

Hebrews Introduction

- 1) It was written to the Jewish Christians of Palestine and especially those in Jerusalem.
- 2) It was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 because³ it speaks of the temple rites and sacrifices as continuing. It was probably written around AD 62 or 63. One of the purposes of the epistle was to prepare the Jewish Christians for the approaching fall of Jerusalem. Hebrews was written to explain to them that animal sacrifices, to which they were so zealously attached, were no longer of any use and that the blood of a lamb could never take away sin.
- 3) It was probably written by the Apostle Paul for the following reasons: 1) the writer was in prison Heb. 10:34, 2) he expected to be released soon Heb. 13:19, 3) Timothy is mentioned in Philippians, Colossians and Philemon as being with Paul while Paul was a prisoner at Rome and in Col. 1:1 and Philemon 1:1 he refers to Timothy as our brother. Timothy had been released from prison and he and Paul expected to visit them Heb 10:23 & Philippians 2:19,24, 4) was presently in Italy, probably Rome when the letter was written Heb 13:24.
- 4) According to Josephus, James the Lord's brother who was one of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem was killed in AD 62. Paul wrote the letter to help the elders steady the church for the terrible times ahead.
- 5) The reason the epistle was sent without Paul's name was Paul was not very popular in Jerusalem among the unbelieving Jews. The leaders of the Jewish Christians would know who wrote it and it would have more weight if it were read in the churches without Paul's name.
- 6) The epistle shows that those addressed were in danger of being tempted to fall away. In order to strengthen them Paul shows the superiority of Christianity over Judaism.
- 7) Chapter 1. The deity of Jesus. The Old Law was delivered by men and angels who were only servants, but the New Law was delivered by Christ, the Son of God. Christ is superior to angels.
- 8) Chapter 2. Christianity is superior because Christ, the Son of God, humbled Himself, suffered humiliation and died for us.
- 9) Chapter 3. Christ is shown to be superior to Moses in many respects. Paul shows the severe sentence on those who rebelled against Moses and apostatized from his law and how worse it is to apostatize from Christ. Warning against unbelief.
- 10) Chapter 4. We are not to harden our hearts if we expect to enter into heaven, the rest which is being prepared for us. The power of God's word is shown.
- 11) Chapter 5. Christ our High Priest is compared to Aaron and is preferred to him on several accounts. Aaron had to offer for his own sins as well as for the sins of others but Christ being perfect offered only for the sins of others.
- 12) Chapter 6. Warning against apostasy. If they were slothful and didn't go forward they would apostatize.
- 13) Chapter 7. The High Priesthood of Christ was similar to that of Melchizedek, without descent. The Levitical priesthood was only temporary. Christ's priesthood is eternal.

- 14) Chapter 8. The Old Covenant was only a shadow of the New and Better Covenant.
- 15) Chapter 9. The old tabernacle is compared to the greater and better tabernacle of Christ, made without hands, eternal in the heavens.
- 16) Chapter 10. Sin is removed forever only by the blood of Christ. The sacrifices of the Old Law are compared with the sacrifice of Christ. Under the Old Law they offered often, but Christ was only offered once. The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sins but Christ by His one offering put away all sin. We ought to hold fast to our profession and not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Don't cast away your confidence which has great recompense of reward. Verses 28-29, he that despised Moses' Law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment shall he be worthy who trods under foot the Son of God and counts the blood wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing.
- 17) Chapter 11. Heroes of faith.
- 18) Chapter 12. Keep our eyes on Jesus for our example. We should profit by the chastening of the Lord lest we sell our birthright as Esau did.
- Chapter 13. Closing admonitions and salutations. Service pleases God.

Hebrews

Chapter 1

- 1) Verses 1-2 At sundry times - giving portions of His revelation at different times. The Old Testament was delivered by God in divers manners both in utterance and manifestations over a lengthy period of time (1000 years), and by many people. The prophets were only servants, mere men, but now He has spoken to us by His Son who is much greater than a servant. The last days is the last dispensation. There will be no other dispensations to follow.
- 2) Verse 3 Begins with Christ's lowest state. 1) Christ was born of a woman, 2) Christ was appointed heir of all things, 3) Christ along with God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them, Gen 1:26, John 1:1-3, 14, 4) Christ is the brightness of the glory of God, 5) Christ is the express image of God's person, Phil 2:6, 6) Christ sustains the universe by the word of His power, 7) Christ made atonement for sin, 8) Christ is seated at the right hand of God, a place of honor and glory on an eternal throne and continues to exercise dominion.
- 3) Verses 4-5 His superiority to the angels is shown in the greater name which He received by inheritance, that is the Son of God.
- 4) Verse 6 Christ is superior to the angels because all the angels worship Him.
- 5) Verse 7 Christ is superior to the angels because the angels were created by Him to be ministers of both He and God the Father.
- 6) Verses 8-9 Quotation from Psalms 45:6-7. Notice all the quotations from the Old Testament which these Jewish Christians were familiar. Christ is a divine king on an eternal throne. Because of the holiness of the Son, God has anointed Him above all else. All kings, priests, and prophets were

consecrated to their offices by anointing. Messiah meant "the anointed one". Gladness is used to express the festivities that took place at the inauguration of kings, etc.

- 7) Verse 10 Christ is superior to the angels because He is eternal. He helped God create the heavens and the earth, which point out his wisdom, power, and greatness.
- 8) Verses 11-12 Permanently fixed as the earth and universe seem to be when the time comes they shall be dissolved, read 2 Peter 3:10-13. "But thou art the same", all others are changeable but Christ will never change. "Thy years shall not fail", in the divine there is no space to be measured, no time to be reckoned, all eternity is infinite and time is without end. Read Psalms 102:25-27. The Son is eternal, the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- 9) Verses 13-14 Quoted from Psalms 110:1. From the opinions of the Jews, if Jesus Christ could be proven to be greater than the angels it would necessarily follow that he was God the Son and this Paul amply proves from these various quotations from their own scriptures. He shows Christ as absolute Supreme and Sovereign but the angels are no more than His messengers, servants and ministering spirits. Christ and God do not need any of these angels for they can do all things for themselves yet it seems agreeable with their infinite wisdom and goodness to use them. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (read Col 2:9). The three bear record in heaven (read 1 John 5:7).

