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. ([Hebrews 9:24](#))
- He needed to appear only once with his perfect, sinless sacrifice, not over and over again.
- For such a High Priest as this was suitable for us, loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners, and become higher than the heavens. ([Hebrews 7:26](#))
- He does not need daily, as those High Priests do, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; For this he did once for all time when he offered himself up.

**(Hebrews 7:27)**

- **For the Law appoints men High Priests having weakness, but the word of the sworn oath that came after the Law appoints a Son, who is perfected forever. (Hebrews 7:28)**
- **Sacrifice, not offered over and over again.**
- **Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with blood not his own. (Hebrews 9:25)**
- **Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself. (Hebrews 9:26)**
- **And as it is reserved for men to die once for all time, but after this a judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)**
- **So also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many, and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin and to those earnestly looking for him for their salvation. (Hebrews 9:28)**
- **He has no successors, as did the Aaronic priests, but lives forever to save completely those to whom he ministers.**
- **And it is still more abundantly clear that with a similarity to Melchizedek there arises another priest. (Hebrews 7:15)**
- **Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an indestructible life. (Hebrews 7:16)**
- **For in witness it is said; You are a priest forever according to the manner of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 7:17)**
- **Furthermore, many had to become priests in succession because of being prevented by death from continuing as such. (Hebrews 7:23)**
- **But he because of continuing alive forever has his priesthood without any successors. (Hebrews 7:24)**

- **Consequently he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them. ([Hebrews 7:25](#))**
- **Christ is Mediator of the better covenant foretold through Jeremiah, under which sins can really be forgiven and consciences can be made clean, things that the Law could never accomplish.**
- **The Ten Words, the basic laws of the Law covenant, were written on stone, the Law of the New Covenant, on hearts. This prophetic word of Yehowah by Jeremiah made the Law covenant obsolete, to vanish away in time.**
- **Look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah; and I will conclude with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a New Covenant. ([Jeremiah 31:31](#))**
- **Not one like the covenant that I concluded with their forefathers in the day of my taking hold of their hand to bring them forth out of the land of Egypt, which covenant of mine they themselves broke, although I myself had husbandly ownership of them, is the utterance of Yehowah. ([Jeremiah 31:32](#))**
- **For this is the covenant that I shall conclude with the house of Israel after those days, is the utterance of Yehowah. I will put my Law within them, and in their heart I shall write it. And I will become their God, and they themselves will become my people. ([Jeremiah 31:33](#))**
- **And they will no more teach each one his companion and each one his brother, saying; Know Yehowah! For they will all of them know me, from the least one of them even to the greatest one of them, is the utterance of Yehowah. For I shall forgive their error, and their sin I shall remember no more. ([Jeremiah 31:34](#))**
- **And he proceeded to state to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, the Ten Words, after which he wrote them upon two tablets of stone. ([Deuteronomy 4:13](#))**
- **Then he wrote upon the tablets the same writing as the first, the Ten Words, which Yehowah had spoken to you in the mountain out of the middle of the fire in the day of the congregation, after**

which Yehowah gave them to me. ([Deuteronomy 10:4](#))

- It is true, the writer of **Hebrews** continues, that an awesome display of power was manifested at Sinai, demonstrating God's approval of the Law covenant.
- But even more forcefully God bore witness at the inauguration of the New Covenant with signs, portents, and powerful works, along with distributions of Holy Spirit to all the members of the congregation assembled.
- For if the word spoken through angels proved to be firm, and every transgression and disobedient act received a retribution in harmony with justice. ([Hebrews 2:2](#))
- How shall we escape if we have neglected a salvation of such greatness in that it began to be spoken through our Lord and was verified for us by those who heard him. ([Hebrews 2:3](#))
- While God joined in bearing witness with signs as well as portents and various powerful works and with distributions of Holy Spirit according to his will? ([Hebrews 2:4](#))
- Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. ([Acts of Apostles 2:1](#))
- And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. ([Acts of Apostles 2:2](#))
- And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. ([Acts of Apostles 2:3](#))
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. ([Acts of Apostles 2:4](#))
- And as to Christ's Kingship, his throne is in the heavens itself, far higher than that of the kings of the line of David who sat on the throne in earthly Jerusalem.
- You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you with the oil of exultation more than

your partners. ([Hebrews 1:9](#))

