

Hebrews Notes

Introduction

1. Keywords:
 - Eternal - 5:9; 6:2; 9:12, 14, 15; 13:20
 - Better - 1:4; 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24
2. May have originally been a sermon - 11:32
3. 1st quoted in writing: 96AD
4. Written probably 63-64AD - before 70AD as there is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem

Chapter I

Christ, Superior to the Prophets (1:1-3)

1-2a God has Spoken

- 1 Greatest single fact: God Spoke
Long ago - ancient times
Not one long conversation but several pieces
- 2 Beginning of final age has come - writer's time
Greek Aristotle tense is used for God speaking - suggests God is no longer speaking
Heir of all things - Ps. 2:8
World = universe

2b-3 The Nature and the Glory of the Son

- 3 Upholds - same as Col. 1:17
Standing - Jesus stands in Ac. 7:56 - now He sits. Priests continually stood when at work
- there was no chair in the Tabernacle.

Christ, God's Son, Superior to the Angels (1:4-14)

Hebrews

- 4 Better name came through obedience - Phil. 2:8-11
Better = superior
3 truths: Better than angels: (1) What Christ became (2) Who He became (3) His place of honor
- 5 Quotes Psalm 2:7 - **1st of 7 OT quotes in Ch. 1**
Be a father to Him - [2] II Sam. 7:14
- 6 Quotes [3] Psalm 97:7 - closely matches Dt. 32:43
Firstborn - Col. 1:15-18 - "He exists before all creation and because all creation is His heritage." [F.F. Bruce]
- 7 [4] Ps. 104:4
Angels are mere servants
- 8 [5] Ps. 45:9-11
Scepter - staff of a king
- 9 cf. Isa.61:1
- 10-12 [6] PS. 102:25-27
- 13 [7] Ps. 110:1
1. Sit at right hand - -place of honor
2. Enemies as footstool - ancient custom of a conquering king's putting his foot on the neck (or head) of a conquered enemy (Joshua 10:24)

Chapter II

Christ, Man's Savior, Superior to the Angels (2:2-18)

1-4 Warning Against Neglect

- 1 Much closer attention - the closest possible attention

Hebrews

Careful attention to what he heard -> the Gospel

A. Facts - I Cor. 15:1-4

B. Promises - Rm. 8:24; Titus 1:2

C. Commands - Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; II Tim. 2:2

D. Punishment - II Thess. 1:7-9; Mt. 25:31, 46

“Drift away” - flow past. Only found here in NT. Similar Hebrew word in Pr. 3:21. Like a ship slowly drifting away from the dock.

3 Escape from death - why we must pay the most earnest heed

5-8 Being Made Lower than the Angels & Tasting Death

5 World to come: age of the Messiah in which we now live

Speaking - may indicate a sermon

6 One testified - not that the author of Ps. 8:4-6 was unknown {David} but that the message is more important than the speaker

Son of Man - type of the antitype who is Christ

Concerned about - more than just dropping by

7,8 Lower than the angels - literally divine beings.

Man had control over death but lost it in Eden. Regained only through Christ!

Not all things are under mankind but they are under Christ.

9-13 Christ, Author of Our Salvation

9 A little while - for an appointed time He condescended this way so He might have the capacity of death.

For - on behalf of

10 Those “who will inherit salvation” (1:14) are called “sons”

Thesis for this section

Fitting - death of Christ was the best way to demonstrate God’s great love for us

Aristotle: “it had to be this way”

Hebrews

Author/captain - pathfinder/pioneer

He blazed the trail of salvation so God's many sons could be brought to glory

Captain leads army into battle

Perfect - to complete a process - does not suggest any moral defects beforehand -

Made fully qualified to be one High Priest through sufferings

11 All one family

12 Quotes Psalm 22:22

Congregation - ekklesia - singing now today with us in a spiritual sense

13 Quotes Isa. 8:17b, II Sam. 22:3, cf. 18:2

Isa. 8:17-18 - being fully human needed to trust God

14-18 Exaltation of Christ, the Sufferer

14 Share - common word for fellowship

Power of Death. - separates the people from God

Destroy - render powerless [NASB]

15 Fear of death is potent

Free - only also in Lk. 12:58 "settle with," Ac. 19:12 "left"

16 He does not take hold of angels - not offering help to angels but the descendants of

Abraham - not physical but spiritual

17 In all things - NRSV: in every respect

He suffered like we do - 4:14, 15

"We have only looked at the surface of the Black Sea of temptation. Jesus plunged into its depths. He knows everything, He rebukes Satan in our lives." James T. Dapper, Jr.

Present tense - a continual action

Propitiation - reconciliation (KJV), atonement (NIV)

"A picture is worth a thousand words, and a demonstration is worth 10,000 words. That is why Jesus came to earth." Dale Hulett

Hebrews

Succor. - come to the aid of: to bring help when it is needed

Aids those that are tempted (to Judaism)

Warren W. Weirsbe - told of a preacher who preached a sermon on "The Sins of the Saints." He was reprimanded by one member of the church. "After all, sin in the life of a Christian is different than sin in the lives of other people," said the member. "Yes," replied the preacher, "it is worse!"

Chapter III

Christ, the Apostle and High Priest (3:1-6)

Christ the Apostle and High Priest 1-6

1-2 Thesis

1 Holy brethren - only used here in the NT

2nd mention of Jesus, 14 total in the letter

Apostle - "one sent" - only time it is applied to Jesus

Both Moses and Jesus were sent on a mission from God (Exo. 3:10)

2 Faithful - Greek has perfect tense - is faithful. 6x in Hebrews.

Jesus' house is the Family of God!

3,4 Not minimizing Moses

Jesus is greater than the house (Church - Mt. 16:18) just as Galileo is greater than his telescope or Michelangelo his painting in the Sistine Chapel.

Cf. Zech. 6:12, 13 - God promised a Son of David would build his house, I Chronicles 17:12.