Hebrews Chapter 2

- 1) Verse 1 More earnest heed because the message was not spoken by angels or prophets but by the Son of God who is so great and glorious. His message is of infinite importance to our spiritual welfare. If we let them slip we will be lost eternally.
- 2) Verse 2 The messages sent by angels was so strict that it would not tolerate any transgression and every transgression of disobedience was quickly punished.
- 3) Verse 3 Since this is true there is no hope of escape if we neglect the message of the Son of God. Not a temporary salvation but eternal salvation beyond our imagination which is beyond description. Those who neglect it sin against the very cause and means of their deliverance. Christ began telling of His great salvation then commanded His apostles to preach the gospel to every creature.
- 4) Verse 4 God bore them witness that the things they were preaching was true by confirming them with signs, wonders and miracles (Read Mark 16:20). Everything that had been taught and was confirmed by miracles came from God for no one could do these miracles by himself. God did this to give credit to the word that was spoken. Those who claim to do miracles today are a bunch of fakes and as 2 Peter 2:3 says, "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you."
- 5) Verse 5 The angels have never been put in charge of anything. They are only God's messengers.

- 6) Verses 6-8 Even though we were made a little lower than the angels we have been crowned with glory and honor and given dominion. (Read Gen. 1:26).
- 7) Verse 9 Because of our sins Jesus took upon Himself the nature of man and suffered the penalty due for our sins so God can now be just in saving us. After His suffering all power was given into His hands. One of the ways of executing criminals in ancient times was to make them drink poison. So by tasting death for us Christ said in Matthew 26:39, "O My Father if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." Jesus coming into the world as a man, His suffering and crucifixion, dying, resurrection, ascension into heaven and becoming our Mediator at the right hand of God is full proof of God's love for man.
- 8) Verse 10 This was God's plan to do it this way. By doing this we are now made sons of God. Without suffering Christ could not have died, and without dying he could not have made atonement for our sins and our salvation would have been impossible. The Jews then dreamed of an earthly Messiah and still dream of one. One who is never to be conquered, or die but will be victorious and endure forever. But this was not the plan of God. Captain of our salvation: the only way we can be saved. John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except by Me." Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
- 9) Verse 11 Sanctified - set apart. Made saints. We are one in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body." At baptism we are also made children of God. Galatians 3:26-27, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren. Read Matthew 28:10. Christ makes Himself the brother of the saved.
- 10) Verse 12 From Psalms 22:22 referring to Christ giving praise to God.
- 11) Verse 13 These are all prophecies of the Messiah as fulfilled in Jesus.
- 12) Verse 14 Since we are flesh and blood human beings, in order for Christ to be qualified to redeem us by suffering and dying in our stead, He Himself had to take on Himself the form of flesh and blood and through death make atonement for our sins. The death brought in by Satan is rendered ineffectual by the death of Christ. (Read Revelation 20:10)
- 13) Verse 15 All people fear death. But with the assurance of God's love and promise of eternal life, the fear of death is removed. (Read Philippians 1:23-24) But people who do not know God are in continual torment through the fear of death.

- 14) Verse 16 Christ did not take on the nature of angels but became lower than the angels in order to become our Saviour. He chose the seed of Abraham, the Son of Mary, who was a descendant of Abraham. Luke 3:23.
- 15) Verse 17 In order to redeem us, it was necessary that He should in all things become like us, that He might suffer in our stead, and make atonement for us. Christ is our great High Priest making atonement for us. Each of us is a priest. (Read 1 Peter 2:5,9 and Romans 12:1-2)
- 16) A state of suffering disposes Christ to be compassionate to us. (Read Hebrews 4:15-16)

Hebrews

Chapter 3

- 1) Verse 1 Holy brethren, persons consecrated to God. Christ is very exalted as shown in chapters 1&2. Christians have been made holy by the shed blood of Christ. We are called by the gospel (good news) that came from heaven. Apostle means one sent. He is the High Priest and each of are all priests. (Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- 2) Verse 2 Christ did everything God wanted accomplished just as Moses was faithful in leading the Children of Israel.
- 3) Verses 3-4 Jesus the creator and builder of all things is greater and more honorable than the things He built. Everything created is from God and didn't just happen as the evolutionists say.
- 4) Verse 5 Moses was faithful as a servant and not as a builder. "For a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after". Jesus said in John 5:46, "If ye had believed Moses, ye would have believed Me, for he wrote of me." (Read Deut. 18:15, 18-19)
- 5) Verse 6 "Whose house we are". 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God." 1 Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, Which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." We as Christians are the house of God and Christ and will continue to be "if" we hold fast unto the end. The possibility of falling is pointed out in the following verses.
- 6) Verse 7 Take a warning from the fate of Israel. Quoted from Psalms 95:7-11. God wishes us to hear His voice today, not tomorrow.
- 7) Verse 8 How do we fall away as individuals and as the church? By hardening our hearts if we do not hear His voice. We harden our hearts when we refuse to listen to

God and what God says makes no impression on us. We are not to harden our hearts as Israel did in the wilderness and fell.

