

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Better Than The Prophets"
Hebrews 1:1-3
Study-1

The Introduction & Background To The Book of Hebrews:

The Author – Anonymous

When Written – it is unknown; probably in the years 63-68 AD.

Where it was Written – The place of the writing is unknown. Heb 13:24

Written To – Hebrew Christians

Jewish Content – OT people are referred to repeatedly as illustrations.

Background – The writer is writing to Jews that are suffering under persecution. Because they are suffering for their faith in Jesus, they are tempted to return to Judaism to escape the persecution of Christianity.

Purpose – Move The Believers On To Maturity; To Grow Up ("Don't Go Back"); The way to maturity is To present the Superior Jesus; A Superior Priesthood; A Superior Principle Of Faith.

Hebrews Is a Book of Evaluation: The word "Better" is used 13X in this book, showing the superiority of Jesus Christ.

The word "Perfect", 11X. Perfect – "our standing before God", Hebrews 10:14

Hebrews Is a Book of Exhortation: Heb. 13:22 – "the word of exhortation" means "encouragement."

5 "Problem Passages" In Hebrews:

1. Drifting from the Word – 2:1-4 (Neglect)
2. Doubting the Word – 3:7-4:13 (Hard Heart)
3. Dullness toward the Word – 5:11-6:20 (Sluggishness)
4. Despising the Word – 10:26-39 (Willfulness)
5. Defying the Word – 12:14-29 (Refusing To Hear)

Hebrews Is a Book of Examination

Hebrews Is a Book of Expectation

Key Words: Faith – 38X, Better – 13X, Let us – 13X, Perfect – 11X, Rest – 11X

Theme – “Jesus Is Better”; 13X in Hebrews the word “Better” is used.

Key Chapter – Hebrews 11

Key Passage – Heb 4:14-16

Hebrews 6:1

Outline –

- 1. Hebrews 1-6 – A Superior Person: Jesus Christ**
- 2. Hebrews 7-10 – A Superior Priesthood: Jesus Christ**
- 3. Hebrews 11-13 – A Superior Principle: Faith**

Hebrews 1:1-3 – The Theme Of Hebrews Is Revealed In These 3 Verses.

The Thought Of Our Passage: “Jesus, God’s Son, Is More Glorious Than The Prophets, Because God Has Spoken Fully Through Him.”

1. Verse 1 – The Old Testament Revelation

2. Verses 2-3 – Superiority Of Jesus’ Revelation

1. Verse 1 – The Old Testament Revelation:

Heb 1:1

1. The Fact Of Divine Revelation: “God, after He spoke”

“God, after He spoke” – No attempt to argue God’s existence or possibility of divine revelation, it is just stated. “God... spoke... by the prophets.” The source of authority is God, not man. The emphasis is on the declaration that God spoke.

Spoke is literally “in the prophets”. God was in the prophets at the time they wrote and proclaimed authoritative truth to their audiences.
2 Peter 1:21

2 Timothy 3:16

2. The Reality Of The Old Testament Revelation: “long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,”

Times Past: “long ago”, Matt. 11:13

To The Fathers: “to the fathers” – This phrase technically refers to the entire nation of Israel. Paul made this equation, Romans 9:4-5.
Different Times: “in many portions”

In Different Ways: "and in many ways,"

Theophany's To Abraham, Gen. 22: 15; He spoke to Moses out of a burning bush, Exod. 3: 2-4; On Mount Sinai, Exod. 32: 16; He spoke to Elijah in a "still small voice", 1 Kings 19: 12; Daniel received dreams and visions, Dan. 7: 1.

The Bible – Law, History, Poetry, Prophecy, Wisdom.

2. Verses 2-3 – Superiority Of Jesus' Revelation:

Hebrews 1:2

8 Statements are given to demonstrate Jesus' superiority to the prophets:

1. Jesus, The Ultimate Prophet: "last days has spoken to us in His Son,"
2. Jesus Is The Heir: "whom He appointed heir of all things," – As the sovereign Creator, God naturally owns all things, 1 Corinthians 10: 26.

He made the universe; therefore, it belongs to Him.
Psalm 2: 7-8

Matthew 17:5

3. Jesus, The Creator: "through whom also He made the world."
Literally, "the time-space universe", Acts 17: 26.

Hebrews 1:3

4. Jesus Is Divine Glory: "And He is the radiance of His glory" – refers to the Shekinah glory of God that dwelt in the tabernacle and temple.
Ex. 40: 34-38; 1 Kings 8: 10. Shekinah – means "to dwell".

Jesus Christ manifested in His human existence that eternal glory, John 1: 14.

John 1:18

5. Jesus, The Revealer Of God: "and the exact representation of His nature," – "exact representation", "the exact imprint"; Jesus Christ is "the exact representation of the very substance of God",
Colossians 2: 9.

John 14: 9

6. Jesus Is The Sustainer: "and upholds all things by the word of His power." The word upholds – "support, and direction or movement toward a goal", Colossians 1:17.
7. Jesus Our Redeemer: "When He had made purification of sins," – Hebrews 7-10 – purification of sins; includes their penalty, practice, and pollution.

John 19:30 – "It is finished"

8. Jesus The Ruler: "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Psalm 110:1.

Application:

1. Purpose Of Hebrews Is To Move The Believers On To Maturity, To Grow Up. The Way To Maturity Is To Present The Superior Jesus, A Superior Priesthood, And A Superior Principle Of Faith.
2. The Prophets Spoke The Word Of God, But Jesus Is The Word Of God: John 1:1.
3. Jesus Christ Is God's "Last Word" As Far As Revelation Is Concerned.
4. The Author Of The Book of Hebrews Exhorts His Readers To Advance Into The Full Blessings Of The New Covenant. He Wants Them To Enjoy The Total Ministry Of Jesus Christ In This Life.