5,6 Moses' home is a type of Christ's house - Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1

Law of Moses served as a code for the religious and civil regulations of Israel just as the NT teaches us today - I Tim. 1:19

Hebrews

Confidence - glory in or about something

Boast - courageous exultation

Christ's Rest (3:7-4:13)

Warning against a Hardened Heart 7-19

Scriptural Proof 7-11

- 7 "As the Holy Spirit says" - author viewed Psalm 95 to be inspired. Says - present tense - God is still speaking through His Word today
Quotes Psalm 95:7-11
- 8-10 God became angry, literally "God loathed that generation" [Raymond Brown]. 40 years in rebellion surely angers God!
Trial in the wilderness refers to the events at Meribah, Exodus 17:1-7. LXX puts it as the "irritation in the wilderness."
"Did not know my ways" - Hosea 4:6
- 11 God can be fair in His wrath - He is judicial!

Reasons for Israel's Failure 12-19

4 exhortations

- 12 [1] Take care - NKJV: Beware - urgent sermon
Heart - mind, intellect, thoughts
Unbelief comes from an evil heart!
- 13 [2] Encourage - cf. 10:25
"A soul's fate may depend on what you do today!" Gal. 6:1-2
- 14, 15 Partakers of Christ - share in, partners
[3] Hold fast - the Gospel saves those that hold fast - I Cor. 15:1-2
Til? The end!
- 16, 17 Reminded them of their fall in the wilderness
God was angry at those who sinned

Hebrews

Simon J. Kistemaker estimated it was up to 90 people a day that fell in the wilderness!

[4] Don't provoke God!

18,19 Refers again to Ps. 95:11

Could not enter - Deut. 1:34-35

Disobedient in v. 18 is equivalent to "cause of unbelief" in v. 19

Chapter IV

Christ's Rest (3:7-4:13) continued

Israel's Promise Open for Christians (4:1-13)

1-4 Three Admonitions About the Sabbath Rest

1 Let us fear - lest we be misled

Charge 1: Fear - wholesome respect for the nature of his/her situation

Rest - multiple references concluding Creation, Promised Land, and the final rest.

2 Charge 2: listen to and live by the Word that has been given to us

Gospel preached - literally: "for we are evangelized as well as they." Cf. I Cor. 10:3-4

Did not profit them - rejected message and they were not united

Many people today hear the Gospel and attend worship services yet they are never obedient to the Gospel. Therefore, they do not profit from it.

3 Charge 3: continue to believe

Have believed - past tense - but enter is present

Quotes Psalm 95:11

Foundation of the world - NT phrase for Creation

4 Quotes Gen.2:2

Must make every effort to not miss the rest

5-11 The Sabbath Rest Remains

Hebrews

5,6 Had no one to blame but themselves

Remains for some to enter - God never promises anything in vain

Disobedience can defeat one's goal of entering Heaven! Faithful enter into rest,

Rev.17:14.

7 Affirms the divine inspiration of David.

Fixing a certain day was done through David

8 KJV has Jesus; NASB (and others) has Joshua

Joshua 22:4 - God gave promised rest to Israel

9 Rest is only for people of God

Sabbath rest - only found here in the NT - God prepared an ideal rest to give relief

We will have rest in eternity

10 He = One - every departed saint (Rev. 14:13)

No Biblical evidence of "Soul Sleeping." Lazarus was immediately carried into

Abraham's bosom

11 Last mention of God's rest

Be diligent - strive earnestly, concentrate your attention

Example - model, copy

12-13 God's Word for Christians

12 4 Greek principles: living, acting, piercing, discerning

Nothing is hidden from God! (13)

Piercing - the Word has within itself the power to transform lives and altar psychological and spiritual makeup

Living because "it reflects the true character of God Himself, the source of all life."

Guthrie, 117.

Piercing only here in Hebrews. "Cut to the quick."

13 Open - literally "naked"

We need a spokesman to help us! Next verse gives us the spokesman we need!

The Superiority of Christ as High Priest over Aaron (4:14-5:10)

14-16 Christ's Access to God

4 truths about this great High Priest:

1. He has passed through the Heavens, implies His earthly work has been accomplished
2. He can sympathize fully with us
3. He learned obedience through temptation
4. He is the source of our eternal salvation

14 High Priest used primarily of the Jewish High Priest - Jesus is both priest and king
(Zechariah 6:13)

Great - superior to those in OT

Jesus the Son of God might have sounded strange to the Hebrew readers

Holding fast - includes public demonstration

Passed through the Heavens - High Priest went annually to the Most Holy Place but

Jesus went. Once. Josephus called the Most Holy Place like Heaven. (Antiquities 3.6.4)

Heavens - plural - true Heaven where God dwells

15 Jesus Christ is both human and divine

Never sinned but He can sympathize (10:34)

Jesus experienced humanity - even death (Phil. 2:8) and He can now be touched.

He did not allow hardships to hinder His service to God!

16 Draw near - includes the opportunity to pray for forgiveness of sins

Draw near - 7:19, 25; 10:1, 22; 11:6; implied in 6:18

Jesus removed every barrier (In OT, there was the court of the women, court of the Gentiles, Jewish court, outer court was for devout and purified Jewish men).

With confidence - we know the Son hears and understands!

"Throne of Grace" = Throne of God

Throne could be a euphemism representing God - the "God of all graces" (I Peter 5:10)

In His presence, we find grace to help in time of need!

Christ as our High Priest intercedes for us!

Chapter V

The Superiority of Christ as High Priest over Aaron (4:14-5:10 continued)

1-4 The Role of the High Priest

- 1 Need for High Priest implies a division between God and Man
All descriptions of works in present tense - a continual action
- 2 High Priest qualifications - sympathetic human nature and a divine appointment - Jesus met both
- 3 "Offer sacrifice" occurs 20 times in Hebrews
OT High Priest, due to their sinful weaknesses, offered a sacrifice for himself, his family, and then for the people (cf. Lev. 16)
Jesus Christ had no weaknesses but He sympathized with our weaknesses
"Ignorance" - they "inadvertently committed or committed without knowledge." James T. Draper, Junior.
- 4 Jesus was not chosen by Himself - He was chosen by God!
Those that tried to act as priests but were frauds were severely punished - Num. 16:1-35
Saul tried to offer sacrifices and lost the kingship - I Sam. 13:12
King Uzziah tried to offer incense and he was punished by leprosy - II Chron. 26:16-21

5-10 Christ's Qualifications to be Our High Priest

- 5 Did not glorify Himself - a potential job to those that appointed themselves politically

Hebrews

Great contrast between “glory” and “honor” (4&5)

Quotes Psalm 2:7 - already used in 1:5 (divinely appointed to His office)

6 Based on a statement in Psalm 110:4

Christ was chosen - no campaigning

5 & 6 - 3 quotes from Psalms (110:1; 2:7; 110:4)

“Forever” - implies imperfection - cannot be improved

[1] Did not glorify Himself

7 [2] He Prayed with Power

(1) Jesus prayed because He was afraid, He submitted to God’s Will.

