

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 19TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

TITLE

We typically refer to this book simply as “Hebrews.” The title found in most ancient manuscripts reads “to the Hebrews,” thus identifying this book as a letter or an epistle. Hebrews, however, is unique in that it does not begin with a salutation, as in the case of Paul’s epistles.

AUDIENCE

The original audience seems to be converted Jews. Some believe they were formerly priests since a great deal of Old Testament knowledge is assumed. We just don’t know for sure.

- It is written to the Church, plays a unique role in the Bible, and instructs Christians how to read the OT in relation to Christ.

DATE AND AUTHOR

It was probably written before AD 70 because it mentions the sacrificial system as if it were still in place.

- There are so many possibilities that we shouldn’t focus on this anonymous writer. We can agree that the Holy Spirit is the author, writing to “the church” in a way we can understand.

UNDERSTANDING

Many Christians find Hebrews challenging to understand because it requires a certain amount of knowledge of the Old Testament.

- For us to understand, we must become familiar with the history, themes, and theology of the OT. Keep your Bibles open as we begin this journey.

GOD SPEAKS (HEBREWS 1:1–3)

LONG AGO

In verse 1, the writer summarizes the Old Testament and how God spoke to His people in many different ways. He affirms the authenticity and authority of the OT and sets the context of how he will explain the gospel.

- **Do we believe that the OT is the Word of God to us? Is there more?**

THESE LAST DAYS

The last days began with the first coming of Christ 2,000 years ago. We are still in that span of time. We are living in the days of the Son and will do so until His return.

- **This truth inspired the early Church to be prepared for His return. Are we inspired, excited, motivated?**

HIS SON

In verse 2, we are introduced to the connection between the OT and NT: **Jesus**. Clearly, Jesus has always been a part of the Trinity; the universe was made through Him.

- **Jesus was with God as the prophets wrote about Him. Hebrews helps us see the promises of the OT.**

THE EXACT EXPRESSION

Not only was Jesus an active agent of creation, He sustains it by His word. Again, we see the depth of the Trinity as Jesus (God) is the only One with this kind of power.

- **When we see what the Son is like, we see exactly what God is like. If you’re looking for God, seek Jesus.**

BC TO AD

The “purification for sins” is Jesus sacrificing Himself for our sins. Jesus, as both our priest and sacrifice, will be the main subject of chapters 5-10.

- **Christ’s life, death, and resurrection did not end the OT. Christ became the fulfillment of those promises.**

AT THE RIGHT HAND

The offering of Christ has been accepted, and He has taken His place with the Father, where He intercedes for us (Romans 8:34).

- **The sacrifice has been made. Now, Jesus is still speaking to us through His Word and for us, to the Father. Do we realize He listens to us, too?**

SUPERIOR (HEBREWS 1:4–14)

THE PERSON OF CHRIST

In three verses, we went from creation to fall to redemption to fulfillment. We see Christ as the Creator, Redeemer, and ascended King. Now, the writer reveals the person of Christ, who He is, and not just what He has done.

- **Too often, we focus on what Christ has done for us and neglect who He is.**

ABOVE THE ANGELS

This may seem odd, but we must remember that angels were highly regarded. They had been the messengers to many and protectors of God’s people. Too many people were seeing angels as “saviors.”

- **Sadly, not much has changed in 2,000 years. Angels are servants, not saviors.**

WHAT’S IN A NAME? VS. 5–6

Jesus has always been superior to angels. He is “Lord,” and He is “Son.”

- The writer strategically quotes three OT scriptures, one from each major division: Psalm 2:7 from the Writings, 2 Samuel 7:14 from the Prophets, and Deuteronomy 32:43 from the Law.
- An angel may serve as God’s messenger and witness but not as God’s Son.

WHOSE THRONE? VS. 6–9

Angels are recognized as flames of fire who enjoy God’s presence and carry out His purposes, but **the Son is Divine and worthy of worship.**

- Angels may be sent, but **Christ is the Anointed One.**
- Angels may surround the throne of God, but **the Son sits on the throne.**

CREATOR VS. CREATION; VS. 9–12

There is a distinction between the creation and the Creator. Creation will perish. The Son will not. He is eternal, permanent, unending, and unchanging.

- **Why do we invest most of our time in temporary things? Why do we spend so much worry and emotion on temporary things? Do we believe that we are temporary?**

WHO RULES? VS. 13–14

Angels worship the Son; His rule is forever, He created all things, He will bring everything to judgment, and He is now at God’s right hand.

- Angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. This **salvation was achieved by the Son; He alone is the Savior.**

THE WORD

- The Bible is the Word of God.
- **Do we believe that God spoke through the Old Testament?**
- **We may fail to understand God’s Word and who He is when we focus on the parts we like. Are we ready to dive in and grow in our relationship with Him?**

SUPREME

- Jesus is superior to all things.
- **Angels know they are not superior to Christ and they worship Him.**
- **We may not elevate angels, but what in our lives do we elevate above Christ? We might not call it “worship” but are we trusting it more than Jesus?**

WORK

- Creation, Redemption, and Restoration are completed works of Jesus Christ.
- **As followers of Christ, our Savior, we are called to love Him through obedience.**
- **Are we ready to make the effort to know Him, worship Him, and serve Him? Will we read His Word and pray?**