The Book of Hebrews, Detailed Bible Study Outline

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2026

1. Introduction to the Book of Hebrews
    a. Hebrews is one of the five "Jewish Epistles", the others being James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude. A "Jewish Epistle" is defined as a circular letter to Jews of the Dispersion, with distinctive Messianic Jewish flavor.
    b. Hebrews is the 19th Book of the New Testament and the 58th book of the Bible in our English translations. It was initially accepted as part of the canon of Scripture, as early as the end of the 1st century (Clement of Rome), was always accepted by the Greek and Alexandrian churches, and finally accepted by the Latin (Roman) churches after some debate.
    c. Hebrews is the 14th of 14 (in sequence in our English Bibles) Bible Book with the Apostle Paul as its human author (we can be about 98% sure of this as we will see). Some have suggested other authors (Barnabas, Apollos, Priscilla, etc.) but there is no substantial evidence for anyone other than Paul.
    d. Hebrews was most likely written by Paul during his Roman imprisonment in 61 AD (+/- a year). It is possible that it was written sooner at a prior imprisonment (uncertain date).
    e. The lines of evidence for Pauline authorship follow.
        i. The author must be a Jew (Romans 3:1-2).
        ii. It is reasonable that the author would remain anonymous in light of the main theme of the book, which is the superiority of Jesus Christ over all things.
        iii. Paul employed various scribes to write his letters, with the exception of Galatians (Galatians 6:11), and this resulted in various grammar structures and word choices, whilst the thoughts and doctrine remain the same. Consider also, just because this detailed study outline differs from a letter that I wrote to my Aunt in California does not mean that someone else wrote one

or the other, should I have neglected to put a signature on either letter. So it is with the authorship of Hebrews.

iv. The majority of the early church fathers attributed the human authorship of Hebrews to Paul.

v. Second Peter 3:15-16 mentions a "Jewish Epistle" (ibid. 1a) written by Paul. What epistle could this be except the canonical Epistle to the Hebrews?

vi. The clincher to my thesis is the internal evidence of the book, and how the thought lines match the other thirteen Pauline epistles with distinctiveness. Compare the verse in Hebrews with the verses elsewhere (Note: list sourced from "Commentary on the Whole Bible", By Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, 1961)

1. 1:3, Cf. Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15-20
2. 2:8, 10:13, 12:2, Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:25-27
3. 2:9, Cf. 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:7-8
4. 4:12, Cf. Ephesians 6:17
5. 5:12-6:1, Cf. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2
6. 7-10, Cf. Romans 3:22-26; 1 Corinthians 5:7
7. 8:6, Cf. Galatians 3:19-20
8. 10:19, Cf. Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:18
9. 10:32, Cf. Philippians 1:30; Colossians 2:1
10. 10:38, 11:7, Cf. Romans 4:22; Galatians 3:11
11. 12:1, Cf. 1 Corinthians 9:24
12. 13:20, Cf. Romans 15:33

f. Table of Contents of the Book of Hebrews Ordered by Christological Theme of Each Chapter (Key Verse)

i. Jesus Christ is God's Supreme Revelation, Better Than the Angels (1:3)

ii. Christ the Captain of our Salvation (2:10)

iii. Christ the Faithful Son (3:6)

iv. Christ our Rest (4:10)

v. Christ the Author of Eternal Salvation (5:9)

vi. Christ our Hope and Anchor (6:19)

vii. Christ our High Priest (7:26)
viii. Christ the Mediator of the New Covenant (8:6)
ix. Christ the Remitter of Sin (9:22)
x. Christ our Once for All Sacrifice (10:12)
xi. Christ the Heavenly Hope (11:16)
xii. Christ the Author and Finisher of our Faith (12:2)
xiii. Christ our Sanctifier (13:12)

g. Doctrinal strains and Other Key Verses in Hebrews
i. The Ministry of Angels (1:14, 13:2)
ii. The Temporary Nature of Certain Miraculous Spiritual Gifts (2:3-4)
iii. The Sympathy of Christ (4:15)
iv. Boldness in Prayer (4:16)
v. Impossibility of a Further or Repeated Sacrifice, and the Impossibility of Losing one's Salvation (6:4-6, 7:25, 10:14)
vi. The Identity of Melchizedek (7:1-3)
vii. The Change of Priesthood (7:12)
viii. The New Covenant (8:7-13, 9:11-15)
ix. The Hall of Faith (Chapter 11)
x. Our Worst Sin (12:1)
xi. Divine Discipline and Wrath (12:11,29, 10:31)
xii. Divine Constancy (13:5)
xiii. Divine Immutability (13:8)
xiv. The Benediction (13:20-21)