He feared the garden but that is not shameful

“Pity” - KJV - fear; ASV - Godly fear

Jesus didn’t have a fear of death, the word can also mean “anxiety”

Dying with the burden of sin was a huge responsibility - Mt. 26:38

(2) Jesus prayed because He felt alone, He was concerned about others.

(3) As Jesus’ prayer was answered, He was strengthened.

In full awareness of everything that was before Him, He willingly went to the cross.

(4) When we pray as Christ did, we will be strengthened.

8 [3] He learned obedience even though He was a Son

He was obedient in every way - Lk. 2:51

He learned obedience from the things he suffered - Isa. 50:4-5

Since the “Son” had to suffer, we may expect that all of God’s “sons” must suffer as well

(12:5-11)

9 Made perfect = complete = fully qualified to be our Savior

Only saves those who obey Him = not a universal salvation - this verse destroys this idea

Hebrews

Author/Source of Eternal Salvation - salvation found in no other (Ac. 4:12)

10 Melchizedek - no beginning - no termination

Designated - only used here in NT

Announced by God alone!

Warning and Exhortation to Go on to Maturity (5:11-6:20)

11-14 The Failure to Neglect

11 Dull of hearing - like of Israel of Old (4:2), they had not benefited from what they had heard

12 Lack of intelligence not their problem - material laziness brought it about

Maturity - capability to grasp and appreciate the exposition of truth on an advanced level

First/elementary principles of the oracles of God - apply both to OT & NT teachings

Lightfoot: "You need to learn the ABCs of Christianity again."

Milk and meat - cf. I Cor. 3:1-2

13 "Milk Christians" are not accustomed to the Word of Righteousness

'Mature' - "full age" of scriptural discernment

Discerning between good and evil should be the goal of every saint

Chapter VI

1-8 Warning of Apostasy

1 Explaining how to reach maturity

Us - the same "us" of 2:3 - not babes in Christ

Principles of the doctrine of Christ - continual commitment to press on

Maturity - full grown or perfect

2 Baptisms (KJV) = washings (NASB) - different word than the normal word for baptize

(baptizo), may refer to Jewish washings or proselyte baptisms

Hebrews

Dead - plural - may refer to Mt. 27:51-53

Eternal judgment - II Cor. 5:10

3 If God permits, we go on to maturity

4 If we don't go on to maturity, we risk apostatizing

Enlightenment - a great blessing of God

Tasted Heavenly gift - salvation obtained in Christ

Partakers of Holy Spirit - World cannot receive (John 14:17) but it is promised to Christians (Gal.4:6; Rom. 8:9)

5 Word - not "logos" but [rhēma] common term for word - may include all the words of Christ and those pertaining to His Word

Powers - dynamis - same term used in connection to miracles in 2:4

"Age to come" - normally meant Messianic Age - 6x in NT: Mt. 12:32; Mk. 10:30; Lk.

18:30; Eph. 1:27, 2:7; Heb. 6:5

Looking like Abraham - into/for the future

6 Shows the possibility of falling

KJV - if they commit apostasy

NIV - if they fall away

The disposition of their hearts made this action ongoing and eliminated the possibility of true repentance

Since - because their outlook was dim

7.8 Each one is responsible to how he responds to a blessing of God

Humans are compared to plants in Isa. 5:1-10 & Jer. 2:21; cf. Jn. 15:2

Worthless weeds are burned - Jn. 15:5, 6

9-20 Assurance of Divine Promises

9 To grow spiritually, must focus on things that accompany salvation

We - like a preacher including him and his audience

Hebrews

- Beloved - true warmth of feeling towards these people
- Accompany salvation - still in a saved state though they haven't grown spiritually
- 10 Not unjust: God is eternally just!
- Not forget: He is just!
- 11 Until the end - we cannot go on vacation from the Lord
- Desire - same feeling Jesus had to eat the Passover with His disciples - Lk. 22:15
- Full assurance of hope - not merely wishful thinking
- 12 Sluggish - lazy (5:11) same as dull
- Inherit the promises - present participle - promises inherited through patience
- 13 God's promise to Abraham - Gen. 12:1-7, 15:5, 17:5-8, 22:15-18. Used here because he has already received the fulfillment of the promise.
- 14,15 Literally: "In blessing I will bless thee." Gen. 22:17
- Double use of blessing for emphasis and added certainty
- Promise - noun and verb - 18x in Hebrews (more than any other NT book)
- Abraham's great faith is described as patiently waiting - he grew stronger with each test (Rm. 4:28)
- 16 Confirmation - for 400 years, the official word applied when man legally declared a sale.
- Down payment served as an oath that the remainder will be paid or forfeited.
- 17 Hebrews were the heirs of promise - God's promises were theirs in Christ
- Unchangeable [NASB] = immutable [KJV]
- 18 2 unchangeable things: Promise and Oath
- Impossible to lie or do anything inconsistent with His nature. He can create a universe or raise the dead, but He cannot lie or deny Himself (II Tim. 2:13)
- Taken refuge on God - ancient murderer fled to a city of refuge (Num. 35/Josh. 20), like a seaman seeking refuge from a storm in a harbor
- Encouragement - consolation, comfort, exhortation

Hebrews

- 19 Hope built on promises like John 14:1-2 - gives an anchor for the soul
- 20 No OT priest could lead worshippers into a place behind the veil as Jesus can. He is our forerunner - scout who goes before the army
- Curtain - may point to the distinction between material and immaterial worlds
- Melchizedek - see 5:6, 10; 6:20-7:1-15

Chapter VII

Raymond Brown: Not Christ who resembles Melchizedek, "but Melchizedek who resembles the Lord Jesus."

