

# Book of Hebrews

## The Words of the Son

*Hebrews 1:1-2*

### Introductory Matters

- The letter seems to be in the form of a Hebrew sermon, for it has a very different style than the other letters of the New Testament.
- The letter to the Hebrews seems to be written to Jewish professed believers who are in danger of turning their backs on Jesus and the New Covenant and returning to the Old Covenant thinking that it is the better covenant.
- We do not know for certain who was the author of the letter. We doubt that Paul was the author.

*Hebrews 2:3*

- It was most likely written before the destruction of the temple, which would put the date sometime before A.D. 70.

### Suggested Outline of the Letter to the Hebrews

Introduction of the Son	1:1-3
Son greater than the Angels	1:4-2:18
Son greater than Moses	3:1-6
Warning about entering the Rest	3:7-4:13
Jesus is our great High Priest	4:14-5:10
Warning against Rejecting Jesus	5:11-6:12
Melchizedek and Jesus	7:1-28
Jesus is High Priest of the New Covenant	8:1-10:18
Warning to Persevere	10:19-39
Walking by Faith	11:1-11
God Disciplines His Children	12:1-13
Warning against Refusing God	12:14-29
New Covenant Living	13:1-25

### Revelation Before the Coming of the Son

#### Old Testament Prophecy

*Deuteronomy 18:14-22, 13:1-5*

- The people of Israel requested that God not speak to them face to face and therefore God established the position of the prophet, who is that God speaks to and then this person tells others what God said.
- Jesus is the ultimate prophet like Moses.

- The tests of a prophet were two-fold. He had to prophesy something that would come true in the short term and also his prophecy cannot contradict anything that has previously been said by God.

### **Types of Old Testament Prophecy**

God spoke to his prophets in a variety of ways. He obviously spoke to them directly. He also used dreams and visions. *Exodus 19, Daniel 7, Ezekiel 1*

# Book of Hebrews

## **The Words of the Son**

*Hebrews 1:1-2*

Cond.

### **Superiority of the Revelation of the Son**

*Days of the Kingdom*

#### **Last Days**

- The coming of the New Covenant era at the cross and Pentecost inaugurates the age of fulfillment.  
*1 Corinthians 10:11*
- All the Old Covenant era was preparing for the coming of the Messiah who would usher in the New Covenant era. *Galatians 3:23-25*
- Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the Old Covenant and now we are in the age of fulfillment the New Covenant era. *Matthew 5:17-18*
- Both John the Baptist and Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God as being near or at hand.  
*Matthew 3:1, 4:17*
- Jesus reveals by his control of Satan that the kingdom of God has come. By this we understand that the King comes to introduce and reveal how we can enter his kingdom. This is another way of saying that Jesus introduced salvation. *Matthew 12:22-28*

#### **Revelation of the Son**

- In the revelation of the Son God himself appears to communicate with his people. *John 1:1-18*
- The Son comes as a new lawgiver. *Matthew 19:7-9*

- Jesus in speaking to Nicodemus introduces how one enters into the spiritual kingdom of God for Israel was only a physical unbelieving picture of the kingdom of God.  
*John 3:1-15, Romans 9:6-8, Hebrews 8:7-13*
- The gospels and letters are continued revelation by the Son.  
*John 14:25-27, 16:12-15, 2 Peter 3:15-16*
- The book of Revelation is the final revelation of Jesus Christ to his people. *Revelation 1:1-3*

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## Introducing the Son

*Hebrews 1:3-4*

### Son is the Essence of God

*Deity*

#### Understanding the Trinity

- The trinity is the name that we use to describe how the bible defines the God of heaven and earth.  
*Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (James White, The Forgotten Trinity, page 26.)*
- The bible teaches that there is one God. *Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Isaiah 44:6-8*
- The bible teaches that the one God consists of three persons. *Matthew 28:18-20*  

Father	<i>Philippians 2:11</i>
Son	<i>John 20:28, Hebrews 1:8</i>
Holy Spirit	<i>Acts 5:3-4</i>
- Each person of the trinity has his own unique job description. This is called economic subordination.  

Father	chooses those to be saved. <i>Ephesians 1:4-5</i>
Son	redeems those who the father chose. <i>Ephesians 1:7</i>
Holy Spirit	applies the salvation that the Son purchased. <i>1 Corinthians 2:14, John 3:5-8</i>

#### Old Testament Prophecy about the Deity of the Son

*Isaiah 9:1-7*

The messiah, from the perspective of the Old Testament, was to be both God and a man.

#### God and Jesus

*John 10:22-38*

The enemies of Jesus, the Jews, clearly understood that he claimed to be God.

#### Jesus is the Essence of God

*John 14:5-11*

To see Jesus is to see God since he was God, though in human form.

### **Son Represents God**

*Logos*

#### **Son Reveals God**

*John 1:1-18*

It is the job description of the Son that he reveal God to man.

#### **Son Speaks for God**

*Matthew 17:1-13*

It is the job of the Son to reveal the way into the Kingdom of God.

#### **Son is the Mediator between God and man**

*1 Timothy 2:1-7*

Jesus, the Son, is the God-man whose role is to reconcile a Holy God with sinful men.

