

Theme: If you have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church, TO YOU, it won't be difficult for you to understand the theme of the book of Hebrews!

If I could take one verse out of this wonderful book as an overall theme, it would be: "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith!"

In the Book of Hebrews, you should see Christ, as far superior to all the prophets and angels, and far superior to Moses. And then, you should see Christ being far superior to the Levitical priesthood of Aaron. In the old covenant, once every year, Aaron passed out of the sight of the people into an earthly tabernacle with blood, not his own, but that of a lamb to make atonement for the sins of the people.

BUT AT THE CROSS, in those (6) hours, including the (3) hours of darkness, Jesus offered His own blood to God for the sins of the world!

After He rose from the dead when He had appeared ALIVE TO MANY, He walked up the Mount of Olives and while He was talking with His apostles, He was taken up to heaven and passed from their sight. Now, He appears in the presence of God for us as our Great High Priest! Hebrews 4:14-16

Author: Who wrote it?

"The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews", is what is written in your Bibles, so Paul is the author right? I have never seen a book in the Bible so rife with opinions on "who wrote it" and "who didn't write it"?

Many theologians and church fathers of old believe Paul to be the author, including Jerome, named Eusebius at birth, who was a historian and translator, and Clement-Bishop of the church @ Rome.

Clement of Alexandria held that Hebrews was the work of Paul, written to the Hebrews in the Hebrew language and that Luke subsequently translated it for the benefit of the Greeks.

This according to Clement, who was Bishop of the church @ Rome explains the similarities in style between Hebrews and Acts.

Others along with Jerome accepted Hebrews as a genuine work of Paul but also cited that he deliberately suppressed his name from the letter because he did not want to impose his apostleship where it did not belong, for Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, not the Jews.

One of the main reasons Martin Luther thought Paul did NOT write it is from what he read in Hebrews 2:3.

I could go on and on... but I said all of this so that you better understand WHY (preachers referring to a text in Hebrews, often say), "The writer of Hebrews wrote or said this". I tend to believe Paul is the author, for although it does not open in Pauline fashion with a typical Pauline salutation, it does close with a Pauline-style benediction.

Hebrews 13:22-24

But whether Hebrews was written by Paul or another disciple, the bottom line is, like every book in the Bible, it has God as its Author.

When was Hebrews written?

I believe it was before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Why? The Levitical Priesthood is spoken of throughout the letter in the present tense as if the Levitical priests were STILL executing their office in the temple!

Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:3, 10:11

But even after God miraculously tore the veil INTO the holiest of all from top to bottom, signifying THE END of the old covenant, granting access into the presence of God for every believer in Christ.....the calloused and hard-hearted Jews ignored the supernatural hand of God, sewed up the veil, and pushed the people of Israel back into the outer court! They had eyes but they could not see, and ears, but they could not hear! Hebrews 10:1-4

Why would God bring back a sacrificial system of offering the blood of animals, a system that NEVER took away the sins of the people of Israel, and that NEVER satisfied God... back to the forefront... AFTER the perfect atonement of Christ? What saith the scripture? Hebrews 10:12-22

Hence the supremacy of the priesthood of Christ, over the priesthood of Aaron. THIS is one of the main themes of Hebrews... no more OT sacrificial system, "no more earthly high priest" who must first contend with His own sins in his ministry before he brings in the blood of atonement for the people. But back to when, probably between AD 60-65.

And then, to whom was Hebrews written?

Jewish believers in Christ, who had professed faith in Christ, were born-again into the new covenant, but who were holding on to and/or being tempted to fall back into the old covenant, and into the old ways of Judaism, and into the drudgery of trusting in their own works for their salvation! Hence the warnings from the writer of Hebrews: Hebrews 2:1, 3:1-3, 4:1-2, 5:12-14

You can see from these passages that the writer of Hebrews is admonishing and warning the Jewish believers of that day that they were slipping back into their old ways! The ways of works and not of faith!

Hebrews 10:38-39: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

Hebrews 1:1-2: Christ Superior to the prophets!

As Hebrews opens, it is clear that the writer of Hebrews was intent on bringing these Jewish believers into the new and living way of faith in Christ alone for their salvation. But for now, they were reverting to old covenant ways, old

covenant ceremonies, and trusting in the old covenant priesthood.

Nothing and no one must detract from the supremacy of Christ in your mind child of God for your salvation; no system, no creed or confession, and no preacher or priest!

EVERY Word of God in the OT pointed the people away from their sins and wickedness to Christ! In those days, God spoke to many prophets in many ways and commanded them to tell the children of Israel His revealed will!

The words "thus saith the LORD" appear more than 2850 times in the Old Testament alone! It was through the Old Testament prophets that God revealed "pieces and portions" of prophecy looking forward to the day when Christ would come! In fact: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Acts 3:22-24

In times past, God spoke to the fathers by the prophets, BUT NOW, in these last days, "God has spoken to us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds".

The Lord Jesus, like the prophets, spoke the Word of God, but He far excelled them in EVERY WAY in that "He was and is" a divine Person in the Trinity, Christ WAS AND IS THE WORD that was made flesh and dwelt among us!

Unlike the prophets, when Christ spoke, He was God speaking! He was "The Incarnate Word of God! Matthew 17:4-6, John 1:1-5, 14-18

The prophets were given much truth to give to the people, much of it they probably didn't understand, BUT CHRIST expounded all of Moses and the prophets because all of what they were given was concerning Him! Luke 24:25-27, 44-45

Closing:

Any preacher or priest, church, or religious system that diminishes the absolute supremacy of Christ must be expunged and put down out of our minds.

Hebrews 2:9-10: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make that Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."