Abraham and Melchizedek 7:1-10

- 1,2 Gen. 14 gives no background info and no real other mention save Ps. 76:2
- Melchizedek means "my king is righteous" in Hebrew
- Melchi - king; zedek - righteous
- Salem - Hebrew peace, identified with Zion (Ps. 76:2)
- 2 Melchizedek highly respected by Abraham - worthy of tithes.
- 3 Without genealogy - contrast between proper genealogy for Levitical priesthood and non-genealogical requirement for the priesthood of Christ
- Romans said "without father" means no record of his parentage. For the Jews, the same as saying no "father and mother."
- Melchizedek first priest mentioned in the Bible
- Like - not the same person but similar
- Forever (17, 21) and perpetually (3) mean throughout the period to which the term is applied. Romans applied the term "Dictator Perpetuus"

Hebrews

4-7 Abraham the most honored man in the region at that time. He wanted to show God thanks so he makes a sizeable contribution to the Lord's work through His representative, Melchizedek.

Tithe - tenth - common offering given to God from the earliest time

Abraham was lesser than Melchizedek

8 No record of Melchizedek's death

Witnessed - attested to in Genesis

Those in Aaronic priesthood died and a new priest was appointed. Not so with Melchizedek.

9,10 So to speak - common Greek expression to limit a startling figurative statement and guard against misunderstanding.

The High Priesthood of Christ in the Line of Melchizedek 7:11-22

Possibly written as a response to the objection that Jesus could not be a priest because He had the wrong ancestry.

11, 12 Priesthood is changed - created great antagonism among Jews to Christ

New priesthood provided what the old one could not - perfection - implies a completion, end sought and accomplished

7:12, 7:18, 10:19 - 3x the Law was set aside or taken away

13 Jesus was from the wrong tribe (Judah) - after AD70 they couldn't trace lineage as records were destroyed

14 Evident - "It is perfectly obvious" or "everyone know" JB Phillips paraphrased. "It is a matter of history."

15 New priest was in the likeness of Melchizedek

16 Levitical priesthood not dictated by superior character but only on a physical (lit.: fleshly) requirement

"Endless life" [KJV] or "power of an indestructible life [NASB].

Hebrews

17 James Macknight noted the work of the tabernacle was so laborious that they couldn't serve past the age of 50 (Num. 4:2,3)

Attested - witnessed, testified

18 Setting aside - refers to not only the priesthood but also the whole law

19 Law med nothing perfect - but Christ did!

Hearts cleansed of sin - we can "draw near to God!"

20 Why is Christ's priesthood better than the Levitical priesthood? This section answers that.

God guaranteed a "better covenant" with an oath. He rarely used an oath but when He did it was to show "the certainty and immutability of the thing sworn." (Macknight, 539)

Important oaths:

1. To Abraham - Gen. 12:16-18

2. To rebellious Israel - Deut. 1:34-35

3. To Moses - Ps. 89:3-4

4. To David - Ps. 110:4

21 Quotes from Ps. 89:3,4

22 Guarantee- "surety" - found nowhere else in the NT. Used in ancient legal documents in a sense of a pledge or in reference to bail or to one who paid bail. Also applied to a surety given for a daughter's dowry.

First use of "covenant" in this epistle.

The Perfect and Permanent Priestly Work of Christ 7:22-28

3 pictures of Christ: [1] Guarantee [2] Eternal Priest [3] Effective sacrifice

23, 24 Priests were serving in the temple at the time of this writing

Numerous High Priest served under the Law because death limited their time in office

Josephus said there were 83 High Priest before the Fall of Jerusalem (Antiquities

20,10,1)

Hebrews

“Permanently” means “non-transferrable” - can never be given to another

25 Last High Priest was placed by zealots as a mockery. Josephus said it was a sharp contrast in Jesus’ ability to ‘save forever’ - Jesus is able!

Intercession - only time used in this epistle

26, 27 “Holy” - devout, pious, pleasing to God

Innocent - harmless in all His dealings with man

Undefiled - had no moral impurity - fitting for our Savior to be above defilement

High Priest uttered statements acknowledging their faults before they made atonement yet Christ didn’t have to because He was sinless!

28 Priests had weaknesses, Christ did not!

26-28 summarized: Priesthood under the law was replaced by a perfect High Priest, God’s Son, who will never be replaced.

Chapter VIII

His New Ministry 8:1-5

1-2 A Minister in the True Tabernacle

1 Main point, sum - our High Priest cannot serve with an inferior covenant

Seat - suggests He rules as King

No human priest can sit at the right Hand of God

2 Minister - public office of high rank

Sanctuary - Heaven, true “holy of holies”

True - fulfillment of the shadow

The Church was built by Christ not man

3-4 A Priest with Something to Offer

4 Jesus serves in Heaven

Hebrews

The kingdom/church could never have been established until Christ returned to Heaven

5 A Priest According to the Pattern

5 Shadow - copy

Moses was warned - divinely admonished

Pattern - "a blow" and "the effect of the blow" - like a medal die or the impression made by a seal

The New Covenant 8:6-13 [4 ways]

6-7 A Covenant with Better Promises

6 [1] New covenant had better promises

Covenant - testament (9:16, 17 | Mt. 26:28)

7 Old law not found faultless - Rom. 8:3

8-9 A Covenant Unlike That Which was Broken

8 [2] Unlike the old covenant that was broken by God's people

New covenant given for both Israel and Judah

New - of a brand-new kind

Quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34

Israel - 4 ways in the Bible according to Robert Milligan:

{1} Jacob as a prince of God - Gen. 32:28

{2} All of Jacob's descendants - Ex. 4:22

{3} Ten tribes that revolted under Jeroboam - I Kings 12:19-20

{4} Every Christian under the new covenant - Rom. 9:6, Gal. 6:16

Judah meant "praise, He will be praised"

9 Imagery of a father leading a child

"Did not care" - natural outcome of rejecting a covenant

10-12 A Covenant Written in Minds and on Hearts

10 [3] New covenant written on the hearts of God's people

Hebrews

Not telling them to memorize (Dt. 6:6-9, Ps. 119:11) - memorizing does not guarantee obedience to it. It means in effect a new disposition. One that has God's laws in his heart delights in them (Ps. 1:1-3).