### **Son is God's Redeemer**

*Messiah*

#### **Jesus Accomplished our Redemption**

Jesus really accomplished our redemption by his death on the cross. He did not just make it possible. *Hebrews 9:11-12*

#### **Jesus is our Eternal Redeemer**

By his death Jesus earned the title of our redeemer and Lord for all eternity. *Romans 8:31-34*

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## **Understanding the Role of Angels**

*Hebrews 1:13-14*

### **Old Testament Prophecy Regarding the Son**

*Psalms 110:1*

#### **Purpose of Psalm**

- Many think that this psalm was a coronation psalm that was used at the coronation of the new Davidic king of Israel.
- Some believe that David would have written this psalm for the coronation of his son Solomon as King of Israel.

## **New Testament Interpretation**

*Hebrews 5:6*

- The author of Hebrews clearly believes that Jesus is the one spoken of in *Psalm 110*.
- We must remember to interpret the Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament, and in particular the lens of the teaching passages of the New Covenant era.

*Hebrews 7:21*

Once again the author of Hebrews affirms that *Psalm 110* speaks of the son, Jesus Christ as the priest after the order of Melchizedek.

*Matthew 22:41-46*

- Jesus recognizes that *Psalm 110* might prove difficult to understand in light of biblical prophecy.
- David was speaking of someone who would come after him and yet be above him.
- Jesus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity as well as predicted Messiah, the descendant of David.

*Acts 2:22-36*

- On the day of Pentecost Peter taught that David was a picture of Jesus, the Messiah who had now come.
- *Psalm 110* speaks of Jesus as now reigning with the Father.

### **The Reign of Jesus Christ**

*1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Ephesians 1:22-23*

- Jesus, as the redeemer God-man, is in absolute control of all things though it does not presently look like it.
- Believers are told to give thanks in everything or in all circumstances because our Savior is orchestrating all things for our good. We are experiencing the tangible results of his kingly reign and must live accordingly.

### **Angels are Believers' Helpers**

- We do not know exactly when they were created.
- We do know that they are God's helpers in the unfolding of his plan for this world.

*Psalm 103:20, Daniel 7:10-11*

- We do know that they were the guardians of Israel, the unbelieving picture of the people of God.

*Psalm 91:11, Daniel 12:1*

- The notion that Roman Catholicism teaches that all men have guardian angels is fanciful with no biblical foundation, but it does contain at least a grain of truth.
- Angels are said to have a helping role in the life of the believer. The bible is silent about exactly how this works, though even that knowledge of this is a great comfort to the believer.

# Book of Hebrews

## Jesus is Greater Than Moses

*Hebrews 3:1-6*

### Listen to Him!

*Hebrews 3:1*

### Message of Transfiguration

*Matthew 17:1-9*

- Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James and John.
- Moses and Elijah appear with the transfigured Jesus.
- The central message of this event was that the disciples were to focus their attention on Jesus and listen to him.

### New Message

*1 Peter 1:10-12*

- Listening to Jesus will give one a very different perspective than if they just listened to Moses or Abraham.
- It is only with the coming of Jesus Christ that the Old Testament became clear.

### Jesus is The Apostle

*Hebrews 3:1*

### Word of God

*John 1:1-2*

The role of Jesus Christ is that he is God and he represents God as the Word of God.

### Jesus the Apostle

- The word apostle has the basic meaning of one sent with a message.
- Jesus is the apostle as he is sent with the message of salvation.
- Apostle is used in a more common manner as the designation of the 12 apostles that were chosen by Jesus Christ. *Mark 3:13-19*
- The term apostle is also used of representatives of local churches. *2 Corinthians 8:23*

### Moses versus Jesus

*Hebrews 3:2-6*

- Moses was faithful in establishing the Old Covenant with the nation of Israel even though Israel was a temporary picture of the people of God. *Galatians 3:21-25*
- Moses built the tabernacle that was where God revealed himself. *Exodus 31:1-11*
- Jesus was faithful in purchasing a real people of God. *1 Peter 2:4-5*

- In the New Covenant era the individual believer and the gathered believers are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. In both the individual believer and the gathered believers do we see the evidence of lives transformed by the Holy Spirit and evidence of the true and living God who was revealed by God-man Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 3:17, 6:19*
- Moses represented God while Jesus was God himself and therefore Jesus is greater than Moses.

### **The Big If**

*Hebrews 3:6*

Perseverance is the evidence that was included in the New Covenant. *Romans 8:30, Philippians 1:6*

# Book of Hebrews

## **Don't Be Like Israel**

*Hebrews 3:7-18*

### **Learning from Israel**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

- Israel under the old covenant is called the people of God. *Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Romans 9:1-5*
- Israel under the old covenant is unbelieving. *Matthew 21:33-46, Hebrews 8:7-8*
- Israel is an unbelieving picture of the people of God.
- The history of Israel is a teaching tool for believers who live in the new covenant era.

### **Understanding Psalm 95**

*Psalm 95:7-11*

#### **Outlying the Psalm**

The Psalm can be divided into two parts. The first part is verses 1-7a and this is a praise of the God of Israel. The second part is 7b-11 and this portion is a warning to Israel not to harden their hearts as did the first generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt in the exodus under the leadership of Moses and wandered in the desert for 40 years.