- 8) Verse 9 "Proved Me", seeing how much murmuring and sin I would endure. They saw all my great works for forty years.
- 9) Verse 10 I was grieved - disgusted. They were not simply making mistakes but their hearts were wrong. Their affections were set on earthly things. Colossians 3:2 "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."
- 10) Verse 11 God's grief at their continued disobedience became wrath. Many people look at God today only as a loving God.
- 11) Verse 12 Take warning from those disobedient Israelites in that they did not make it into their promised land and that we today do not make it to Heaven. An evil heart of unbelief will lead us away from the living God. Warnings of falling away are pointed out in the following verses.
- 12) Verse 13 Continually stir each other up such as the close fellowship of the church. Use time while we have it. Be warned by their example of unbelief and let not that unbelieving heart that was in them be in you. Exhort each other daily to cleave to the living God. Sin is very deceitful.
- 13) Verse 14 Our going to Heaven depends on our continuing steadfast in faith to the end of life.
- 14) Verse 15 Do not neglect so great salvation, hold fast to what we have obtained, let no man take our reward. Col 2:18, "Let no man beguile you of your reward."
- 15) Verse 16 Some - Out of over 500,000 fighting men, only two, Joshua and Caleb went into the promised land. Matt 7:13-14 few will be saved and many will be lost.
- 16) Verse 17 As God punished the Israelites in the wilderness who fell away He will punish us today.
- 17) Verse 18 He told them they would not enter Canaan. (Read Numbers 14:22-23, 29-33)
- 18) Verse 19 Unbelief produces disobedience and disobedience produces hardness of heart and blindness. If they failed because of their disobedience to the word of Moses, what hope can there be for those who are disobedient to Christ? If unbelief kept the Israelites out of Canaan, unbelief will also keep us out of Heaven.

Hebrews

Chapter 4

- 1) Verse 1 God's promises are conditional. We have a rest that is promised but we must take heed that we do not fall short of keeping the conditions that qualify us for it. The example given was the Israelites lost their rest in Canaan through their unbelief and were led away into captivity. Let us also fear the chance of coming short of our Heavenly rest. How dreadful is the thought of having missed of being saved eternally. To run well for a while and then to allow the Devil to hinder our last few steps.
- 2) Verse 2 Unto us was the good news of deliverance preached as well as the Israelites and their deliverance of Egyptian bondage. They disbelieved, disobeyed and fell except Joshua and Caleb. Unbelief will also make the gospel of none effect. Satan has a lie of once saved always saved.
- 3) Verse 3 We have the promise of Heaven, but it is conditioned on a trusting and obedient faith. As was sworn by the wrath of God, those who are not trusting and obedient shall not enter into the rest. God is loving but God is also just and vengeful.
- 4) Verse 4 The Sabbath rest is a type of our Heavenly rest.
- 5) Verse 5 This was the rest of the land of Canaan which was also a type of the Heavenly rest.
- 6) Verse 6 The Heavenly rest is the remaining rest. God has said some would enter and it was not made in vain. All who like Joshua and Caleb will enter it by faith. Many of the Jews who it was first preached to entered not because of unbelief.
- 7) Verse 7 There is a day of opportunity and when that day is passed by then the opportunity is gone. God's word says "today". 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, "Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."
- 8) Verse 8 Jesus is the Greek form of saviour, Joshua is the Hebrew form. Joshua led Israel into Canaan but did not give them the complete rest or David 500 years afterward in Psalms 95:7 would not have exhorted them to enter into that intended rest.
- 9) Verse 9 The rest of the Sabbath was not the rest, The land of Canaan was not the rest but were only types.
- 10) Verse 10 When God rested on the Sabbath His works ceased. When our rest comes, weary toil, trials, and sufferings will be over. Revelation 14:13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

- 11) Verse 11 The Greek word that is translated labor implies great exertion with all of our might. Once saved always saved is a false doctrine of Satan to lure us into complacency. Galatians 5:4 tells us, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."
- 12) Verse 12 The word of God penetrates deeper than any sword. It enters into the soul and spirit and into the thoughts and intents of the heart and judges our every thought and intent. By the two edged sword means it destroys its enemies.
- 13) Verse 13 Omnipotent. Omnipresent, Omniscient. **Omnipotent:** Genesis 1:1, 3, 6-7, 9&11, 24. **Omnipresent:** (Read Psalms 139:7-12 "Thou art there.") **Omniscient:** (Read Matthew 10:29-30)
- 14) Verse 14 Our High Priest who makes intercession is in the Holy of Holies at the right hand of God. Our High Priest is the Son of God, not the son of Aaron.
- 15) Verse 15 Even though Christ is in Heaven He is still being touched by our infirmities. 1 Peter 2:22, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- 16) Verse 16 Because our High Priest can be touched by our infirmities we should come boldly to the mercy seat with confidence, knowing that Jesus is there to help us. Nothing is to be feared provided we are obedient and our heart is right with God.

Hebrews

Chapter 5

- 1) Verse 1 We are priests, 1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people." Just as the Jewish high priest was taken from among men our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, was also taken from among men. The Jewish high priest was to offer gifts and sacrifices to God just as our High Priest, Jesus Christ has offered gifts and sacrifices for us.
- 2) Verse 2 Our High Priest, Jesus Christ has experienced the same infirmities, the pain the sorrow, the crying, the fear, and the temptations we have, otherwise He could not be a merciful High Priest. We cannot point our finger at Him on Judgment Day and say you just don't know what it is to live as a human. Yes He does. His being a merciful High Priest will not mean He will overlook and not punish eternally those who are not obedient to Him.