"Be their God" - a personal relationship

11 John 6:44-45; Rom. 10:17

12 Real forgiveness is what the old covenant lacked

13 A Covenant that Will Never be Obsolete

13 [4] Never become obsolete

New covenant reveals the old one to be out-of-date

Chapter IX

Lessons from the Tabernacle 9:1-10

Key words:

Offer: 8:3,4; 9:7, 9, 14, 25, 28; 10:1, 2, 8, 11, 12

Offering: 10:5, 8, 10, 14, 18

Sacrifice: 8:3; 9:9, 23, 26; 10:1, 5, 8, 11, 12

Covenant: 8:6, 8, 9, 10; 9:4, 16, 16, 17, 20; 10:16

Blood: 9:7, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25; 10:4

Sin: 8:12; 9:29, 28; 10:2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18

1-2 The Holy Place and Its Furniture

1 Divine worship - regulations for worship

Had - already been taken away by the cross of Jesus (Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 2:14-17)

Earthly stand in contrast to Heavenly

2 Begins an inventory of what was in the two chambers of the tabernacle

Outer one - holy place (ex. 25:31-40; 37:17-24)

3-5 The Most Holy Place

3 Second veil - thought to typify the barrier between God and man. Rabbis said a new veil was put in yearly.

4 Golden altar of incense - author may have had in mind the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16) which makes the placement of altar correct.

Ark - Latin for chest (*area*)

Last mention of the Ark in Scripture is I Kings 8:9, II Chron. 5:10 [586 BC]. Roman emperor Pompey was surprised to not find it in the Most Holy Place in BC 63.

5 Author intended to speak no more on earthly things

6-7 The Day of Atonement

6 Daily offering of incense in morning and evening (Ex. 30:7-8; Lev. 24:3-4)

Day of Atonement - Yom Kippur - Lev. 16

Sacrifices atoned for sin, but they did not remove sins.

8-10 Only Figures and Symbols

8 Holy Spirit gave instructions through Moses and expounds on them in Hebrews

9 Inability to see into the Most Holy Place was a figure or symbol of the Christian age

This glory was not fully revealed until the veil was worn by the tearing of Christ's flesh

Worshipper could not be perfect in conscience in the true sense of being free from sin

10 Clean conscience today through baptism - I Peter 3:21

Various bodily washings could not purify the soul

Time of reformation - to straighten what was fallen from its original position

Christ's Death and Atonement 9:11-15

"The Heart of Hebrews" - Lightfoot

11-14 Superiority of the Atonement of Christ

11, 12 [1] Christ's sacrifice has brought us eternal redemption

Good things to come - literally - to become alongside

Hebrews

Christ appeared - more than merely born

13 [2] Jesus' blood provided a clean conscience

Lesser to greater argument

Sacrificial blood was to be sprinkled - Jesus's blood did more than animal blood ever could

14 3 things [a] Jesus offered Himself, [b] He made the perfect sacrifice because he was

without blemish, [c] He made His offering through the eternal spirit

Clean conscience - to clean the soul from guilt

"Blood of Christ" - only here in Hebrews.

15 A Sacrificial Death and an Eternal Inheritance

15 [3] With His blood, Jesus has given us a new covenant

Inheritance - common concept in Hebrews

Christ as Testator of the New Covenant 9:16-22

16-17 When a Testament is in Force

16, 17 For a will to be effective, there [1] is a necessity of death or a proof of death of the testator

18-20 Blood of the Old Testament

[2] Blood was used to ratify the Old Testament.

19 Blood of the Covenant borrowed from Ex. 24:3-8

21-22 Nothing Remitted Without Blood

[3] Shedding of blood for the remission of sins

21, 22 Could not be cleansed without the shedding of blood

Christ's Entry into God's Presence 9:23-28

23-24 Patterns of the Heavenly

[4] Copies of Heavenly things be cleansed

23, 24 See again Christ entering into Heaven

Hebrews

Better sacrifices? The one Christ gave on the cross.

Now - He is acting in our behalf even now (7:23)

25-26 Jesus Offered Once

25 Enters - present tense

[1] Christ is eternal; [2] His sacrifice reaches backwards to deal with the sins of the past generations; [3] He offered His own blood whereas high priests only offered the blood animals.

26 Ushering in of the "last days" (1,2)

27-28 One Death, Then Judgment

27 Appointed - Lk. 19:20 - [NASB] "Kept put away" or [KJV] "laid up." Col. 1:5 - "Hope laid up for you in Heaven..."

An appointment is made - something is "waiting"/"laid up" for us, whether the punishment of Hell or reward of Heaven

Emphasis on "once" - born, lives, dies, judgment

28 The ultimately saved are those "who eagerly await Him," cf. II Peter 3:12

Can we get excited about Jesus' coming again? Can we really hope for Him to come soon? If so, we can pray with John - Rev. 22:20.

Bear sins of many - Isa. 53:11

The "once fo all" point to our final, eternal salvation.

Chapter X

The Superiority of Christ's Sacrifice 10:1-18

1-10 The Place of the Sacrifice

1-2 They Were a Shadow

1 The last word on animal sacrifices

Hebrews

For - concludes thought began in 8:1

Form - in the very exact image, replica - cf. II Cor. 4:4

Those who draw near or “approach” in worship are only those who have obtained the remission of sins

2 Consciousness of sins kept the sacrifices coming

Cleansed - perfect tense

3-4 They Were a Remembrance

3 Every sin on the Day of Atonement was a perpetual of Israel’s guilt

5-7 They Prefigured of the True Sacrifices

5-7 Body prepared for me - literally: “ears thou has digged/opened for me”

6 Illustrates God’s lack of pleasure in OT sacrifices because they did not produce salvation from sin

Scroll of the Book - Ps. 40:7

8-10 They Were the First Covenant

8-10 Takes away, abolishes - literally to kill

Sanctified by Christ 10:11-18

11-12 Our Seated Lord

11 Priests could never feel at home in the tabernacle or temple because they were always standing

When Christ finished His job, He sat down.