#### **Historical Accounts**

*Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 20:1-13*

- The author of Psalm 95 is making reference to two historical events in the history of Israel. These events take place at the beginning and end of Israel's wandering in the desert for they take place about 40 years apart from each other.

- Both accounts make reference to the complaining of the Israelites to the God of Israel and their lack of faith regarding God's ability to care for them.
- Both accounts are a warning to current Israel (that which existed at the time of the writing of Psalm 95).

### **Warning Regarding Perseverance**

#### **Definition of Perseverance**

- Perseverance is the biblical truth that states that all true believers will keep on loving Jesus Christ until they die. *Hebrews 3:14, Revelation 2-3*
- Jesus purchased our perseverance on the cross. *Hebrews 10:14, Romans 8:30*
- The evidence of true saving faith is perseverance in the faith. *Philippians 1:6*

#### **Professed Believers are to Beware of Israel**

- Israel did not take the God of Israel at his word that he would take care of their needs. Therefore, that first generation that came out of Egypt did not enter into the promise land.
- The professing Jewish believers who are the subject of the book of Hebrews are being warned about the severe danger of eternal damnation that awaits them if they do not persevere in the faith.

#### **The Medicine of Encouragement**

- Encouragement is the antibiotic for the soul. Biblical encouragement is a believer coming along side another believer for the purpose of reminding him of who he is in Jesus and what he wants to do for Jesus.
- Believers are told to meet together for when they are together they can encourage and be encouraged. *Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 1:12*

# Book of Hebrews

## **Security in His Promise**

*Hebrews 6:13-20*

### **Understanding the Promise**

*Abrahamic Covenant*

*Genesis 12:1-3*

1. Abram is promised that he will be made into a great nation.
2. Abram is promised that his name will be made great.
3. Abram is promised that whoever blesses him will be blessed and whoever curses him will be curse.

*Genesis 15:4-21*



1. Abram is promised that Eliezer of Damascus will not be his heir but a child from his own body will be his heir.
2. Abram is promised that he will have many descendants.
3. Abram is promised that the land of Palestine will be given to his descendants.

*Genesis 17:1-8*

1. Abram is promised that he will be the father of many nations.
2. The whole land of Canaan is given to Abram and his descendants.
3. Abram's physical descendants are to circumcise their male offspring.

### **Understanding the Oath**

*The Offering of Isaac*

#### **Picture of an Oath**

*Genesis 15:7-21*

- When the Lord himself walked through the animals that had been torn in two he was taking an oath on himself that if he did not keep his promise then what happened to the animals would happen to him.
- The Lord was taken on himself a self-maledictory oath.

#### **The Oath Taken**

*Genesis 22:15-18*

- God himself took an oath by swearing that he would do what he had promised to Abraham.
- God would give Abraham many descendants.

### **Our Security in Jesus**

#### **Abrahamic Covenant Fulfilled in Jesus**

- Jesus is the true seed and through his death on the cross there will be many believers who will have new hearts. *Galatians 3:16*
- A believer in Jesus Christ is the heir of the promises made to Abraham. *Galatians 3:29*

#### **The Believer's Security**

- God cannot lie. *Hebrews 6:18*
- God purchased a people through the death of Jesus Christ. *Acts 20:28*
- If we have assurance and a new heart then we are one of those who have been purchased by Jesus on the cross. *Hebrews 10:14-18, Romans 8:15-16, 1 Peter 1:8*
- If we have embraced Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord then He has secured an acceptance with the Father that can never be taken away.

# Book of Hebrews

## Melchizedek Priesthood: Part 1

*Hebrews 7:1-10*

### The Historical Melchizedek

*Genesis 14*

#### Historical Information

*Hebrews 7:1-2*

- Melchizedek was the king of Jerusalem and a priest of God most high. He was a believer.
- We have no information as to where he came from, his genealogy or the circumstances of his death.
- Melchizedek was a priest of another priesthood other than that of the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron.

#### Theophany or Christophany ?

*Hebrews 7:3*

- Whenever there is a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God there is always evidence that God has appeared. *Genesis 18:1, Joshua 5:13-15*
- In *Genesis 14* there is no evidence or mention that God was Melchizedek.
- We would therefore assume that Melchizedek was a unique individual that served as a picture of the Son of God. He is like the Son of God in that there is no record of his birth or death, though we assume that Melchizedek was born and died.

#### Regarding Tithing

*Hebrews 7:4*

- There is no law on tithing at this point in the history of the world.
- There was a concept of the tithe but no recorded law of God regarding tithing.
- Abraham's example is not binding. It is only an historical example. For it to be binding there would have to be some recorded biblical law that would obligate him to tithe in certain situations.
- The first instance of a law regarding tithing is found in the mosaic law. *Leviticus 27:30-34*

#### Theological Implications

*Hebrews 7:4-10*

- Since Abraham gave of tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek he was acknowledging that Melchizedek was the greater person.
- Since the tribe of Levi was a physically descended from Abraham, and Abraham acknowledged that Melchizedek was the greater person, then the priesthood of Melchizedek is greater than the priesthood in the tribe of Levi.