- 3) Verse 3 The high priesthood of Aaron offered sacrifices for his own sins and for the sins of the people.
- 4) Verse 4 Aaron was called by God to be high priest. He did not assume it on himself.
- 5) Verse 5 God gave Christ the honor of being our High Priest. He didn't take it upon Himself. Quoted from Psalms 2:7.
- 6) Verse 6 Quoted from Psalms 110:4. The priesthood of Melchizedek and of Christ was not inherited from father to son as was the priesthood of Aaron.
- 7) Verse 7 Christ was even heard in Gethsemane. (Read Luke 22:41-44) An angel strengthened Him. "He feared", He revered the Father in humble submission.
- 8) Verse 8 He claimed no special exemptions. He feared having to die on the cross. If there was no fear, no pain, no suffering, no dread then the cross would have no meaning.
- 9) Verse 9 Having finished all that He was to accomplish in His death and having risen again, He accomplished His purpose, our salvation. He tasted death for every man, but He was able to offer salvation only to those who obey Him. God withholds salvation from no one, but we must turn to Him in believing faith, repent, confess Him and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins in order to be saved. The Lord then adds the saved to His blood bought church where we worship Him in spirit and in truth, being faithful to Him to death, then we have the crown of life.
- 10) Verse 10 (Read Genesis 14:18-20), Melchizedek was both a king and a priest. We will talk more about Melchizedek when we get to Hebrews chapter 7.
- 11) Verse 11 Understanding the high priesthood of Melchizedek helps us to understand the High Priesthood of Christ. Paul is saying that this is hard to explain to them since they were slow to understand. Christ is the High Priest not for the Jews only, but for all of mankind, all obedient believers.
- 12) Verse 12 They had heard the gospel for many years and had professed to be Christians for a long time. They might have reasonably been expected to be able to instruct others also on the first principles of what they needed to do to be saved, but they were not able. They had become such as needing to be taught again. They could still only understand the first principles (the milk) and not the deeper things (the meat). They had not grown spiritually.
- 13) Verse 13 Milk belongs to babes. They had failed to grow and remained babes.

- 14) Verse 14 Strong meat, atonement, justification by faith, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the resurrection of the body, the glorification of the soul, and they could not discern good and evil.

Hebrews Chapter 6

- 1) Verse 1 Ceasing to continue as a babe let us not rest until we are complete as full grown Christians. Even then we must continue to grow. Leave the Law of Moses and come to the gospel, leave Moses and come to Christ. First they should not try to save themselves by trusting in their own works to save them. Second they should not need to be taught again the foundation of faith toward Christ.
- 2) Verse 2 Third they should not have to be taught the doctrine of baptisms - plural. Ephesians 4:4 says there is only one baptism. There had been the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which was promised to the apostles, which happened on the Day of Pentecost. Then there is water baptism. In Ephesians 4:4 Paul says at that time there was only one baptism which could only be baptism in water for the remission of sins in order to be saved. At this time this was the only remaining baptism. Fourthly the laying on of hands was when the apostles laid their hands on others to pass on miraculous gifts. Fifthly the resurrection of the dead was also a fundamental principle.
- 3) Verse 3 If God would permit, Paul would teach all these truths of the Gospel.
- 4) Verse 4 (1) Once enlightened, thoroughly instructed in the gospel. (2) Tasted the heavenly gift, the new life in Christ and the hope of heaven. (3) Partakers of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God sent into the heart of all His Children. Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Galatians 4:6, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father."
- 5) Verse 5 (4) Tasted the word of God, spiritually fed on the word of God as spiritual food for the soul. (5) Powers of the world to come, the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit. The "worlds to come" is used in the sense of the Christian dispensation.
- 6) "It is impossible if they shall fall away." This is not those who backslidden. Although those who have backslidden will be lost if they remain in that state, but must repent. But these are apostates from Christianity who reject the whole Christian system and our Lord Jesus Christ. These are those who join in with the blaspheming Jews, call Christ an impostor, and vindicate His murderers in having crucified Him as a criminal. They

have rejected Christ as their only sacrifice for sin. Repentance is the first step an erring Christian must take in order to return to God.

- 7) Verses 7-8 If we bring forth good fruit we will be blessed of God. If we bring forth bad fruit we will be burned.
- 8) Verse 9 Having given them a warning against apostasy he now encourages them to persevere and commends the good in them. Several had already apostatized from their salvation.
- 9) Verse 10 When God makes a promise His righteousness requires Him to keep it. They had and were still ministering to the poor Christians who were being persecuted. Taking care of those who are in need does get God's attention.
- 10) Verse 11 He earnestly wish that every Christian there will be diligent and he desires them to continue in the full assurance of their hope of Heaven.
- 11) Verse 12 They must be diligent and not slothful. If they are slothful this will deprive them of their hope of Heaven. They should be followers of the great heroes of faith such as Abraham, Moses, and others that will be listed in chapter 11.
- 12) Verse 13 God made a promise to Abraham and because He could swear by no greater He swore by Himself. He made a promise and also backed it up with an oath.
- 13) Verse 14 God made a promise to Abraham that He would bless Him and make Him a great nation.
- 14) Verse 15 He had to patiently wait for the son of his promise. If we believe and endure unto death we shall also inherit the promise of the crown of eternal life.
- 15) Verse 16 We swear by the greater authority. When an oath is taken in court people place their hand on the Bible and swear to tell the truth and end by saying "So help me God." God can swear by no greater than Himself.
- 16) Verse 17 God condescending to human weakness confirmed His promise with an oath.
- 17) Verse 18 The two immutable things, His promise and His oath cannot be broken. God cannot lie. Why? I thought nothing was impossible for God. It is impossible for God to lie because it is against His nature. He would not be God if He lied.
- 18) Verse 19 As an anchor holds a ship when storms are raging, so our hope of salvation and of Heaven holds the soul steadfast during times of trial. Our hope reaches through the vail of the Holy of Holies in Heaven.

19) Verse 20 Christ is already there showing us the way to Heaven. He is forever our High Priest.

