

Hebrews 1.1-3 An Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

-Acts 28:20 (ESV) For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.”

**-Apostolic—does it come from
an apostle?**

**-Authentic—does it have the
ring of truth?**

-1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

**-Ancient—has it been used
from the earliest times?**

-Accepted—are most of the churches using it?

**-Muratorian Canon dated
around A.D. 150**

**-By A.D. 240, Origen from Alexandria was using all our 27 books as “Scripture,”
“New Testament,”
“inspired by the Spirit.”**

-Athanasius in AD 367 wrote: “As the heretics are quoting apocryphal writings, an evil which was rife even as early as when St. Luke wrote his gospel, therefore I have thought good to set forth clearly what books have been received by us through tradition as belonging to the Canon, and which we believe to be divine.”

-Accurate—does it conform to the orthodox teaching of the churches?

**-“Was it written by an apostle
or under the direction of an
apostle?””**

-1) Jews who had fully trusted Christ as their Savior but were not maturing as they ought.

-Hebrews 5:12 (ESV) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,

-2) Jews who had received the message intellectually that Jesus had proven himself to be the long-awaited Messiah but had not fully placed their trust in Him.

-Hebrews 2:1-3 (ESV) 1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

-John 12:42-43 (ESV) 42

Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

-3) Jews who had not given intellectual assent to the witness of the apostles regarding Jesus as Messiah.

-Hebrews 9:14-15 (ESV) 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. 15 Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

**-Jesus is better
than...EVERYTHING and
EVERYONE!**

-Better than the angels: Hebrews 1:3-4 (ESV) 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

-Better than sinful men as priests: Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**-Better than Levitical priests: Hebrews
7:20-22 (ESV) 20 And it was not
without an oath. For those who
formerly became priests were made
such without an oath, 21 but this one
was made a priest with an oath by the
one who said to him: “The Lord has
sworn and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’” 22 This
makes Jesus the guarantor of a better
covenant.**

**-Better than earthly tabernacles:
Hebrews 8:1-2 (ESV) 1 Now the
point in what we are saying is
this: we have such a high priest,
one who is seated at the right
hand of the throne of the Majesty
in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy
places, in the true tent that the
Lord set up, not man.**

**-Administrator of a better Covenant:
Hebrews 8:6-7 (ESV) 6 But as it is,
Christ has obtained a ministry that is
as much more excellent than the old
as the covenant he mediates is better,
since it is enacted on better
promises. 7 For if that first covenant
had been faultless, there would have
been no occasion to look for a
second.**

**-The responsibility of everyone
to respond to Christ in
obedience.**

-The sovereignty of God

-The responsibility of man

-John 3:3-8 (ESV) 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

-John 3:16 (ESV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

-ὅς ἐάν vs. πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων

**-John 6:37 (ESV) All that the
Father gives me will come to
me, and whoever comes to me
I will never cast out.**

-John 6:44 (ESV) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

-John 6:63-66 (ESV) 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) 65 And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

-Acts 2:22-24 (ESV) 22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

-Acts 4:23-30 ... 27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

-1 Samuel 13:13-14 (ESV) 13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him (David) to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”

-Genesis 49:10 (ESV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

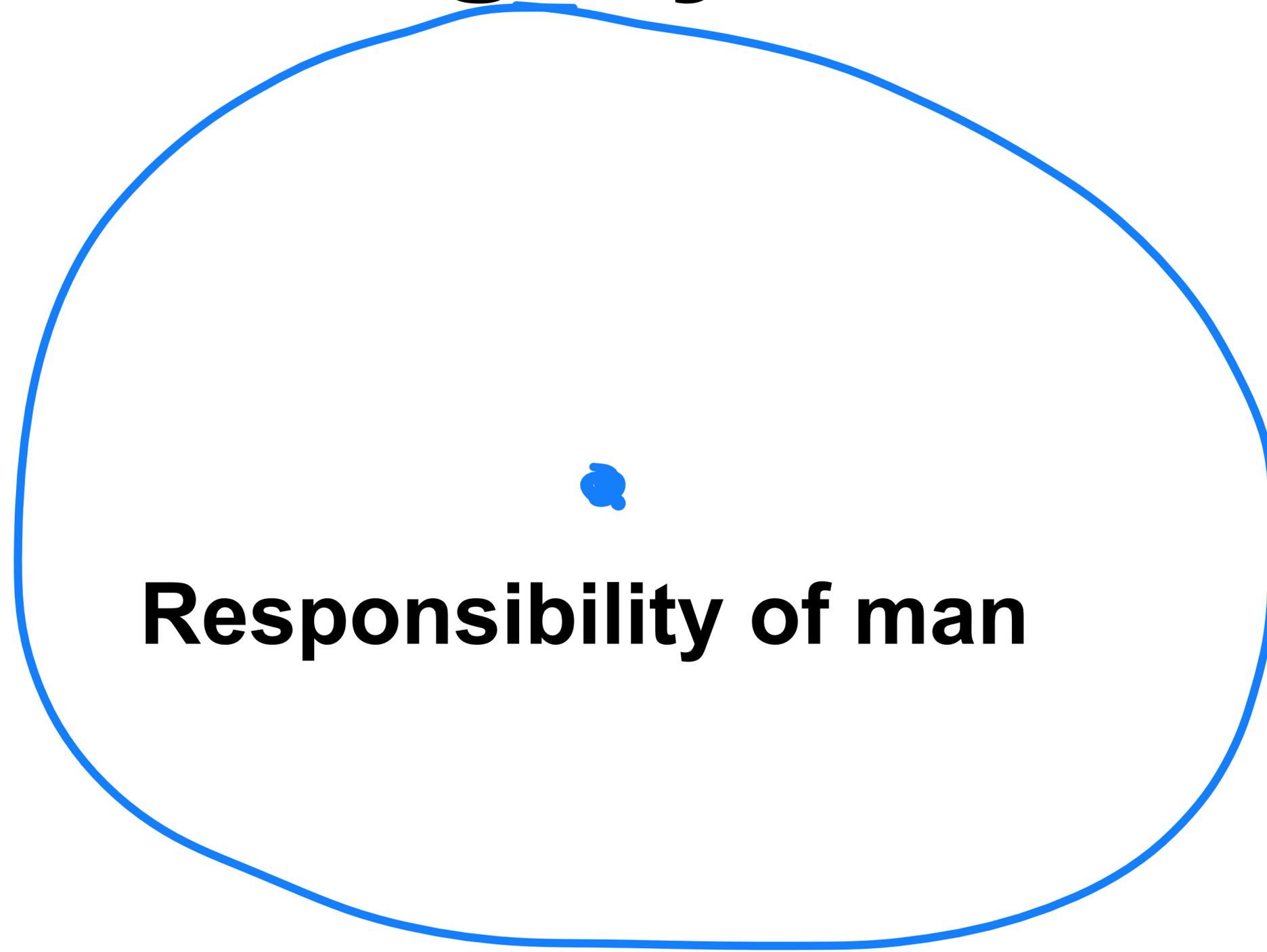
-1 Samuel 15:23 (ESV)

“...Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”

-Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (ESV) 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

-1 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV) 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Sovereignty of God



Responsibility of man