### **False Theological Implication**

*Hebrews 7:9*

- In the discussion of original sin *Hebrews 7:9* is sometimes used to make a point.
- Since Levi was in some sense in Abraham when Abraham presented the tenth to Melchizedek then it could be said that when Adam sinned in the garden of Eden we were really there in Adam since we were part of his descendants. *Romans 5:12-21*
- This argument does not seem to be valid since I personally am blamed for Adam's sin and I was not personally present in the garden of Eden when Adam sinned. I am still being blamed for something that I did not do.

# Book of Hebrews

## **Melchizedek Priesthood: Part 2**

*Hebrews 7:11-28*

### **Comparison of Two Priesthoods**

*Context*

#### **Levitical Priesthood**

*Leviticus 3:1-10*

- A priest must be from the tribe of Levi.
- A priest must be from the family of Aaron.
- A priest must be a male most likely from 30 to 50 years of age.

#### **Melchizedek Priesthood**

*Hebrews 7:11-17*

- Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and therefore was not qualified to be an old covenant priest.
- Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek on the basis of who he was as the risen redeemer and not on the basis of his ancestry.
- Jesus is a priest forever because he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and always lives to intercede for his people. *Romans 8:34*
- Jesus was made a priest forever by an oath from God, whereas the Levitical priests were made priests simply by being male and born into the right family.
- The oath signified that Jesus was of a superior priesthood than the Levitical priesthood.

## **Levitical Priesthood and Perfection**

### *Picture*

- The Levitical priesthood never could pay for sins or change lives through the sacrifices of its priests.  
*Hebrews 10:11, Hebrews 7:18*
- The Levitical priests were weak in that they had to first sacrifice for their own sins and then they all died. This symbolized that the priests of the old covenant era were only a temporary picture of the true priesthood of Jesus Christ called the Melchizedek priesthood.
- Since every Levitical priest died this indicated that the sacrifices of Levitical priests could not accomplish anything. *Hebrews 7:27-28*
- The sacrifices of the Levitical priesthood could only make the worshipper be once again in good standing in the nation of Israel. *Leviticus 4:27-31*
- Every aspect of the sacrificial system of Israel only served as a picture of the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 10:1-4*

## **Melchizedek Priesthood and Perfection**

### *The Cross*

- The Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus Christ actually redeems a people by one sacrifice on the cross. *Hebrews 9:12*
- The quality of our Melchizedek priest Jesus Christ guaranteed that his one sacrifice would last for all eternity. *Hebrews 7:26-28*
- His perfect life qualified him to be our lamb without blemish and therefore our priest who truly does save. *1 Peter 1:18-19*

# The Book of Hebrews

## **Melchizedek Priesthood: Part 2**

### *Hebrews 7:11-28*

- The priesthood of Jesus Christ paid for the sins of his people and purchased a changed life for them.  
*Hebrews 10:14-18*
- Jesus has a permanent priesthood and therefore his priesthood actually saves a people.  
*Hebrews 7:23-25*
- When someone embraces the gospel and becomes a believer he enters into the Melchizedek priesthood and he himself becomes a priest. *1 Peter 1:9-10*

## **Levitical Priesthood and the Law**

### *Mosaic Law*

- The Levitical priesthood of the old covenant provided the need for the giving of the Mosaic law.  
*Hebrews 7:11*
- The purpose of a priesthood is to reconcile people to God through sacrifice. People need to be reconciled to God because they have broken his law. Therefore, for there to be a priesthood there must also be a law. *Romans 5:20*
- The Mosaic law is the law of the old covenant that God made with the nation of Israel.  
*Leviticus 27:34, Leviticus 19:37*
- The old covenant is a works covenant. *Exodus 19:1-8*
- The Ten Commandments are the summary of the requirements of the old covenant which required perfect obedience to its law. *Exodus 34:27-28, Deuteronomy 28*

## **Melchizedek Priesthood and the Law**

### *Law of Christ*

- In the new covenant era the ten commandments are viewed as a ministry of death and condemnation and therefore not the summary of what believers are to obey in this era. *2 Corinthians 3*
- The law of the during the era of the Melchizedek priesthood, the new covenant era, is not the mosaic law. *1 Corinthians 9:19-20*
- The law during the new covenant era is called the law of Christ. *1 Corinthians 9:21*
- The summary of the law of Christ can be found in the words of Jesus in *John 13:34-35*

# Book of Hebrews

## **Understanding the Tabernacle**

### *Hebrews 9:1-10*

### **Details of the Tabernacle**

#### *Hebrews 9:1-5*

#### **Things to remember**

##### *Exodus 40*

- The tabernacle was established as a part of the old or first covenant that God made with Israel on Mount Sinai.
- The tabernacle was a tent-like structure that was divided into two rooms, the holy place and the most holy place.

- The tabernacle did indeed picture the saving work of Jesus Christ, but we need to exercise caution and not try to interpret all the details of the tabernacle. We can only say what Scripture says about something. Scripture interprets Scripture (the Analogy of Faith).