Hebrews

Chapter 7

- 1) Verse 1 Melchisedec was both the king of Salem probably early Jerusalem and he was priest of the most high God. Read genesis 14:18-20. He was a righteous man of God of exceeding dignity.
- 2) Verse 2 The tithes were paid to him as the priest of the most high God. It was an ancient custom to consecrate a part or a tenth of the spoils taken in war to their worship. King of Righteousness is the meaning of Melchisedec. King of Salem means king of peace.
- 3) Verse 3 The reason Paul used the example of Melchisedec was to show the Jewish Christians that Jesus was the person prophesied in Psalms 110:4 which Psalm the Jews understood as predicting the Messiah. And to show the Jews that all high priests of God did not have to come from Aaron, he uses Melchisedec as an example who was also a Canaanite. It was necessary for those who became a Jewish priest and high priest to prove their descent from Aaron. To do this they took great care to preserve their genealogies in the archives of the temple. One who could not prove his genealogy was said by the Jews to be without father. This term was common when ones genealogy was unknown or obscure. Melchisedec certainly had a father and mother and was born and died but these facts were not recorded concerning him.
- 4) Verse 4 Melchisedec seemed quite superior to Abraham since Abraham, the father of the faithful and the source of the Jewish race, recognized his superiority by paying tithes to him.
- 5) Verse 5 All the Jewish priests had the authority to expect tithes of the people according to the Law of Moses.
- 6) Verse 6 Paul is showing the superiority of Melchisedec over Abraham and is proving the superiority of the high priesthood of Christ over the high priesthood of Aaron.
- 7) Verse 7 Though Abraham had the promises of God, but because Melchisedec was higher in spiritual dignity and nearer to God he blessed Abraham.
- 8) Verse 8 Under the Jewish priesthood, the priests were successively removed by death, yet they were replaced by others. Here it is related that Abraham gave tithes to Melchisecec who is still considered as being alive or without a successor, because there is no account of his death, nor the termination of his priesthood.
- 9) Verses 9-10 In a sense the tribe of Levi had paid tithes through their ancestor Abraham to Melchisedec, and hence Levi confessed the superiority of the priesthood of Melchisedec.
- 10) Verse 11 Next Paul in this chapter points out because of the imperfection of the priesthood of Aaron it had to be replaced. It was only a shadow of the good things to come. If the Jewish priesthood could give all needful spiritual blessings there would be no need for another priesthood. The Jewish priesthood was not universal and the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.

- 11) Verse 12 Since the Jewish priesthood which had the Law of Moses grouped around it was changed, then the law also must be changed to a new law.
- 12) Verses 13-14 Jesus the high priest spoken of in Psalms 110:4 was not of the tribe of Levi but from Judah as is given in Matt. 1 and Luke 3. No Jewish priest from the tribe of Judah had ever ministered at the Jewish altar nor could ever according to the Law of Moses.
- 13) Verses 15-17 Without argument according to Psalms 110:4, there was to be another priesthood after the similitude or likeness of Melchisedec who was not only a priest but also a king and none of the Levitical priests sustained this double office. One whose descent was not to be counted as verse 6 said.
- 14) Verse 18 There is a doing away with the old law, the Law of Moses because it pardoned no sin. The Jews who still cleave to it are miserable and distressed.
- 15) Verse 19 The law was only a shadow and a preparatory arrangement of the new law. It did not fit people for eternal life but the new Law of Christ did. The old law went before to prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus Christ is our better hope.
- 16) Verse 20 God never used an oath except to show man the certainty and the immutability of the thing sworn. (1) Gen 22:16-18 That in Abraham's seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. (2) Deut 1:34-35 That the Israelites should not enter into Canaan. (3) Deut 4 21 that Moses should not enter Canaan. (4) Psalms 89:4 That David's seed and throne would endure forever. And now in Psalms 110:4 That there would be a priest after the order of Melchisedec.
- 17) Verse 21 The Levitical priests were made without an oath to show the system was changeable but the everlasting priesthood of Christ was made with an oath that Christ was a priest forever to show that the priesthood of Christ would never be abolished. "Will not repent", will not change His mind. So the false premillennial idea of the Levitical priesthood being set up again in Jerusalem for a 1000 year reign of Christ is false since you can only have one type of priesthood. The Levitical priesthood was abolished. Christ will never have a 1000 year reign here on the earth.
- 18) Verse 22 By the unchangeable oath of God, Jesus became the pledge of a new and better covenant which has better blessings and is to all people with better conditions than the old.
- 19) Verse 23 The Levitical priests did not continue always because each died.
- 20) Verse 24 But Jesus continues eternally and has an unchangeable priesthood.
- 21) Verse 25 Because Christ is not a frail and mortal high priest and has the power of an endless life and has offered the only available sacrifice by which all people can be saved only through Him.
- 22) Verse 26 We need such a high priest who has no sins and is exalted above the heavens. He is holy, we are unholy. He is harmless, we are harmful both to ourselves and to others. He is undefiled, we are defiled, sinful and impure. He was separate from sinners, we are joined to sinners and the wicked. He was higher than the heavens, we are baser and lower than the earth, totally unworthy to be called the children of God.
- 23) Verse 27 The Jewish priests under the direction of the high priest offered up daily sacrifices for themselves and the people, but Christ who had no sin offered up Himself only once for the sins of all people.

24) Verse 28 The old law put imperfect men into the Aaronic priesthood, but by God's oath Christ was made our high priest, holy, without blemish, perfect in every way, immortal, and eternal.