Same sacrifices - a string of zeroes

No other religion has a one-time event that accomplishes salvation for the whole world

13-14 Christ, Our Waiting Lord

13 Quotes again from Ps. 110:1

14 Sanctified - applies to the saved, Gal. 3:27

15-18 Christ, Our Full Atonement

Hebrews

“Greatest News of All”

15, 16 Testifies - literally witnesses to me

Rephrases the same quote in 8:8-12

17 No more need for sacrifice under the new covenant

18 Remembers sin no more - Ac. 2:38

Superior Access to God 10:19-39

“Let’s Get Ready to Worship”

19-25 Cause for Confidence

19 Confidence of propitiation

Audience: brethren

Confidence allows us to draw near to God, 4:16

20 Implied “since” - confidence of a pathway to Jesus

21 Confidence of a provider

22 Veil of hinderance removed

Present tense of “Let Us”

Go forward in a sincere heart in “full assurance of faith”

Water a reference to baptism

23 Hold fast - key in Hebrews

Confession - what is acknowledged, confessed, or professed to be true

24 Provoke = stimulate - strong urging of others toward the end of producing more love for one another and good works of service

25 Assembling - coming together in a meeting

Not saying encourage to assemble but assemble to encourage

Forsaking the gatherings of the church is a sign of apostasy - or a sign that apostasy will soon occur

Forsaking means to “leave behind” or “abandon”

Hebrews

We cannot see the day of our death but we can see times to encourage others
approaching and place accordingly

Warning: The Sin that Brings Death 10:26-31

26 Willful sin - continued rebellion

Willfully = deliberately

Blatant rebellion and apostasy - Lightfoot

This section deals with persons who were once true converts

Consequence? No longer remains a sacrifice for sins since Christ died "once for all"

there no longer remains a sacrifice

27, 28 Terrifying - 3x in NT: 10:27, 10:31, 12:21

29 Equivalent to 6:6

[1] Author intended to shock audience

[2] Unclean the blood - unholy, common, impure

These are people that have deserted the Lord's body

[3] Insulted (outraged) the Spirit

30, 31 The author is trying to pull his readers off the edge of a cliff over which is spiritual death

God's vengeance is not of the nature of vindictiveness but of justice!

No one can fool God!

32-39 Exhortation to Remember

32 In early days of being a Christian, they had shown faith in the face of hostility

Enlightened was accomplished by the light of the Gospel" - II Cor. 4:4, cf. Eph. 5:8, Col.

1:13

Endured a great persecution - may refer to Ac. 8:1, 12:1-3

33 Fellowship - to be a partner

Spectacle - gazing stock (verb) and (noun) gets as the word theatre

Hebrews

34 Compassion - sympathy - may be hard to demonstrate in times of stress, but the Christian will!

35, 36 Great reward - in present tense

Author urged readers to go back to the way they had before and continue boldly serving God

Endurance = patience

37, 38 Coming will come - probably referring to the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70)

Quotes from Habakkuk 2:4

If a "righteous one" shrinks back, God will not grant His blessings to him

39 If they return to Jerusalem, destruction awaits them

Placed himself among readers with "we"

A study of Ch. 10 may be seen as an introduction on the subject of faith and Ch. 11 is filled with great examples of faith.

Chapter 11

A Description of Faith 11:1

1 Faith - simply taking God at His Word

Faith gives substance to our thinking about God

Same word appears in 1:3 (person) and 3:14 (confidence). Only other NT appearance in II Cor. 9:4 and 11:17 - confidence

Faith gives assurance and substance to our trust in what God has promised for the future

Things not seen - to anticipate something better

It is not "I believe because I want to believe."

A Demonstration of Faith 11:2-3

Hebrews

2 Men of old - elder

3 The universe was made by the “Word of God.” Creatio ex nihilo - Latin term for “Creation out of nothing.”

A Portrait of Righteous Men 11:4-7

4 Better - greater, more important - literally greater in value or quantity

Abel acted by faith and was righteous - the way he acted was pleasing to God!

Not told how he obtained the testimony, cf. 12:24

5 Gen. 5:24 quoted here

Jude 14 tells us Enoch was a prophet

What happened to Enoch (and Elijah) was a real rapture!

He was delivered from death because of his faith

6 No one has ever pleased God without believing in Him

Must believe in 2 truths:

[1] God is

[2] He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him

7 Noah proves one who believes in God knows that He will perform what He has promised, even if there is little to no evidence for it happening

No physical evidence of rain yet but God warned him of it

Warned of God - divinely called (Ac. 11:26) or divinely warned (Heb. 8:6)

The Father and Mother of the Faithful 11:8-12

8 Abraham - 1st person in OT specifically mentioned as having faith - Gen. 15:6

“Going out” - he went as soon as he was called

Not knowing where he was going must have been frustrating or frightening at times

9, 10 Foreigner, alien - to “live alongside of” - “a resident alien”

God - architect, builder of a greater, permanent city. Until Abraham bought the cave at Macpelah he owned no land.

Hebrews

11, 12 Abraham's body was as good as dead yet God used it to create descendants that were innumerable

These Were Faithful, Though Not Having Received God's Promise 11:13-16

13 Died - "in according with faith" - different than dying "by faith"

These (v. 4-11) kept the faith until the very end

These references to all save Enoch as he did not die

Abraham confessed - Gen. 23:4

Jacob spoke almost the same thing - Gen. 47:9

14-16 Country - fatherland

Not ashamed to be called their God, v. 6, Ex. 36

16 He is reminiscent to 2:11-12 and Ps. 22:22

Faithful Men Who Were Tested by Suffering 11:17-29

17-19 All of Abraham's other trials were insignificant compared to the offering of Isaac

Raise people - Mt. 19:26, Mk. 10:27, Lk. 18:27 - see Lk. 3:8

19 - type - Isaac a type of Jesus being offered - Isaac was Abraham's only begotten son - v. 17, Jn. 3:16

20 Isaac allowed to bless his sons

21 Jacob's early life required his scheming to get what he wanted, later he had to faithfully rely on God

Jacob was an old man that leaned upon his staff (or possibly bed) and passed on the prophetic will of God

22 Exodus - the departure

After Abraham, Moses stands as the greatest

23 Exodus focuses on what his mother did both if his parents hid him

Their lack of fear indicates they trusted in God more than fearing Pharaoh

24 Refused - aorist tense - specific act of choosing to reject Egypt

Hebrews

- 25 Moses made an irrevocable decision
Passing pleasure of sin - cf. Heb. 3:13
- 26 Treasures of Egypt already legendary
King Tut's tomb found in 1922 - Tut and Moses lived only 100 years apart!
Tut lives in the memory of his wealth; Moses lives in memory of God and the faithful for all time
Reproach of Christ - see 13:3
Reward - 2:2, 10:35 - "recompense of the reward" KJV
Moses saw future rewards better than anything current

- 27 Moses fled in fear of his life - Ex. 2:11-15
When he crosses the Red Sea, he leaves Egypt confidently

- 28, 29 Kept - or instituted [ASV footnote] - the Passover
Kept - to make or to do, in this context to institute
Angel of death not mentioned in Exodus. It was literally God!

