

HEBREWS

The book of Hebrews is one of the more _____ New Testament books to interpret and understand. It's not that the content is difficult, for much of it is a review of accounts from the Old Testament. What makes the book challenging is trying to understand the desire of the writer. Unless the reader is aware of some fundamental criteria, mistakes can and will be made. However, once that criteria is discovered, problem passages become understandable and the possibility of mistakes are minimalized.

Audience & Background:

The intended audience is undoubtedly Jewish _____. We draw this conclusion from how the writer addresses his audience calling them "holy brethren" and "partakers of a heavenly calling" (Ch 3:1). That's an important distinction because it deals with one view of the audience as being those who haven't yet been converted _____ Judaism.

Date:

Scholars believe the book was written between 64-66 A.D for several reasons. The main ones being that the author refers to the sacrificial system in the _____ tense, which ceased before 70 A.D. when destroyed by the Romans. He also mentions a "shaking in the land" (Heb 12:26-29) which is a reference to a Jewish revolt which took place from 66-64 A.D.

Author:

The author of Hebrews is _____, meaning the letter was unsigned and it's authorship has been debated for centuries. Since we do not know for sure who the author is, we cannot be dogmatic, but we can offer a strong possibility. Here are some things we do know about the author:

1) The author was Jewish for several reasons:

A) The penning of Scriptures was entrusted to the Jews; [Rom 3:1](#) What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

[Rom 3:2](#) Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

B) The majority of the book refers to intimate _____ accounts.

C) The author _____ himself with his audience as a believer: [Heb 2:3](#) How shall **we** escape, if **we** neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto **us** by them that heard *him*;

2) Reasons the writer was possibly the _____:

A) The writer's _____

[Heb 13:23](#) Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

B) The Writer's Identifying _____: [2Th 3:17](#) The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

Paul dealt with _____ during his ministry. Deceivers were writing letters and sending them with his name on them, to deceive the churches. So Paul had a special _____ that He would end each letter with, that could be used to authenticate his authorship.

“The Grace Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Be With You”

[Rom 16:24](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with you all**. Amen.

[1Co 16:23](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with you**.

[2Co 13:14](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, **be with you all**. Amen.

[2Co 13:14](#) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, **be with you all**. Amen.

[Eph 6:24](#) Grace **be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ** in sincerity. Amen.

[Php 4:23](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with you all**. Amen.

[Col 4:18](#) The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. **Grace be with you**. Amen.

[1Th 5:28](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with you**. Amen.

[1Th 5:28](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with you**. Amen.

[1Ti 6:21](#) Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. **Grace be with thee**. Amen.

[1Ti 6:21](#) Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. **Grace be with thee**. Amen.

[Tit 3:15](#) All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. **Grace be with you all**. Amen.

[Phm 1:25](#) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **be with your spirit**. Amen.

[Heb 13:25](#) **Grace be with you all**. Amen.

Purpose of the letter:

As the gospel spread, some Jews responded by getting saved. This caused a real stir among others in the Jewish community who were rejecting the gospel. New Jewish believers began to face an onslaught of _____ (Heb 10:32-38) bent on forcing them to return to Judaism. Hebrews is written to keep that from happening. The author approaches this issue first of all by showing these saved Jews how Jesus was _____ over everything Judaism esteemed highly. From angels, to Moses, the priesthood, the tabernacle, Joshua, etc. It's not that those were bad or wrong, they served their purpose but Jesus was _____ (Used 13xs in the book) and in reality they had _____ to return to. _____ times in his reasoning with them, he stops and gives a warning passage. They were also confronted with false doctrine meant to cripple their faith.

View On The Warning Passages:

Hebrews has 5 "warning passages" that have long been hotly debated as to their meaning. Some believe and teach that these passages teach one can _____ their salvation. Others believe that these passages are addressing those who have yet to believe, though they have heard the truth. By reading these passages in their _____ and not trying to deal with them as isolated statements, most of the confusion goes away. One of the key issues to settle, when considering the warning passages is how to deal with the salvific intent of the passage. It's important to note that the words "save" "saved" and "salvation" when used in scripture are not always referring to the salvation of the _____. Sometimes it may be used to infer one being saved in a _____ sense from something. That is true with the warning passages in Hebrews. As you will see, when the warnings are given, they are directed at the believer for making an _____ that will cost them a _____, not their eternal home. Many times the warning is given alongside of an Old Testament example which illustrates the consequences. The warnings seems to be given to deter the Jews who have been saved out of Judaism from returning so they can escape _____. The writer would instead encourage them to press on into spiritual maturity and avoid apostasy.