Hebrews

Chapter 8

- 1) Verse 1 Paul is now summarizing what he has said. Christ our High Priest is seated at the right hand of God, a place of honor, glory, and power. Read Eph. 1:20-23. (1) He is higher than all high priests who ever existed. (2) The sacrifice of Himself was sufficient and was fully accepted by God. (3) He has all power and authority and is able to save to the uttermost. (4) He did not have to, as the Jewish high priest, depart out of the Holy of Holies, after having offered the atonement but is now seated there permanently as our High Priest forever.
- 2) Verse 2 Christ is the minister of the true tabernacle today, the church which the Lord built (Matthew 16:18). Man did not build the Lord's church, but man has built many different denominational churches.
- 3) Verse 3 High priests are ordained or set apart to offer sacrifices. Christ being our High Priest had to have something to offer-Himself.
- 4) Verse 4 The Jewish temple was still standing and the temple service continued to be performed by the Jewish priests. So if Christ had been on earth he could not have performed the office of high priest, being of the tribe of Judah.
- 5) Verse 5 the service of the priests and the temple was an example and shadow of heavenly things. God gave Moses a plan and a specification for the tabernacle and its services and commanded him in Exodus 25:40 to make and do it exactly that way because it was to be a shadow or likeness of things to come.
- 6) Verse 6 The priesthood of Christ is more excellent than the Levitical priesthood because both the covenant and promises are better.
- 7) Verse 7 If the first covenant had been complete by offering salvation to all mankind then the second covenant would not have been necessary. It was faulty in that it could make no man perfect.
- 8) Verse 8 God in order to show that the first covenant was insufficient said in Jeremiah 31:31-34 that He was going to make a new covenant.
- 9) Verse 9 The new covenant was going to be widely different from the old. Israel broke the Old Covenant many times and had been unfaithful. "I regarded them not" < I neglected and despised them.
- 10) Verse 10 This new and glorious covenant I will publish among them after those days. Under the new covenant our hearts and minds shall be given to the Lord. We "shall worship Him in spirit and in truth," John 4:24. It is written in our hearts instead of on tables of stone. I will be your God and you will be my people. God will give us great things such as light, direction, support, happiness, and salvation. But we being His people we must give Him our whole hearts and serve Him with all our might and strength. If any of these conditions are broken, then the covenant is rendered null and void.

- 11) Verse 11 Under the Old Covenant the children were born into the covenant relationship and had to be taught to know God or they would never know Him, but under the New Covenant all must first learn to know God and Jesus before they can enter the covenant. After having been taught we enter by faith, repentance, and baptism. After we are in the Lord's spiritual kingdom, the church, we do not have to be taught to know God because we already know Him. We must be born again into His kingdom (Read John 3:3, 5). (Read Gal 3:26-27).
- 12) Verse 12 When we enter the New Covenant God will blot out our every sin by the blood of Christ. God can now be just and merciful in saving us.
- 13) Verse 13 For there to be a New Covenant the Old Law of Moses must be taken away. It was ready to vanish away completely. In about seven years the temple will be leveled to the ground never to be rebuilt.

Hebrews

Chapter 9

- 1) Verse 1 The two covenants are contrasted in this chapter. Worldly sanctuary as opposed to the heavenly sanctuary.
- 2) Verse 2 Only the priests entered the sanctuary and we as priests today enter the sanctuary, the Lord's church. (1) Outside the tabernacle first was the altar of burnt offering which was a shadow of the death of Christ. (2) Then the laver of water where the priests washed before they entered the tabernacle which was a shadow of baptism today. (3) The first part of tabernacle and later the temple was the holy place which was a shadow of the church. (4) In the holy place on the Southside was the golden candlestick which foreshadowed the word of God and the light it gives. (5) On the Northside was the table of show-bread which is a shadow of the Lord's Supper. (6) On the Westside was the altar of burnt incense which is a shadow of our prayers to God. During the burning of incense at 9 AM and 3 PM the Jews would gather outside the tabernacle and later the temple for prayer.
- 3) Verse 3 Also called the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies where only the high priest entered once a year which is a shadow of Christ our High Priest who has entered Heaven and is on the right hand of God.
- 4) Verse 4 The ark of the covenant disappeared when the temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 BC.
- 5) Verse 5 Two cherubims, one on each side of the mercy seat.
- 6) Verse 6 The priests went into the holy place everyday to burn incense at 9 AM and 3 PM, dressed the lamps, and ate and every week removed the old show bread.

- 7) Verse 7 Only the high priest went in once a year at the Feast of Atonement carrying the blood of atonement for himself and for the people.
- 8) Verse 8 The Holy Spirit had not signified the way into the Holy of Holies above (or Heaven). It required the gospel to open the way to Heaven. The veil had still been in place. (Read Matthew 27:51)
- 9) Verse 9 The tabernacle was only a figure of things to come and could never make the worshipper perfect.
- 10) Verse 10 The priest had to wash in the large laver every time he went into the tabernacle or temple. Until the time of reformation or until the time the New Covenant was ushered in.
- 11) Verse 11 Christ has become the High Priest of the greater tabernacle which is the church.
- 12) Verses 12-14 Christ did not use the blood of bulls and goats but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place (Heaven) having obtained our redemption.
- 13) Verse 15 Those under the Old Covenant could not have completed their own redemption except by the death of Christ. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins, Hebrews 10:4. Those under the Old Covenant offered sacrifices, which were types of Christ's sacrifice. It is by His death that those which are called of every dispensation have the promise of eternal inheritance.
- 14) Verses 16-17 An inheritance was spoken of in verse 15. By a last will and testament we inherit. A testament is of no force until the testator is dead, but then it comes into force.
- 15) Verses 18-22 Even in the inauguration of the Old Testament, death was necessary which pointed to the death of Christ, the Lamb of God. The Old Covenant was dedicated by blood. Every sin under the Old Law required atonement, and no atonement could be made without blood. Paul is showing that there is no salvation but through the sacrificial death of Christ.
- 16) Verse 23 The pattern or copy of things here on earth was necessary to be purified with blood. The redeemed church was necessary to have better sacrifices which is the blood of Christ.
- 17) Verse 24 Christ did not enter the Jewish tabernacle which fore shadows the true, the Lord's church. Into Heaven the true Holy of Holies, Christ is now in the presence of God interceding for us as our High Priest.