***Without further ado, let's now embark on our exciting verse by verse study through the Book of Hebrews!

2. Hebrews 1:1-3, God's Supreme Revelation Through His Son
    a. 1:1, "God", His existence taken for granted as in Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1, and so we follow a similar thought line
    b. "various times", from 2000 BC (Job, human author Elihu) to the New Testament writings to that time (60 AD)
    c. "various ways", through direct revelation, through apostolic revelation, through visions, through dreams, through inspired "toldots", and so on
    d. God spoke "by the prophets" (Ephesians 2:20)
    e. 1:2, "last days" are the days we live in, the church age (Cf. 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 3:2-3; 1 John 2:18)
    f. Christ the "heir of all things" as the firstborn Son, Cf. Psalm 2:8
    g. "through who also He made the worlds", Cf. John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-20
    h. 1:3, "brightness of His glory…Majesty" (Cf. 1 Timothy 6:15-16), the Shechinah Glory of God
    i. "express image", as of a coin being cast, an exact representation, the Son is the exact image of the Father in deity
    j. "word of His power", Cf. Psalm 29:3-9, which is the basis for Psalm 29:1-2 and 29:10-11, the Bat Kol Glory of God
    k. "purged our sins", Christ's blood the agent of our spiritual cleanliness (Ephesians 1:7)
    l. "sat down", Cf. Mark 16:19, followed by Mark 16:20 for us
    m. "right hand", the place of honor in the heavenly regal court, Cf. Acts 2:33, the fulfillment of Psalm 110:1

3. 1:4-14, Christ Better Than Angels
    a. 1:4, "by inheritance" of all things, "a more excellent name" befitting His Person, we know Him by many names, but we do not know all His majesty (Cf. Revelation 19:12)
    b. 1:5, quoted from Psalm 2:7 and 1 Chronicles 17:13 (preferred over 2 Samuel 7:14 due to context)

c. 1:6, “firstborn” calls to mind Psalm 89:27 in its context (verses 24-29) that speaks of the Davidic Covenant
d. “into the world” as stated in Isaiah 9:6, again a distinctly Messianic context
e. Quotation from Deuteronomy 32:43 and/or Psalm 97:7, as translated in the Septuagint and as they read in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Psalm 148:2 is closer in the Hebrew text, the quote may be a summation quote, regardless it is God-inspired
f. 1:7, quoted from Psalm 104:4
g. 1:8-9, quoted from Psalm 45:6-7, “the Son” of Psalm 2 and Proverbs 30:4 is declared to be God, Psalm 45 is a Royal Messianic Psalm which correlates to the Song of Solomon, giving credence to the spiritual Christological understanding of that book
h. 1:10-12, “And”, God the Father is still speaking to God the Son, emphasizing His creation work in support of the statement made in Hebrews 1:2, quotes Psalm 102:25-27, showing that that Psalm is Messianic
i. 1:13, quotes Psalm 110:1, which had been previously referenced in Hebrews 1:3, this is the tenth quote or reference from Psalms in Hebrews Chapter One!
j. 1:14, the ministry of angels concerning God’s elect, children and those not at condition of accountability are among these, here we have Bible support for the existence of ‘guardian angels’

4. Hebrews Chapter One, Self-Test
    a. What time frame is covered by “various times” in 1:1?

    b. What are some of the “various ways” of 1:1?

c. What evidences are there that Paul is the human author of the Book of Hebrews?

d. What is meant by “express image?” From what does the Greek term come?

e. Whose face is on each of the US coins?

f. What verse contains a reference to both the Shechinah Glory and the Bat Kol Glory of God?

g. Which verses in Hebrews Chapter One provide certain proof of the deity of Jesus Christ?

h. There are ten references to Psalms in Hebrews Chapter One (one of them is referenced twice). What are they?

5. Hebrews 2:1-3a, A Warning to Drifters
    a. These words were addressed to new Jewish believers who were tempted to drift away from their newfound true faith back to the Old Covenant (The Law of Moses), which could only condemn—it could not save. The applications are set forth in the clear teaching in the sermon that follows.
    b.