### **Lampstand**

- The lampstand was located in the first of two sections of the tabernacle called the holy place.
- The lampstand or menorah was a seven-branched lampstand made of gold that was kept lit day and night according to the Mosaic Law and stood on the south side of the holy place. *Exodus 27:20-21*
- The significance of the lampstand would seem to have some reference to the Holy Spirit. This association can be seen in *Zechariah 4:1-6*.

### **Table with Consecrated Bread**

- The consecrated bread was placed on a table that stood in the holy place on the north side.. Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table and arranged in rows of six each and replaced every Sabbath day. *Leviticus 24:5-9*
- The significance of the table and consecrated bread would seem to point to the twelve tribes of Israel, for they are the temporary unbelieving picture of the people of God.

### **Altar of Incense**

- The altar of incense was made of pure gold and was put in the holy place on the west side just before the curtain that separated the holy place from the most holy place. *Exodus 30:1-10*
- In the book of Hebrews it is said that the altar of incense was place in the most holy place. We have no clear answer for this change of location.
- The significance of the altar of incense is most likely found in the fact that the burning incense might well be a picture of the prayers of God's people. *Revelation 8:4*

### **Ark of the Covenant**

- The Ark of the Covenant was the golden box that was a picture of the throne of God. This was situated in the most holy place. *Exodus 25:10-22*
- Within the ark is placed the ten commandments which are called the tablets of the covenant since they summarize what is required in order to be accepted by the holy God of Israel. *Exodus 34:27-28*

### **Day of Atonement**

*Hebrews 9:6-7*

- The Day of Atonement was help once a year and the high priest would sacrifice two goats for the sins of the nation of Israel. One goat would be killed and his blood sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place and the other goat would be led out into a lonely place and let go.

*Leviticus 16*

- The sacrifice offered on the Day of Atonement was only for the sins that the Israelites committed in ignorance.

### **Temporary Nature of the Tabernacle**

*Hebrews 9:8-10*

- The tabernacle as a part of the Old Covenant was created only as a temporary picture of the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 8:7-8,13, Colossians 2:16-17*
- The Old Covenant was created to prepare the way for the saving work of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 5:17-18, Galatians 3:23-25*

### **New Covenant Tabernacle or Temple**

*1 Corinthians 3:17, 6:19*

#### **New Covenant Temple of the Holy Spirit (Singular)**

*1 Corinthians 3:16*

- The individual believer is described as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The changed life of the believer is the tangible evidence that our God is real. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

#### **New Covenant Temple of the Holy Spirit (Plural)**

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

- The gathering of believers is described as the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The changed life of the members of the body of Christ is clear evidence that our God is real.

# **Book of Hebrews**

## **Jesus Obtained Eternal Redemption**

*Hebrews 9:11-15*

### **Old Covenant = Outwardly Clean**

*Limited Forgiveness*

#### **Old Covenant Context**

*Hebrews 9:13*

- When an Israelite made the required sacrifice according to the Mosaic Law for a prescribed sin the Scripture clearly says that atonement had been made for him and he is forgiven. *Leviticus 5:1-10*

- When the Israelite did what was required by the Mosaic Law he was restored to full participation in the nation of Israel. From this point of view an Israelite could be considered outwardly clean and yet not be truly forgiven by the God of Israel.

### **New Covenant Interpretation**

- The teaching passages of the New Covenant era seem to be quite clear that the sacrifices of the Old Covenant era did not pay for sins and satisfy the wrath of a holy God. *Hebrews 9:14, 10:1-4, 11*
- The picture/fulfillment model of the bible is seen in the manner of sacrifice under the Old Covenant and New Covenant.

#### **New Covenant = Inwardly Clean**

*Complete Forgiveness*

### **Redemption Accomplished**

- It does seem quite clear that Jesus actually purchased salvation by his death on the cross.
- Therefore the atonement must be of a definite variety since there will be those who will not be in heaven. *Revelation 20:7-10*
- Our sins are not forgiven until we repent and believe the gospel. *Acts 2:38*
- The cross guaranteed that some would be saved though the timing of their belief was set according to God's plan. It is also true that the condemnation of those who will not believe was set when Adam sinned yet the timing of their going to eternal punishment was set according to God's plan.

### **Assurance and the People of God**

- Jesus' death on the cross guaranteed that all who receive the gift of faith will also receive biblical assurance. *Romans 8:15-17*
- Assurance is the Holy Spirit supernaturally convincing the believer that all of his sins are forgiven.

#### **Israel, the Example of Redemption**

*Part of the Whole*

Jesus is said to have died to set free those of the elect who have committed sins under the old covenant. This does not say that he did not die for the sins of those of the elect who were not under the old covenant, but only emphasizes that Israel under the old covenant is the example of God's dealings with his people. *John 3:16, Revelation 5:9-10*

#### **Inheritance, Then and Now**

*Understanding the Land Promise*

- Inheritance for the picture of the people of God from an Old Covenant perspective was the promise land. *Genesis 17:1-8*
- Inheritance for the real people of God is eternity with our God in perfect happiness. *Galatians 3:29*



# Book of Hebrews

## Living by Faith

*Hebrews 11*

### Defining our Terms

*Hebrews 11:1-2*

#### Generic Faith

A basic definition of faith would be that we are certain of something even though there is no visible evidence for that certainty.