18) Verses 25-26 The Jewish high priest entered the Most Holy Place once every year with the atoning blood, but Christ only had to appear with His atoning blood once or else He would have had to suffer every year for the past 2000 years.

19) Verse 27 We have two appointments which God has made and which everyone will keep, death and judgment. This is a Divine decree. When we die - finality is stamped on us. Our fate is sealed. Our pending death and judgment should be very sobering to us. Born twice die once, born once die twice.

20) Verse 28 Christ shall die no more. All those who are prepared and look for Him will see Him appear as our mighty saviour. He was made sin for us, but He will appear without sin because He has done the work forever.

Hebrews

Chapter 10

- 1) Verses 1-4 The Law of Moses was a shadow or pattern. The animal sacrifices did not secure complete forgiveness otherwise they would not have to be offered over and over. Animal sacrifices only pointed to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.
- 2) Verses 5-7 Quoted from Psalms 40:6-8. The body that was prepared was Christ. Burnt offerings and sacrifices did not fully meet God's will.
- 3) Verses 8-9 Doing God's will is pleasing to God. This is a prediction of Christ coming to replace the Old Covenant with the New Covenant.
- 4) Verse 10 By Christ's submission, we have been sanctified by having our sins removed. He did it once for all, never having to repeat it.
- 5) Verses 11-14 This shows the temple is still standing. While the Jewish sacrifices were offered, daily they could not take away sins. But Jesus, who offered Himself is now seated at the right hand of God. Verse 13 is quoted from Psalms 110:1. The last enemy is death, 1 Corinthians 15:25-26. By Christ's offering on the cross, all of us have been sanctified. We have been made saints. Read 1 Corinthians 1:2.
- 6) Verses 15-18 The Holy Spirit testifying in Jeremiah 31. Where there is remission of sins there is no need for the offering for sin.
- 7) Verses 19-22 Because Christ is our High Priest we have the boldness and courage to enter the holiest (heaven) because of Christ's shed blood. By a new and living way, Christ is the way to heaven, John 14:6. The veil of the holiest of all (heaven) has been rent that we may enter in. We have the assurance of heaven. Our High Priest has opened the veil. Christ is High Priest over the house of God, which is the church, 1

Timothy 3:15. We should be filled with trust in our High Priest. Our hearts sprinkled by the blood of Christ. Our bodies washed with pure water refers to our being baptized which purifies the whole person.

- 8) Verse 23 We must cling to our faith and hope. Think of all we have to gain and also think of all we have to lose.
- 9) Verses 24-25 In holding fast to our faith let us encourage one another particularly to not forsake the church assemblies in the face of their persecutions which were only going to get worse. The day approaching, probably the day or time of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.
- 10) Verses 26-31 If we deliberately trample underfoot Christ and reject Him as our only sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice for sin whereby we can be saved. Those who rebelled against Moses' Law died on the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses. How much worse will it be for those who count Christ's blood as unholy. The Lord has promised to take vengeance and judgment against sinners. It is a fearful thing if we despise God's mercy.
- 11) Verses 32-33 think back concerning the persecutions you have already gone through, possibly the persecutions during the time of Stephen when the disciples were scattered abroad and went everywhere preaching the word.
- 12) Verses 34-36 This possibly occurred when Paul was taken prisoner at Jerusalem and had to be moved to Caesarea, 60 miles away where he spent 2 years in prison. Here they gave freely things for Paul's support and ministered to him while in prison in Caesarea. Don't throw it all away. No one can take it from you. God will not let them if you remain faithful. The great recompense of reward is heaven. Patience is an essential element in running the Christian race.
- 13) Verses 37-39 He shall come refers to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. Those who continue to walk in full assurance of faith shall live by that faith. Those who draw back because of fear, God will be displeased and they will be lost. Paul is confident that the Jewish Christians will not draw back into perdition and thus be lost.

Hebrews

Chapter 11

- 1) Verses 1-3 Faith is the foundation of our hope and the persuasion of things not seen. The elders, the ancient men of God. The creation of the world is among the things not seen and rests on our faith in God.

- 2) Verses 4-5 Abel's faith was shown by his offering just the sacrifice the Lord demanded while Cain made and offering according to his own ideas or wishes as many people do today. The Lord has expressed approval of Abel's sacrifice. Enoch because of his faithfulness and being well pleasing to God did not have to die. Genesis 5:24 says he "walked with God".
- 3) Verse 6 Man cannot please God without faith because in unbelief he can not and will not do what is pleasing to God. We must come to God in His own appointed way.
- 4) Verse 7 When Noah was warned of God he feared. He had great respect for what God said and prepared the ark as God had specified. When we fully believe and obey God our conduct condemns those who refuse to obey Him.
- 5) Verses 8-12 Abraham's obedience was the greatest proof of his faith in God. Abraham never acquired any right in Canaan even though it was promised to him. He kept heaven in view. Builder and Maker, God not only planned the church and heaven but has put them into being. Sara first treated the message with unbelief but the scripture here says that through faith she received strength. Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 and Sara was 90 years of age. From Abraham a great nation was created.
- 6) Verses 13-16 These all died without seeing the fulfillment of these promises. By their faith in god they knew the promised would be accomplished. They had their mind on going to heaven.
- 7) Verses 17-19 Abraham stands out as the great Old Testament example of faith. Abraham's faith was tried by the sternest test of any man of God on record except our Lord. What a trial of faith. He knew God could raise Isaac back from the dead if he sacrificed him.
- 8) Verses 20-22 The blessings were prophetic utterances. He looked forward to the children of Israel going back to Canaan and when they died to carry his bones with them back to Canaan, which they did in Joshua 24:22.
- 9) Verses 23-27 Through faith in God, Moses' parents were led to disobey the pharaoh and hide him. By Moses' faith in God, he forsook his honored position and chose to suffer with his people. The reproach Moses endured by faith pointed to the promises of which Christ was the center. The exodus from Egypt was an achievement of faith in God to take care of them.
- 10) Verses 28-31 Moses kept the Passover because God commanded it and he believed all God commanded. By faith they marched into the Red Sea and 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, "they were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea". By their faith and obedience to God's command they marched around the city of Jericho for 7 days and the walls fell down. Rahab acted by faith.