A Warning to Drifters *By James Moriello*

A companion paper to the sermon delivered January 22nd, 2012 at Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, RI

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." (Hebrews 2:1)

"Therefore" refers us back to Hebrews Chapter One. Since Jesus Christ is preeminent, being God Himself, He is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise. For that reason, we are accountable to Him and had better listen to what He tells us. In short, Jesus the preeminent One has the preeminent message, beginning with the way to salvation. "*For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation*" (Hebrews 2:2-3a)? Clearly there can be no other escape from the punishment of sin other than the way God provides. If you have never taken notice, you had better take notice now. Call upon Christ today while you can, for tomorrow is not guaranteed. Accept His terms of peace, which are quite favorable. Believe that Jesus died for you—a sinner—and that by His sacrifice you have been made clean and acceptable to God. Believe that He rose again, and that He has gone to prepare a place for you. Your Creator cries out to you today to take His hand and enjoy the relationship for which He created you. Maybe you have taken that step already, but you struggle to keep moving forward in your Christian life. Take heart, friend. We have all been there in one way or another. This teaching is for you. It is a warning to spiritual drifters, and how you who are standing strong in the faith now might avoid spiritual drifting. Be

honest with yourself before God. You are not alone. Jesus stands at the ready to help you overcome the things that serve as barriers to your relationship with Him. We will now look at the **symptoms of spiritual drifting**, the **root causes of spiritual drifting**, and the **remedies for spiritual drifting.**

First, we will look at symptoms of spiritual drifting. A symptom is something that can be seen on the outside that is a result of what is going on—or not going on—on the inside. Symptoms of spiritual drifting include lack of prayer life, lack of interest in God's Word, lack of interest in public worship, indifference about the spiritual state of other people, and despair over a perceived lack of purpose in life. There are other symptoms of spiritual drifting as well, but we have selected five common ones. Just because you do not have all these symptoms at once, do not deceive yourself into thinking you are honoring God. For instance, many people attend public worship at the local church but do not bother to pray or pick up the Bible the other six days.

Let us now proceed to look at some common root causes of spiritual drifting. The root cause is the underlying reason why we do or do not do certain things. These are the real reasons why we do not pray, read the Bible, regularly attend church, fail to share peace and hope with others, or give up participation in God's plan for our lives. Here are eight of the root causes of spiritual drifting with the Scripture to back them up:

1) Selfishness: "*The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied from above*" (Proverbs 14:14). "Backslider" is simply another word for spiritual drifter. Is it all about the 'great I think I am' or is about the 'Great I Am' for you?
2) Indifference: "*Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love*" (Revelation 2:4). Do you just not care? Examine yourself.
3) Rebellious Spirit: "*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes*" (Judges 21:25). The

reason people reject godly leadership and a Bible-based local church is because they do not want to be accountable. This rebellion is really against God, who is The Spiritual Leader.

4) Evil Associations: "*Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits*" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Your mom was right. The company you keep really does affect you whether you realize it or not. Keep godly company.
5) Love of Worldly Things: "*for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world*" (2 Timothy 4:10a-b). Many times the things of the world look appealing to us. In the end, they will lead to destruction is we put our faith in them. Learn from your past mistakes and repent, changing mind and focus upwards instead.
6) Shallow Faith: "*But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away*" (Luke 8:13). Perhaps the commitment to Christ was never sincere and salvation never occurred, or there was an expectation that there would be no trouble upon accepting Jesus. Maybe what is being held back is trust because of a fear of losing control.
7) Lack of Spiritual Discernment: "*To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding*" (Proverbs 1:2). How do we learn to discern God's will? By reading the Good Book for ourselves, thereby learning to discern truth from error.
8) Laziness: "*But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*" (Hebrews 5:14). The point here is that those who are too lazy to look into spiritual things and make the effort will go without blessings.

We have defined the disease of spiritual drifting. Let us now look at some remedies for spiritual drifting. Begin with an honest self-examination, identifying and admitting to your need for help from the Lord in addressing any issues. You and God are the ones who really know what symptoms and causes exist in you that need

addressing if you are going to take your relationship with Jesus Christ to the next level. I will offer up five remedies from the pages of Scripture:

1) Resolve to grow up spiritually: "*When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (1 Corinthians 13:11). No more games.
2) Seek and hold fast to the truth: "*Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding*" (Proverbs 23:23). Will you continue to trust in and live in lies? There is a better way.
3) Follow Christ's example: "*He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked*" (1 John 2:6). Talk the talk and walk the walk.
4) Participate in the local church: "*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*" (Hebrews 10:24-25a). Resolve to make public worship a priority. Then participate in it. You have much to offer.
5) Make God's Word a priority: "*But His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night*" (Psalm 1:2). You have many bad habits. Here is a good one. It's hard to drift when we are holding God's truth with us wherever we go.