#### Saving Faith

- Saving faith is the certainty that Jesus paid for all of my sins by his death on the cross.  
*John 3:16*
- Saving faith can also be viewed as the ability to take the God of Scripture at his word.  
*Hebrews 11:6*
- That is why true saving faith is always accompanied by assurance of salvation.  
*Romans 8:15-16*

#### On-Going Faith of a Believer

A believer in Jesus Christ exercises faith when he accepts what Scripture says as God's word and lives according to that belief. *Romans 8:28*

### Faith in Hebrews 11

#### Context

- The book of Hebrews is a letter about professed Jewish believers who are in danger of losing their saving faith. *Hebrews 3:14*
- The close context of *Hebrews 10:32-39* calls on the professed believers to not throw away their confidence or trust in the saving work of Jesus Christ.
- The immediate context of *Hebrews 11* is calling the professed believers to live by faith and trust in the work and teaching of Jesus Christ even though they are living in difficult times.
- The immediate context of *Hebrews 11* uses Old Testament examples of living by faith.

#### Examples of Living by Faith

- Most of the examples of living by faith in the Old Testament would seem to be examples of true believers. *Hebrews 11:8-16* (the example of Abraham)
- All of the examples of living by faith in *Hebrews 11* are not those of true believers.
- In *Hebrews 11:29* the author of the book of Hebrews uses as an example the Israelites that Moses led out of Egypt through the Red Sea. The problem with using these Israelites as his example is that the earlier portion of Hebrews describes this generation as unbelieving.

*Hebrews 3:19, Hebrews 8:7, 2 Kings 21:14-15, Matthew 8:10-12*

- In *Hebrews 11:30* the Israelites that marched around the walls of Jericho are spoken of as unbelievers. *Judges 2:11-13*

### **The Sum of the Matter**

- The author Hebrews uses examples of living by faith in the Old Testament to encourage believers to exercise their saving faith so that they will persevere to the end and be saved.
- The Old Testament examples of faith, believing and unbelieving, are to be viewed in that light.

# Book of Hebrews

## Persevering Faith Before the Flood

*Hebrews 11:1-7*

### **God of Creation**

*Hebrews 11:3*

### **Understanding the Mechanics of Creation**

*Genesis 1:1-2:3*

- Our God spoke and all came into being.
- This world is his world.
- God created out of nothing.
- Our God is an infinite personal God.

### **Creation and Natural or General Revelation**

- The creation functions as the revealer of the God of heaven and earth to all of mankind.  
*Romans 1:18-20*
- The creation is a physical testimony to the reality of God's existence. *Psalms 19:1-6*

### **Faith and Creation**

- By faith we believe that our God is the 1<sup>st</sup> cause of all things.
- By faith we believe that our God is the all-powerful personal infinite God of heaven and earth.

## **Faith of Abel**

*Hebrews 1:4*

### **What we do not know about Abel**

*Genesis 4*

- The teaching regarding sacrifice must have been given by the Lord and not recorded in Scripture. We would call this Oral Law. Another example of Oral Law would be the teaching regarding clean and unclean animals in *Genesis 7:1-4*
- We do not know the exact nature of what constituted a proper sacrifice.

### **What we do know about Abel**

- Abel is called a righteous man and therefore is to be viewed as an Old Testament believer. He could be compared to Job. *Job 1:1-3*
- Abel took God at his word and sacrificed in such a way that honored his God.

### **Faith and Abel**

Unlike Cain we are to take our Father at his word that his way to do something is the best way to do something even though we are tempted by our circumstances to do otherwise.

## **Faith of Enoch**

*Hebrews 11:5-6*

### **What we know about Enoch**

*Genesis 5:21-24, Jude 14-16*

- The book of Jude quotes the book of Enoch as describing Enoch as the 7<sup>th</sup> generation from Adam.
- The book of Enoch was written about the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. and it was never accepted as Scripture though at least one portion of it is biblical truth.

# Book of Hebrews

## **Persevering Faith Before the Flood**

*Hebrews 11:1-7*

- Enoch was a prophet who is described as someone who walked with God.
- Enoch did not experience death but was taken to be with the Lord while he was living.

## **Faith and Enoch**

By faith Enoch understood that living for his Lord was the most important thing in life. It really could be said that Enoch was an incurable God-lover. We must turn our back on the world and embrace the priority of living for Him. *1 John 2:15-17*

## **Faith of Noah**

*Hebrews 11:7*

### **What we know about Noah**

*Genesis 5-8, 1 Peter 3:18-22*

- Noah is described as a righteous man who walked with God. He was an Old Testament believer.
- Only Noah and his wife and their three children and their wives were saved from the global flood that destroyed the world. *2 Peter 3:1-7*
- God told Noah to build a boat of tremendous proportions for a flood that was yet to come. No one else besides his family believed him.
- Noah warned the world of the judgment to come without any positive response.

## **Faith and Noah**

Noah believed his God against all evidence and public opinion. God's word was his authority and upon that he stood.