- **God is the foundation of Christ's throne, and his Kingdom cannot be shaken, as was the kingdom in Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E.**
- **But with reference to the Son; God is your throne forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is the scepter of uprightness. ([Hebrews 1:8](#))**
- **Furthermore, God has gathered his people before something far more awe inspiring than the miraculous display at Mount Sinai. He has caused anointed Christians to approach the heavenly Mount Zion, and he will yet shake not only the earth but also the heaven.**
- **For you have not approached that which can be felt and which has been set aflame with fire, and a dark cloud and thick darkness and a tempest. ([Hebrews 12:18](#))**
- **And the blare of a trumpet and the voice of words, on hearing which voice the people implored that no word should be added to them. ([Hebrews 12:19](#))**
- **For the command was not bearable to them; And if a beast touches the mountain, it must be stoned. ([Hebrews 12:20](#))**
- **Also, the display was so fearsome that Moses said; I am fearful and trembling. ([Hebrews 12:21](#))**
- **But you have approached a Mount Zion and a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels. ([Hebrews 12:22](#))**
- **In general assembly, and the congregation of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. ([Hebrews 12:23](#))**
- **And Jesus the mediator of a New Covenant, and the blood of sprinkling, which speaks in a better way than Abel's blood. ([Hebrews 12:24](#))**
- **See that you do not beg off from him who is speaking. For if they did not escape who begged off from him who was giving divine warning upon earth, much more shall we not if we turn away**

from him who speaks from the heavens. ([Hebrews 12:25](#))

- At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, saying; Yet once more I will set in commotion not only the earth but also the heaven. ([Hebrews 12:26](#))
- Now the expression; Yet once more. Signifies the removal of the things being shaken as things that have been made, in order, that the things not being shaken may remain. ([Hebrews 12:27](#))
- The letter to the **Hebrews** is of inestimable value to Christians. Without it, many of the realities concerning Christ as foreshadowed by the Law would be unclear.
- For example, the Jews had known all along from the Hebrew Scriptures that when their High Priest went into the Most Holy compartment of the sanctuary in their behalf he was representing them before Yehowah.
- But they never appreciated this reality. Someday the real High Priest would actually appear in the heavens in Yehowah's very presence! And as we read the Hebrew Scriptures, how could we realize the tremendous significance of the account of Abraham's meeting with Melchizedek, or understand so clearly what this king-priest typified?
- This, of course, is to cite only two examples out of the many realities that we come to visualize in reading the letter.
- The faith that the letter builds helps Christians to hold on to their hope by means of the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld.
- Faith is the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld. ([Hebrews 11:1](#))
- At a time when many persons rely on antiquity, on the material wealth and power of organizations, on the splendor of rites and ceremonies, and look to the wisdom of this world instead of to God, the divinely inspired letter to the **Hebrews** admirably helps to make the man of God fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.
- All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness. ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))

- That the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work. (**2 Timothy 3:17**)