There are day and night seasons in our Christian walk. Whatever season you are in, Jesus Christ is calling out your name, for He earnestly desires for you to have a closer walk with Him. God has given you today to begin making the necessary changes, and He has given you the tools to do it. You do not need to do it alone. God will help you.

6. Hebrews 2:3b-4, The Purpose and Cessation of Spiritual Gifts
    a. Jesus Christ's attestation of the divine message, Acts 2:22
    b. The gifts noted here are mentioned as being introduced and proliferating beginning at Pentecost in Acts 2 and continuing in the ensuing chapters, having been given to Jews first, it is fitting to find it in Paul's Jewish Epistle (2 Peter 3:15-16).
    c. To the generation that seeks a sign, we read Matthew 12:39-40 and 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
    d. "confirmed" references that which is recorded in the Book of Acts, past tense miraculous workings "bearing witness" through the hands of the apostles, as spiritual gifts are referenced in 1 Corinthians 12-14 and are to be exercised orderly, now in 61 AD and in books referenced thereafter these are not so prominent as to be mentioned, the normative use of these gifts as given in the apostolic age had been discontinued because their purpose was fulfilled (compare with the building up of the church as seen in Ephesians 2:20)
    e. The final cessation of the regular exercise of these 'sign gifts' took place prior to the completed canon in three stages (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), specific sign gifts ceased at different times from abruptly to gradually
    f. Does God still give spiritual gifts today? Of course, yes, "according to His own will", but we have the completed Word of God confirmed as our evidence, by faith it is enough

7. 2:5-18, Jesus the Captain of our Salvation
    a. 2:5, "the world to come" is the Messianic Kingdom, and it will not be ruled by angels, it will be Jesus as King, David as prince, and saved men and women as co-regents, Cf. Ezekiel 37:24-25; Revelation 20:4-6
    b. 2:6-8a, Cf. Psalm 8:4-6, the low state of man (in comparison to angels especially) but the high honor given to man by God
    c. 2:8b, human dominion, Cf. Genesis 1:26, 2:19, 9:2
    d. 2:9, Christ's Incarnation, humiliation, grace, substitution

i. "that He might taste death", Jesus got a taste of death but He did not succumb to its power, even as a vaccine may have a trace of the disease but by taking the vaccine the disease cannot then overcome us, His work is the perfect "vaccine" to deal with sin and death—its side effects are beneficial only
ii. "for everyone", here the unlimited atonement is in view, sufficient is Christ's death for all, but efficient it is only for those who believe and are thereby saved by it (1 John 2:2; Matthew 20:28)

e. 2:10, "for Whom…by Whom…all things", Cf. Hebrews 1:2, "many sons" of Israel in context (Exodus 4:22-23) but by extension all who are of the faith of Abraham (Galatians 3:26-29 in its context), the work of Christ completed through sufferings (Paul expounds in more detail in Philippians 2:5-11), hence Jesus is the "Captain of Their Salvation" (ours)
f. 2:11, concerning sanctification we have here a summary statement combining Hebrews 13:12 and Hebrews 10:11-14, "one" (Ephesians 4:4-6), "brethren" insofar as God the Son took on human flesh (and not, in the broader context, the form of an angel, as the JW Cult falsely affirms—here is the refutation in 1:5-2:11)
g. 2:12, quotes Psalm 22:22, which is the Son of Man's answered prayer in context of Psalm 22, the work of Messiah is completed, and from our text onwards it is outworked for His glory and our benefit, Read Psalm 22:21c-31 and praise Him!
h. 2:13, quotes 2 Samuel 22:3 and Isaiah 8:17-18, spiritual adoption, Cf. Romans 8:15
i. 2:14, the first part of the verse elsewhere expounded by Paul in Romans 5:12-18, death is vanquished by Christ (Cf. Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54; 2 Timothy 1:10), Satan's power has been defeated (John 12:31; 1 John 3:8)
j. 2:15, divine deliverance from spiritual bondage, the "release" that is promised in Isaiah 61:1-3 has been accomplished!