# **Persevering Faith of the Patriarchs**

*Hebrews 11:8-22*

## **Abraham and the Promised Land**

*Genesis 12:1-7*

### **Setting the Scene**

- The call of God to Abraham began in Ur of the Chaldeans or Mesopotamia. *Acts 7:1-8, Genesis 15:7, Nehemiah 9:7*
- There seemed to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> call in Haran that is described in *Genesis 12*.
- Abraham made it to the promise land but he was only a stranger in that land.
- He understood that the promise land was only a picture of another land to come.

### **So What**

*Faith in face of the Unknown*

Like Abraham we too can face circumstances that mystify us as to how the Lord will work out his plan. Fear of the Unknown does not have to paralyze us.

## **Abraham and the Birth of Isaac**

*Genesis 15:1-6*

### **Setting the Scene**

- God’s solution of an heir was not the legal option, Eliezer of Damascus, or the natural option, Ishmael through Hagar, but a child through a woman, Sarah, who was too old to bear a child.
- Abraham would not only be provided an heir, but he would also be given descendants who would number a great people.

### **So What**

*Faith in face of the Seemingly Impossible*

Abraham focused on the giver of the promise and knew that he was faithful. We also must look, not to the solution but to the character of the giver. If we do this then all is well.

## **Abraham and the Sacrifice of Isaac**

*Genesis 22:1-19*

### **Setting the Scene**

- On the surface the command to sacrifice Isaac did not seem the most rational of commands.
- Abraham obeyed and we have no information that would tell us that he struggled in obeying this command.

### **So What**

*Faith in the face of the Perplexing*

We must not give way to fear since our perspective is so limited. Our Father in heaven is most creative will never let us slip through his fingers. *2 Corinthians 4:7-12*

## **Isaac’s Blessing of Jacob and Esau**

*Genesis 27:1-40*

### **Setting the Scene**

- It was the custom for the Father to pronounce a “paternal blessing” on his children before he died.
- In this case the “paternal blessing” was a prophetic announcement of the future of Jacob and Esau.
- The promise to Abraham was tied up in the future of Jacob and Esau.

### **So What**

*Faith When God’s Ways are not Our Ways-Part 1*

The twists and turns of the unfolding sovereign will of God ought not to unsettle us. Biblical history is sufficient to teach us that our Father’s plan for our life is not predictable. *Isaiah 55:7-8*

## **Jacob’s Blessing of Joseph’s Sons**

*Genesis 48:1-22*

### **Setting the Scene**

- We have no information in Scripture regarding God telling Jacob to bless the younger and not the old sons of Joseph.

- Joseph's complaint to his father has no effect on the actions of Jacob.

### **So What**

*Faith When God's Ways are not Our Ways-Part 2*

God's promise to Abraham will be fulfilled even though there will be some strange twists and turns. In the same way we also must not unsettle us and keep us from persevering in our faith.

## **Joseph and the Future of Israel**

*Genesis 50:22-26*

### **Setting the Scene**

- Joseph's request to have his remains buried in the promise land was initially fulfilled by Moses when he removed Joseph's bones from Egypt. *Exodus 13:19*
- Joshua finally fulfilled Joseph's request when he buried Joseph's bones in the promised land. *Joshua 24:28-33*
- Joseph's wishes were tied to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

### **So What**

*Faith Always Trusts Our God*

When all is said and done the believer is a God-lover and his God is all he truly has in life.

*John 17:3, Hebrews 8:11*

## **Persevering Faith of Moses**

*Hebrews 11:23-28*

### **Moses is Protect by His Parents**

*Hebrews 11:23, Exodus 1:1-2:10*

### **Setting the Scene**

- It was a time when the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites.
- In response to the command of Pharaoh that all the male children of the Israelites were to be killed the Hebrew midwives refused to kill the male babies.
- The midwives lied to Pharaoh, but were commended by God.
- The midwives were commended for they're saving of the babies and not for their lying. *Exodus 16:19, Ephesians 25*
- The account Exodus does not mention the reason why Moses' parents hid him.

### **So What**

*Faith in the Face of Fear*

Fear must be faced and overcome by looking at all things through His point of view.

## **Moses and his Heritage**

*Hebrews 11:24-26, Exodus 2:11-14*

### **Setting the Scene**

- Moses grew up as a son in Pharaoh's household.
- We are not told exactly how Moses came to his decision to stand with his people, but we can probably assume that his mother taught him during his early years with her as his wet nurse.
- Moses did not know about Jesus but he was a believer who chose to be identified with God's people rather than Pharaoh's household.

### **So What**

*Faith in the Face of Privilege*

Our Lord is our greatest treasure amid the stuff of the world.

## **Moses Leaves Egypt**

*Hebrews 11:27, Exodus 2:15-3:17*

### **Setting the Scene**

- Moses did not leave Egypt out of fear of the Pharaoh's anger and he was 40 years old when he left Egypt. *Acts 7:20-36*
- Moses spent 40 years in Midian.