Israel's Faith and Rahab's 11:30-31

- 30 Faith of Israel reaffirmed with the conquering of the Promised Land
Walls fell by faith
- 31 Rahab the harlot confessed her faith to the Israelite spies

Triumphant Heroes and Suffering Heroes of Faith 11:32-38

- 32 Evidence of a sermon - time running out
6 specific people mentioned from Judges
I & II Samuel - 3 categories: judges, king, and then a prophet
- 33, 34 After specifically naming individuals, he uses some generally - all these actions are done by faith
Obtained promises - certain promises of God were fulfilled in their lives
Shut the mouth of lions: Samson (Judges 14:6) and David (I Sam. 17:34-35)

Hebrews

Quenched power of Fire - Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego

Escaped edge of the sword - David & Goliath, Elijah vs. Jezebel (I Ki. 19:1-6), Elisha and Jezebel's son Jehoram (II Ki, 6:18), also Queen Esther in Esther 4:13-14

Foreign armies to flight - Ahab (I Ki. 20:27), David (I Sam. 17:49-51), Barak (Judges 4:14), Samson (Judges 16:19-30)

35 The Other side of the Story - some suffered greatly in spite of their faith

Dead raised - 2 done through Elijah and Elisha

Tortured, not accepting their release - normally refers to a drum made with a stretched animal skin - here in the context it means a wheel on which someone was stretched and then beaten, often to death

36 Mockings - like those given to Jesus on the cross - Mt. 27:41-44, Mk. 15:31-32, Lk 23:53-59

Scourgings were performed using a wooden handle with several lashes attached - metal pieces or lead balls were inserted to lacerate the victim's back

Chains and imprisonment - Jeremiah (37:4-21), Hannai (II Chron. 16:7-10), Micaiah (I Ki. 22:26-27)

37 Stoned - capital punishment in OT days

Lv. 20:27, Dt. 21:21, Jn. 8:3-5. Jesus wept over Jerusalem's stoned prophets (Mt. 23:37, Lk. 13:34). Stephen - 1st Christian martyr - Ac. 7:58-59

Sawn in two - no Biblical reference but in well known literature - Isaiah in Manasseh's reign (cf. II Chron. 33:9-13)

Tempted - might have been offered an escape from tribulation but refused it

"Tempted" - and "sawn in two" are translated from the very similar word (prizō)

Put to death with the sword - many: I Ki. 19:10, II Ki. 23:29, I Sam. 27:18, Jer, 20:14-16

Wearing sheepskins and goatskins was a sign of poverty and being among the despised of society

Hebrews

Elijah wore sheepskins - I Ki. 17:3-7, 19:3-14, II Ki. 1:8

Destitute - "To suffer need", "to be inferior"

38 counted unfit for society

Holes in the ground - in caves or caverns

A Summary of the Faithful 11:39-40

39 Did not receive the fulfilled coming of the Messiah in their lifetime

40 Something better - new and better covenant

"Apart from us they would not be made perfect" - suggests all the faithful under both covenants will meet together in glory for the final reward

Chapter XII

Christ, the Perfecter of Our Faith 12:1-3

1 Race has eternal consequences!

Therefore - draws a conclusion of Ch. 11

Witness - martus - because martyr in English

Endurance - persistent effort of a runner to keep to the end

Weight - encumbrance [NASB] - whatever might entangle runners

Like Moses - 11:24-26

2 Greatest encouragement comes from looking to Jesus

Fixing - making firm or steady. Turn away from sin and look to Jesus.

Not to look to the left or right and certainly not behind - Lk. 9:62

Endured the cross - Mt. 27:43

Cross - see Dt. 21:22-23, Gal. 3:13

Doing all of this brought Jesus great joy!

3 Consider - to draw an analogy

Discipline as Children of God 12:4-11

- 4 First readers were dealing with sins that didn't lead to death yet
- 5, 6 Apparently, they had forgotten what the Scriptures said
Quotes from Pro. 3:11-12 - the Bible is always current; it is always applicable.
- 7, 8 When we suffer as sons, we are following the Son (5:8)
Discipline is a sign of God's love for His children
Why should we desire God's discipline?
[1] It is a sign that we are God's children - v.3
[2] We can look back later and see that the discipline was good for us and helped to make us into mature adults - v. 9, 10
[3] Through it we can come to "share all holiness" - v. 10
Under Roman law, illegitimate offspring never received inheritance
- 9, 10 Inclusion of discipline in a section of suffering is significant
A good example is Paul in his affliction - II Cor. 12:7-10
Father of spirits - to recognize Him as "father" to all Christians
Short time - for a Greek youth this was under the father's disciplinary control until the third year of reaching adulthood; until marriage; or until being listed in a public register.
Trained - recognizable origin of the word gymnasium

Encouragement to Seek God's Grace and Live a Life of Faith 12:12-17

- 12, 13 The weak must be considered - Isa. 35:3, Pr. 4:26-27
Out of joint - limbs were lame and needed some help in walking
Straight paths suggest diligent effort since paths were normally crooked and often rough
Be healed - spiritually healing or restoration
- 14 Pursue - strong word and expresses eagerness in working toward a goal
Part of following straight paths is trying to make peace among brethren
- 15 See to it - present participle for episkopeā - used in I Peter 5:2 for the function of elders

Hebrews

A warning that even Christians “fall short”

Idea of a traveler following behind others

Root of bitterness - may represent some gross sin. The “gall of bitterness” was Simon’s downfall - greed - Ac. 8:23. Idolatrous apostasy - Dt. 29:18

