

The Book of Hebrews, Detailed Bible Study Outline

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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!