### **So What**

*Faith of a God-lover*

At the point of conversion the believer is an incurable God-lover who will keep loving his Lord no matter what the circumstances. *1 Peter 1:8, Hebrews 8:11*

## **Moses and the Passover**

*Hebrews 11:28, Exodus 11-12*

### **Setting the Scene**

- Moses was given instructions regarding the last plague on Egypt that would involve the killing of all the first-born males in Egypt.
- At that time God also gave Israel instructions regarding the Passover as a visible reminder that through the blood of the sacrificial lamb Israel would be saved from the destroying angel.
- We do not know how much the average Israelite would have known about the meaning of the Passover celebration.

### **So What**

*Faith is Belief, which is taking our God at his word. 1 Peter 1:18-21*

When you distill down faith you are left with taking your God as his word. Persevering faith will ultimately always take our God at his word.

# Book of Hebrews

## Persevering Faith of Israel

*Hebrews 11:29-30*

### Israel Crosses the Red Sea

*Hebrews 11:29, Exodus 13:17-15:21*

#### Setting the Scene

- Even the route that God chose for Israel was done out of consideration for them. We who are the true spiritual Israel always experience a plan from the hand of God that is perfectly suited for their good. *Romans 8:28*
- Notice that God's predestined plan always includes means. *Exodus 14:3-4*
- The Song of Moses takes delight in Israel's deliverance by its God. *Exodus 15:1-21*
- Israel was baptized into Moses in the sense that they embraced his leadership as a result of the supernatural crossing of the Red Sea. *1 Corinthians 10:2*

#### So What?

##### *Example of Faith*

- Our Father in heaven will do whatever it takes to accomplish what he wants to accomplish in our lives.
- As believers in the New Covenant era we are to learn from Israel's mistakes. The temptation to rewrite our past history is always with us. *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*
- We as believers are to take note of how God has cared for his people and to be encouraged that we also will experience that care and will persevere to the end.

### Israel Destroys the City of Jericho

*Hebrews 11:30, Joshua 5:13-6:27*

#### Setting the Scene

- Moses was now dead and Joshua was the new leader of Israel who would lead the Israelites to conquer the promise land to fulfill the picture promise of the Abrahamic Covenant. *Genesis 15:17-21, Genesis 17:1-8*
- The everlasting promise of the land is only everlasting in the believer making it to be with the Lord in heaven and then the new heavens and earth. *Galatians 3:29, Hebrews 4:1-11*
- Before the battle of Jericho Joshua had an encounter with the commander of the army of the Lord. This was a theophany or christophany, a preincarnate appearance of the Son of God.
- Israel is commanded to destroy all those in Jericho, even the infants. This is appropriate behavior in the Old Covenant era but not in the New Covenant era.

*Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 13:1-7*



## **So What?**

### *Example of Faith*

- As we seek to obey our Lord we will at times be confronted with the dilemma that what our Lord is calling us to do in Scripture does not seem to be the best way to go. It is at these times that we are to walk by faith, doing what Scripture says we must do, rather than by what we think is appropriate behavior. *Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:1-2*
- What God will bring out of our obedience is none of our business. We do not know how he will use our obedience and we should resist the temptation to play God.

# Book of Hebrews

## **Persevering Faith of Rahab**

*Hebrews 11:31-40*

### **Setting the Scene**

*Hebrews 11:31, Joshua 2:1-24, 6:22-23*

### **Data about Israel**

- Israel was just ending its 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.
- Moses had just died and appointed Joshua to be his successor.
- Before Israel crossed the Jordan river Joshua sent out spies to obtain information about Jericho, the first city that they would have to conquer.

### **Who was Rahab?**

- She was a Canaanite.
- She was a prostitute.
- She lived in the wall that surrounded the city of Jericho.

### **Is there an Ethical Dilemma?**

#### **Lesser of Two Evils Option**

- This view says that the believer might find himself in a situation where he is forced to decide between two options, both of which are evil. He must choose the lesser of the two evils.
- This view is false because the Lord never puts the believer in a situation where he must sin.  
*1 Corinthians 10:13*

#### **Lying is Okay in War Option**

- This view states that the believer is allowed to lie when he finds himself in a situation of war where he is not obligated to give the truth to his enemies.
- The justification for this view is found in *Exodus 1:15-21* where the Hebrews midwives lied to Pharaoh about why they did not put the Hebrew baby boys to death.

- This view is false because it is never the lying that is commended but the attitude of the heart of the midwives in desiring to save the Israelite baby boys.

### **Lying is Never Okay Option**

- This view states that the believer is never allowed to lie in any situation.
- Our God does not lie nor can he lie. *Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18*
- The moral will of God in the New Covenant era (law of Christ) does not allow the believer to lie. *Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 5:8*

### **Why was Rahab Commended?**

- Rahab was not commended for lying.
- Rahab was commending for helping the spies.

### **So What?**

Persevering faith is an obedient faith. The believer is a God-lover who desires to obey his Lord because he is in love with his Lord. *1 John 4:19-21*

### **Final Thoughts**

*Hebrews 11:32-40*

- It is only in the New Covenant era that God's plan comes to fulfillment. *1 Corinthians 10:11*
- It is only with the death of Jesus on the cross that all those chosen for salvation are purchased once and for all for all eternity.