## • Writership And Time - Place Written

- Writership of the letter to the **Hebrews** has been widely ascribed to the apostle Paul. It was accepted as an epistle of Paul by early writers. The [**Chester Beatty Papyrus No. 2, P 46**] of about **200 C.E.** contains **Hebrews** among nine of Paul's letters, and **Hebrews** is listed among fourteen letters of Paul the apostle in The Canon of Athanasius, of the **Fourth Century C.E.**
- The writer of **Hebrews** does not identify himself by name. Even though all his other letters do bear his name, this lack of identification of the writer would obviously not rule out Paul. Internal evidence in the letter strongly points to Paul as its writer and to Italy, probably Rome, as the place of writing.
- Give my greetings to all those who are taking the lead among you and to all the holy ones. Those in Italy send you their greetings. (**Hebrews 13:24**)
- It was in Rome, evidently during the years **59 C.E.** to **61 C.E.**, that Paul was first imprisoned. Timothy was with Paul in Rome, being mentioned in the apostles letters to the Philippians, the Colossians, and Philemon, written from Rome during that imprisonment.
- Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the holy ones in union with Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with overseers and ministerial servants. (**Philippians 1:1**)
- For my part I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I may be a cheerful soul when I get to know about the things pertaining to you. (**Philippians 2:19**)
- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy our brother (**Colossians 1:1**)
- To the holy ones and faithful brothers in union with Christ at Colossae. May you have undeserved kindness and peace from God our Father. (**Colossians 1:2**)
- Paul, a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, our

brother, to Philemon, our beloved one and fellow worker.  
(**Philemon 1:1**)

- This circumstance fits the remark at;
- Take note that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes quite soon, I shall see you. (**Hebrews 13:23**)
- About Timothy's release from prison and the writers desire to visit Jerusalem soon.
- The time of writing was before the destruction of Jerusalem in **70 C.E.**, for the temple at Jerusalem still stood, with services being performed there, as is evident from the argument in the letter. And Paul's remark about Timothy's being released reasonably fixes the time of writing about nine years earlier, namely, **61 C.E.**, when it is thought that Paul himself was released from his first imprisonment.
- Take note that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes quite soon, I shall see you. (**Hebrews 13:23**)

#### .. **Highlights Of Hebrews**

- A powerful treatise that fortified **Hebrew** Christians and enabled them to help sincere fellow countrymen during the final years of the Jewish system.
- Evidently written by the apostle Paul less than a decade before Jerusalem was destroyed in **70 C.E.**
- The superior position occupied by God's Son
- God, who long ago spoke on many occasions and in many ways to our forefathers by means of the prophets. (**Hebrews 1:1**)
- He is the unique Son, appointed heir, exact representation of his Father's very being, through whom all that was made is also sustained.
- Compared with the Son, angels are but servants. The Father calls him alone my son, the Firstborn to whom even angels would do obeisance, of him and not of angels can it be said that his royal rule rests upon God as his throne, his permanence surpasses that of heavens and earth made through him, and his position is at the Father's right hand



- **If the Law conveyed through angels could not be disregarded without punishment, what was spoken by God through the Son, who is higher than angels, must be given extraordinary attention**
- **Though lower than angels as a man, Jesus Christ was afterward exalted above them and granted dominion over the inhabited earth to come**
- **Moses was an attendant in the house of God, but Jesus Christ is over the entire house**
- **Entering God's rest still possible.**
- **For this reason, just as the Holy Spirit says; Today if you people listen to his own voice. ([Hebrews 3:7](#))**
- **Through to**
- **And there is not a creation that is not manifest to his sight, but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting. ([Hebrews 4:13](#))**
- **Because of disobedience and lack of faith, the Israelites who left Egypt failed to enter God's rest.**
- **Christians can enter God's rest, provided they avoid Israel's disobedience and exert themselves in a course of faithfulness.**
- **The living word promising entrance into God's rest is sharper than a sword, dividing, by a person's response to it, between what he may appear to be as a soul and what he really is as to his spirit.**
- **Superiority of Christ's priesthood and the New Covenant.**
- **Seeing, therefore, that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold onto our confessing of him. ([Hebrews 4:14](#))**
- **Through to,**
- **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ([Hebrews 10:31](#))**

