

Hebrews

LESSON 01

Introduction

1. Purpose of Studying Hebrews

- a. The content is straightforward, but the application has been confused
- b. Mid-Acts dispensationalists are uniquely qualified to address the problems it raises
- c. It is a snare for many grace believers, because it is in transition
- d. To understand salvation for Israel in Prophecy, under their covenants and law
- e. Hebrews fills a huge gap in understanding what God was, is, and will do with Israel

2. What to Expect

- a. Details – 13 chapters, 303 verses, 6,897 words; Longest of the Hebrew epistles
 - i. Like Matthew and Acts, it is a transition book for Israel/prophecy.
- b. Author/Audience - Authorship is uncertain, and heavily debated. More next time
 - i. In this book, identifying the audience is more important than author
 - ii. The audience is not a new creature, but has covenants/law/priest - Eph 2:12
 - iii. They were the people of the fathers and prophets - Heb 1:1-2
 - iv. They are Peter's people of Pentecost - Heb 2:3-4, 6:4-5
 - v. Many contrasts many things: gods; apostles; priests; covenants; sacrifices
 - vi. People wrongly make it the church b/c it speaks about Christ and the blood
 - vii. Hebrew epistles are written by apostles of Jesus earthly ministry to Israel
- c. Dispensational Context – Israel had rejected the Father, the Son, and Spirit - Acts 7:55
 - i. The “last days” and “world to come” - Heb 1:1-2, 2:5, 6:5, 9:11,10:1, Co 2:17
 - ii. “Not yet all things put under him” - Heb 2:8
 - iii. “receiving a kingdom”, “seek [a city] to come” - Heb 12:28; 13:14
 - iv. The remnant was rejected of high priests and scattered – Acts 8:1-2
- d. Purpose – As Romans explains the cross to the church; Hebrews explains it for Israel
 - i. Mystery = Christ as the Head of the Body of which we are all members
 - ii. Prophecy = Christ as the High Priest of Israel, of which they are all priests
 - iii. Explains the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and perfection – Heb 6:1
 - iv. A word of exhortation to the little flock/remnant/Hebrews - Heb 13:22
 - v. They needed a better hope than the city that had rejected the Messiah
 - vi. God's will was the Messiah dying, going to heaven, being rejected in Israel
- e. Themes – Better (12x), priest (34x), sacrifice (17x), blood (20x), covenant (12x), promise (17x), tabernacle (10x), perfect (12x), every word more than any other NT book. The only NT book that uses “new covenant” (3x); sanctuary (4x), reformation

3. Popular/Important Passages

- a. Popular Passages - Heb 1:5-7; 4:15-16; 10:4, 25; 11:1; 12:1,29; 13:2, 8, 17
- b. Important/Key Passages - Heb 2:3-4; 6:9-12; Heb 7:12; 7:19; 9:15-17; 12:28

4. General Outline

- a. 1-5 – The first principles of the doctrine of Christ (6:1)
 - i. (1) Jesus as God higher than the angels - 1:4
 - ii. (2) Jesus as Man lower than the angels - 2:7-9
 - iii. (3-4) Jesus, the Apostle, as Moses/Joshua leading them into rest - 3:1
 - 1. He is both the sent one, and the one who must be received
 - iv. (5) Jesus, the High Priest, as Aaron offering a sacrifice - 3:1, 5:1
 - 1. He is both the priest and the sacrifice
- b. 6-13 – The principle of perfection (6:1)
 - i. (6) better promises
 - ii. (7) a better high priest
 - iii. (8) a better covenant
 - iv. (9-10) better service and sacrifice
 - v. (10) the need for patience
 - vi. (11) the need for faith and obedience
 - vii. (12) the need for chastisement and godly fear
 - viii. (13) the need to serve God acceptably