k. 2:16, “aid to angels” in the sense of provided a remedy for their sins, those angels who have fallen are irrevocably lost, “the seed of Abraham” is after the Spirit (Cf. Galatians 3:29, 4:28, ibid. 7e), indeed Jesus Christ was born “the seed of Abraham” after the flesh in His Incarnation (Matthew 1:1-2), and this fact was especially important to the Jewish readers
l. 2:17, “in all things”, Christ who is fully God added the new nature to become fully Man, and in living His sinless life gave Himself to satisfy God’s wrath by His blood (“propitiation”), “merciful” is He in not leaving us in our sad condition, “faithful” is He in following through to the uttermost (Cf. Hebrews 7:25)
m. 2:18, Christ’s temptation in all three categories of 1 John 2:16 recorded in Luke 4:1-12

8. Hebrews Chapter 2, Self-Test
    a. What is likely to happen if we do not give “earnest heed” to the things of God in the Bible?

    b. What is taught in Hebrews 2:3-4 concerning the purpose of various spiritual gifts?

    c. Paul quotes two more passages from Psalms in Hebrews Chapter Two. What are the references in Hebrews and Psalms?

    d. In Hebrews 2:10, what title do we derive for our Lord?

    e. What things does Hebrews 2:14-18 teach us about Jesus in His Incarnation?

9. Hebrews 3:1-6, The Faithful Christ Jesus
    a. 3:1, “Therefore”, in light of the facts previously presented that Jesus is the Agent of Creation, Agent of Salvation, Living God, and Greater than the angels
    b. “holy brethren”, set apart believers, in light of the facts prior and the resultant heavenly inheritance
    c. “consider”, to make a careful investigation of
        i. Consider intellectually, not to take someone else’s word for it (Acts 17:11)
        ii. Consider experientially, as “partakers” (Matthew 11:29)
    d. “Apostle”, though it was Paul the apostle who was the human author of Hebrews, he would not designate himself, not even identify himself, for Christ Jesus is “the Apostle”, commissioned from heaven to bring the message and complete the task, “and High Priest”, the Mediator of the New Covenant (1 Timothy 2:5), we will have much more to say concerning this as we work through Hebrews
    e. “our confession” and its part as that which accompanies salvation, Cf. Romans 10:9
    f. “Christ Jesus”, the Anointed Savior, this order of these titles/names stresses His deity
    g. 3:2,5, Cf. Numbers 12:7, Moses was relatively faithful as the spiritual leader of Israel appointed by God on earth, but Jesus is greater than Moses, for He is the spiritual leader of Israel appointed by God in heaven and sent to earth to accomplish that which was needful for her salvation (both individual and national applications here)
    h. 3:4, Jesus as Creator (1:2) is greater than all things created
    i. 3:6, “whose house we are”, the church of God, “if” is conditional, and those who are truly saved will “hold fast”, for God is able to give His children grace and strength to bear

10. 3:7-15, Exhortation to Faithfulness
    a. 3:7, "As His Holy Spirit says", Divinity of God the Holy Spirit as a Person proven here, He proceeds from the Father, He speaks, He gives divine inspiration to Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
    b. 3:7-11 is a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11, the OT backdrop
        i. Psalm 95 written by David (Hebrews 4:7), and it is a divine invitation to come, to praise, and to enjoy fellow with God through Christ Jesus the Son
        ii. 3:7, "Today" is the day to hear the 'Bat Kol', to repent, "If we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in" (Mason)
        iii. 3:8, "as in the rebellion" (Massah, **Exodus 17:7**; Deuteronomy 6:16, 9:22, 33:8), "the day of trial in the wilderness" (Meribah, Exodus 17:7; **Numbers 20:13**, 27:14; Deuteronomy 32:51, 33:8; Psalm 81:7), both involved miracles of water from the rock, there is the testing of the nation which proved its sin, and the testing of the man Moses which proved him fallible, hence the superiority of Christ who passed His wilderness testing (Cf. Hebrews 3:1-6)
        iv. 3:9, the repeated testing of God by sinful men, have we not driven Him to weariness with our years of sin, even though we know the power, love, mercy, and judgment of our Almighty God
        v. 3:10, the total depravity of man (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; Isaiah 53:6—"They always go astray")
        vi. 3:11, divine oath, divine wrath, divine rejection, the 'Trifecta Judgment' warning for those who reject Christ
    c. 3:12, speaking to "brethren", almost always a reference to believers, but taken in context the readers who must pay attention are those who never truly were saved but had associated themselves with Christ, as in John 6:66, apostasy is most often a reference in the Bible to "false brethren"