Warning Passage #1 Hebrews 2:1-4

In chapter one of Hebrews, the writer is talking about the ministry of _____. One Of the ministries of angels is the delivering of a message like they did in the case of Lot (Gen 18-19). In this warning passage the writer references such a message (in V2) and how those messages were often to _____ the individual from impending judgement. So in (V3), the "salvation" being mentioned is not of the soul but a being "saved" from what was coming by listening to the Lord.

Warning Passage #2 – Hebrews 3:7-4:13

***This warning is concerning these Jewish believers “hardening their _____” thru “_____” and returning to Judaism to escape persecution. Moving forward in their new faith, was proving to be very difficult. The writer uses the Old Testament account of the failed faith of the children of Israel in entering Canaan because of difficulty. They entertained a return to Egypt instead of entering the “land of _____”. The “_____” is not relating to salvation but to moving forward in the face of hardship.

Warning Passage #3 Hebrews 6:4-6

The context of this warning deals with the spiritual _____ of the believers that are being addressed (Heb 5:11-6:3). The warning of (Heb 6:4-6) is basically saying, after all that God had given these believers, if they go back into Judaism, it will be impossible to _____ them to their current position of testimony. Think about it, getting saved made a statement to their friends and family, that Judaism wasn't _____. If they go back to it, they would return to a system that by their continual offering of sacrifices, was _____ the sacrifice of Christ. Since the OT sacrificial system was a foreshadowing of Christ, going back to it at this stage of history, would be according to (V6) “they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh” reinstating a system that was fulfilled. The “putting him to an open shame” also of (V6) is saying, his sacrifice _____. The writer ends the thought with an illustration of the natural elements (v7-8) of what rain on the earth should produce. When it produces thorns and briars, they are rejected because they have no value. That's what returning to the old system of Judaism is like, post Calvary. It has no value and is fruitless.

Warning Passage #4

The warning in this passage is a twofold warning. The first is in (V26-30), simply put the writer is now shifting his letter toward what life as a New Testament Christian should look like. He lets the audience know that to ignore their responsibilities is a _____ (V26) to which no “sacrifice” would negate. He's taking a shot at the old sacrificial system, where when they sinned they just brought the appropriate sacrifice for that sin. He's not saying they can't get right if they sin, if you keep reading you find that he's saying their actions are building a _____ that they will be judged on. If God judged his people in the OT under Moses law, how much greater would judgement be for them, who had a greater understanding of the _____ plan and will of God under the NT economy?

The second warning is in (v38-39) and is a restating of the consequences, if they _____ to Judaism. They are risking the displeasure of the Lord.

Warning Passage #5 – Hebrew 12:14-29

The fifth and final warning is a warning about “_____ of the grace of God.” The example is Esau. To fail of the grace of God, is to fail to learn the _____ lessons that God tries to teach us in and through life’s hardships. They could let the persecution they were facing, work in their life to produce godliness or they could take the easy way out and _____ to Judaism, which like Esau would serve them in the immediate context well but not in the long run.

Outline:

Book is divided into _____ main divisions. In Ch 1:1-10:18 focuses on how Christ is better than everything Judaism has to offer, simply because He is the fulfillment of what it represented. This portion is mostly theological.

The second main division is found in 10:19-13:25. Here is where the audience is made aware of what a _____ life looks like in this “new and living way” (10:20).

Chapter 1:1-3 - Jesus is better than the _____

Chapter 1:4-2:18 - Jesus is better than the _____

Chapter 3:1-4:2 - Jesus is better than _____

Chapter 4:3-13 - Jesus is better than _____

Chapter 4:14-7:28 Jesus is better than the _____

Chapter 8 - Jesus is better than the _____

Chapter 9-10:18 - Jesus is better than the _____ of _____

Chapter 10:19-39 – New Testament Christianity is about _____

Chapter 11 – _____ in _____

Chapter 12-13 – Exhortation for _____ the Christian life