- 11) Verses 32-38 All these are examples of heroic deeds and holy lives of faith. Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthae, and Samuel were all Judges that God raised up. David was a king and there were the prophets. Many of these were illustrious examples of the power of faith. (1) Subdued kingdoms - Barak, Gideon, and David. (2) Wrought righteousness - David. (3) Obtained promises - David. (4) Stopped the mouth of lions - David and Daniel. (5) Quenched the violence of fire - Shadrack, Meshak, and Abednego. (6) Escaped the edge of the sword - David, Moses, and Elijah. (7) Women received their dead raised to life again - Widow of Zerephath. (8) Other were tortured - . (9) Trial of cruel mockings - this was true of many persecutions in Jewish history. (10) In bonds and imprisonment - Joseph, and Jeremiah. (11) Stoned - Zachariah. (12) Sawn asunder - The Jewish Talmud says Isiah was sawn asunder. (13) Slain with the sword - the 85 priests in 1 Samuel 22:18. (14) Wandered in sheep and goat skins - Elijah. Also Elijah and David wandered in deserts, mountains, dens, and caves. **Luke 13:34** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing."
- 12) Verses 39-40 All of these lived holy lives. But while they lived they did not receive the promise. But when Christ came, they as well as we received the promise. In Hebrews 9:15, the blood of Christ went back and redeemed those under the first covenant and they are saved as well as we.

Hebrews

Chapter 12

- 1) Verses 1-4 The vast cloud of witnesses listed in Chapter 11 who testify by their lives and their faith. Lay aside every hindrance and sin, which will keep us out of heaven. Our Christian race requires patience. Look to Jesus as our example when we are discouraged. We have not been persecuted to death.
- 2) Verses 5-11 Verse 5 is from Proverbs 3:11-12. We must not murmur at God's correction because it shows God is treating us as His children. If we are without God's correction then we are not His children. Chastening is never pleasant but it is for our benefit.
- 3) Verses 12-13 Get rid of all weariness and lameness and push on ahead.
- 4) Verses 14-17 Live peaceful, pure, and sinless lives so we can go to heaven. If we fail of the grace of God we will be lost. We don't want to be like Esau and sell our birthright, our home in heaven.

- 5) Verses 18-21 Mount Sinai was the mountain that could not be touched. They were filled with terror and asked that God speak no more to them directly. Even Moses was filled with fear.
- 6) Verses 22-24 The Law of Moses was given at Mount Sinai. The gospel was to go forth from Mount Zion. Read Isaiah 2:2-3. Our names are written in heaven in the book of life. The spirits of just men in the past were made perfect by the blood of Christ. Abel's blood cried for vengeance, Christ's blood pleads for mercy.
- 7) Verses 25-29 Under the Old Testament they did not escape if they refused God's message delivered by men. How can those escape who refuse to listen to God's own Son. The things shaken which are about to be removed are the Jewish temple and system of worship. The things that will remain are the church and the New Covenant. We must serve God in reverence and Godly fear. While God is very merciful and loving, He will not overlook willful disobedience but will eternally punish those who despise His commandments.

Hebrews

Chapter 13

- 1) Verses 1-3 Love binds the church together. Hospitality is a duty emphasized in the New Testament. Often they were driven from their homes by religious persecution. Some entertained angels unaware, Abraham in Genesis 18:2-8. We must enter into full sympathy with those who are suffering.
- 2) Verses 4-6 Let your marriage be according to the Bible. Licentiousness God will judge and punish even though men may approve of it. Without covetousness, without a stingy grasping spirit. We live in a very materialistic world. We must put our trust in God.
- 3) Verses 7-9 follow the faith of your elders. In the Greek it **had**, possibly they had already been martyred. Jesus never changes. Don't allow false teachers to delude you. More than 30 years had passed since the church was established and the temple services still continued even though they were done away with in Christ.
- 4) Verses 10-13 Our altar is Christ Jesus who was offered for us to which those who cling to the temple service have no right. The Jewish sacrifices are doing them no good. In Leviticus 4 the sin offering was carried without the camp and burnt. Our sin offering, Jesus Christ, was carried outside the gate of Jerusalem to the Hill of Calvary to suffer. We need to also bear the reproach of Christ.

- 5) Verses 14-15 The temple and the City of Jerusalem were about to be destroyed. According to Romans 12:1 we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. The sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips is given in prayer and singing.
- 6) Verses 16-17 Thanksgiving is not all. We must do good deeds and give of our goods to those who have need and this will be well pleasing to God. Obey the elders for they watch for your souls and are accountable to the Lord.
- 7) Verses 18-19 Paul was expecting to be set free by the is asking for their prayers that it will be sooner.
- 8) Verses 20-22 God gives us peace and Christ is our good shepherd. Christ blood on the cross sealed the **everlasting** covenant. We have been made perfect by the blood of Jesus Christ in every good work we do.
- 9) Verses 22-25 Bear with the word of exhortation I have written you. Paul implies that Timothy had been imprisoned and set free and was coming to Paul in Italy who also expected to be set free and they would come to them. Salute the elders and saints at Jerusalem and Judea. Hebrews was written from Rome, which agrees with Paul's 2 year imprisonment there. They of Italy were the Christians of Italy.