- **Because of having been tested in all respects yet remaining sinless, Jesus Christ as High Priest can sympathize with sinful human's and deal compassionately with them.**
- **He is priest by God's appointment according to the manner of Melchizedek, whose priesthood was greater than the Levitical priesthood.**
- **Unlike Levite priests in Aaron's family, Jesus Christ possesses an indestructible life and thus requires no successors to continue his saving work, he is sinless and so does not need to present sacrifices for himself, he offered up his own body, not animals, and entered, not an earthly sanctuary, but heaven itself with the value of his outpoured blood, thereby validating the New Covenant.**
- **The New Covenant, with Jesus as Mediator, is superior to the Law covenant in that those in it have God's laws in their hearts and enjoy true forgiveness of sins.**
- **Appreciation for these benefits will move Christians to make public declaration of hope and to assemble regularly Faith essential to please God.**
- **However, keep on remembering the former days in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great contest under sufferings. ([Hebrews 10:32](#))**
- **Through to,**
- **For our God is also a consuming fire. ([Hebrews 12:29](#))**
- **Yehowah is displeased with those faithlessly shrinking back from him instead of enduring so as to receive what he has promised.**
- **The exemplary faith of integrity-keepers from Abel onward serves as encouragement to endurance in the Christian race, while considering closely Jesus Christ and his flawless course under suffering.**
- **The suffering that God permits to befall faithful Christians may be viewed as a form of discipline from him, designed to produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness.**
- **Exhortations to pursue a faithful course.**

- **Let your brotherly love continue. (Hebrews 13:1)**
- **Do not forget hospitality, for through it some, unknown to themselves, entertained angels. (Hebrews 13:2)**
- **Keep in mind those in prison bonds as though you have been bound with them, and those being ill-treated, since you yourselves also are still in a body. (Hebrews 13:3)**
- **Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. (Hebrews 13:4)**
- **Let your manner of life be free of the love of money, while you are content with the present things. For he has said; I will by no means leave you nor by any means forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)**
- **So that we may be of good courage and say; Yehowah is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Hebrews 13:6)**
- **Remember those who are taking the lead among you, who have spoken the word of God to you, and as you contemplate how their conduct turns out imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)**
- **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)**
- **Do not be carried away with various and strange teachings, for it is fine for the heart to be given firmness by undeserved kindness, not by eatables, by which those who occupy themselves with them have not been benefited. (Hebrews 13:9)**
- **We have an altar from which those who do sacred service at the tent have no authority to eat. (Hebrews 13:10)**
- **For the bodies of those animals whose blood is taken into the holy place by the High Priest for sin are burned up outside the camp. (Hebrews 13:11)**
- **Hence Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered outside the gate. (Hebrews 13:12)**

- Let us, then, go forth to him outside the camp, bearing the reproach he bore. ([Hebrews 13:13](#))
- For we do not have here a city that continues, but we are earnestly seeking the one to come. ([Hebrews 13:14](#))
- Through him let us always offer to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips which make public declaration to his name. ([Hebrews 13:15](#))
- Moreover, do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ([Hebrews 13:16](#))
- Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you. ([Hebrews 13:17](#))
- Carry on prayer for us, for we trust we have an honest conscience, as we wish to conduct ourselves honestly in all things. ([Hebrews 13:18](#))
- But I exhort you more especially to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. ([Hebrews 13:19](#))
- Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an everlasting covenant, our Lord Jesus. ([Hebrews 13:20](#))
- Equip you with every good thing to do his will, performing in us through Jesus Christ that which is well-pleasing in his sight, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. ([Hebrews 13:21](#))
- Now I exhort you, brothers, to bear with this word of encouragement, for I have, indeed, composed a letter to you in few words. ([Hebrews 13:22](#))
- Take note that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes quite soon, I shall see you. ([Hebrews 13:23](#))
- Give my greetings to all those who are taking the lead among you and to all the holy ones. Those in Italy send you their

greetings. (**Hebrews 13:24**)

- The undeserved kindness be with all of you. (**Hebrews 13:25**)
- **Manifest brotherly love, be hospitable, remember believers who are suffering, maintain marriage in honor, and be content with present things, confident of Yehowah's help**
- **Imitate the faith of those taking the lead, and avoid succumbing to strange teachings**
- **Be willing to bear reproach as Christ did, always offer to God sacrifice of praise through him**
- **Be obedient to those taking the lead.**