16 Esau - failed to seek holiness

17 Immortal character of Esau demonstrated by marrying foreign wives - Gen. 36:2, 3, 26; 34:35

Isaac could not allow Esau’s bitter tears - Gen. 27:34 - to change the evident will of God

Contrast of the Glory of Sinai and the Greater Gory of Zion / “Heavenly Jerusalem” 12:18-24

18, 19 Mountain - Ex. 19:16-19

20, 21 Old covenant was concerned more with material things (9:11, 24) but now concerned with higher and holier things

See Dt. 9:19

22-24 [1] They came to Mt. Zion instead of Mt. Sinai

[2] Heaven will not be a city on earth but these brethren had already come to the holy city by entering into the church - body of Christ

[3] In coming to this city, we have also come to myriads of angels - indefinite number of angels - Lk. 15:7, 10

[4] We have come to the general assembly and church of the firstborn

Assembly not the word rendered as church here - may also include the saved of the OT

[5] As Christians, we have come to God, the Judge of All

[6] We have come to the spirits of the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Final Warning: The Danger of Refusing God 12:25-29

25 Christ, not Moses, now speaking to us

Warned - also used in 8:5 and 11:7, called LK. 11:26 - divine admonition

Hebrews

- 26 Voice of God so powerful it shook the mountain - Ex. 19:18, Ps. 68:8, 114:7
- 27 Brief interpretation of a quote of Haggai 2:6
- 28 Unshakeable kingdom could be a reference to Rome - they were soon to shake down Jerusalem
- Another "let us" passage
- 29 God consuming fire - not an isolated thought in Scripture - cf. Isa. 33:14
- Reverence and awe - "not incompatible with grateful trust and love in response to His mercy." - F. F. Bruce, 375
- Proper worship to God meets these criteria:
- [1] It is presented to God in an acceptable manner
- [2] It is given in reverence
- [3] It is given to a God who is a "consuming fire"

Chapter XIII

Greek writers often concluded with a "peroration" - usually 3 or 4 minutes

Remember to Love 13:1-6

- 1 Love of the brethren - phileo love
- 2 Hospitality of strangers - a requirement of friendship - seriously needed in the time of persecution
- Entertaining angels without knowing it - possibly a reference to Abraham in Gen. 18, 19
- Inns were so expensive and centers of immorality - another reason for hospitality
- 3 cf. Rom. 16:7 - imagine you are in prison with the brother that is a brother
- All in one body - makes it easier to envision being in chains
- 4 Writer clearly saw any breakdown of the family affects all of society
- This command is a frequently dishonored one - Mt. 19:6-9

Hebrews

Breaking marriage vow is a sin - Pro. 7:6-27

2 classes listed:

[1] whoremongers/ foreigners/ porneia

[2] Adulterers (moichos) - violate marriage vows

5 Love of money in Greek only used in I Tim. 3:13

“Credit and gambling lead to dissatisfaction with one’s lot in life.”

Overcoming the love of money brings us to being content.

Content: unflinching strength, satisfied

Double negative - beautifully rendered

6 Taken from Joshua 1:5, Dt. 31:6, Ps. 118:6

Jesus quotes in Mt. 21:42 and Peter quotes it in Ac. 4:10-11

Recall Former Leaders and Our High Priest 13:7-16

7 Result of their conduct - indicates they had already passed

Remember - present - continue on

Led - to lead, to command with authority - used 3x in this chapter

Verse may have reference in evangelists also

Considering - very opposite of a superficial examination

Imitate their faith - literally become a mime

8 Possibly the best-known verse in the book

See Isa. 41:4, 44:6, Rev. 1:17, Heb. 7:25

9 Strange teachings - plural. Strange - literally translates a foreign

We are strengthened by the grace of God not dietary restrictions

10 Jewish Christians were being denied the right to participate in sacrifices

11-13 Sacrificial bull taken outside of the camp - Lv. 16:27

Jesus was crucified outside of the gate - John 19:20

Leaving the camp (13) suggest a total break from the synagogue and the temple

Hebrews

14 There is no lasting city on this earth

15 Some men are neglecting their public worship and praise to God

Fruit of lips - see Hosea 14:3

A continual giving of thanks

16 Sharing - koinōnia - contribution (Rom. 15:26)

Remain Under the Current Leaders and in Prayer for Others 13:17-19

17 Obey church leaders in the present sense

Obey and submit - persuade/pacify and yield/surrender

Watch - such vigilance it would cause a lack of sleep

When they give account, we hope they can say - III John 4

18, 19 Us, we - true plural, not editorial "we"

Asked for two things:

[1] Pray for him - all the more; had been; keep going

[2] Be restored to them - not likely with them

Reach Up to God and Out to Brethren 13:20-28

20 Now reveals prayers for them

Only the God of peace brings real peace

Only reference to the resurrections of Jesus in Hebrews

"Jesus Loving Shepherd" Hymn

"Brought up" instead of "resurrected" - used in 6:2, 11:35

In the OT, the shepherd of God's people is usually Moses or God Himself (Ps. 77:20,

95:7) - only Jesus could compare to this today

Blood of the eternal covenant - a brief summary of the entire book

21 When we obey, God works in us to do what we have been equipped to do - Phil. 2:12-13

Equip to every good work - II Tim. 3:16-17

22 Bear with this word of exhortation - heed its every word, not merely tolerate the length

Hebrews

Epistle, “written message,” has characteristics of a sermon

- 23 No mention of Timothy’s imprisonment in Paul’s letters - if Paul wrote Hebrews - but one who has been faithful to the apostle would jeopardize his own safety to visit him in prison
Released - leave, given leave to depart on a mission, or given a pardon - Mt. 18:37, Lk. 6:37
- 24 Letter addressed not to elders or churches but to a segment of its members
Those from Italy - with the writer in some other location
Not sure where the author is from this statement
- 25 Grace - common benediction
Implied the desire for the bestowal of a divine blessing on the person who was to receive this letter

Books used:

Martel Pace Hebrews *Truth for Today Commentary*, Resource Publications. *All other works quoted are direct quotes from this commentary. Please see the book for specific information.*

Robert R. Taylor, Jr. Hebrews

Notes completed and typed May 13, 2020.