

Hebrews

LESSON 02

Authorship

1. Authorship and Hebrews

- a. The most contested issue in Hebrews is authorship. Why?
- b. The author is not named. Authorship affects application.
- c. Asking “who wrote it” is important for right division (esp. b/c of Gal 2:7-9)
- d. Suggested authors: Paul, Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, Priscilla/Aquila, Clement of Rome, Silas, Peter, John, Philip, Stephen, Epaphras, Timothy, Mary, Jude

2. Hearsay, Tradition, Between the Lines, and Assumptions

- a. This is uncertain territory. Be careful.
- b. Eusebius said that Clement said he had heard that Paul said it, but Luke wrote it.
- c. Tertullian said Barney, Luther said Apollos, modern scholars say anyone but Paul.
- d. Re: the title of the book - C.R. Stam sounds like a KJO on this issue.
- e. You can find commentaries that say “*there is no evidence for _____*”

3. Looking for Signs of Paul

- a. Why? It explains the doctrinal change away from Israel’s law, temple, city, etc.
- b. Hebrews talks about the blood of Jesus, his death, the better heavenly things.
- c. The most attributed to Paul part of the whole book - Heb 13:20-25
- d. What is Paul’s token? 2Thess 3:17, Col 4:18, Rev 22:21
- e. Paul “wrote to you” - 2 Pet 3:15-16 - but didn’t he write also in Rom 2:17, 9-11?
- f. If Paul wrote, then it was not to the BoC, and it creates more problems than solves

4. Looking at the Audience and Content

- a. Most have no problem calling the church Israel/Judeo/Hebrew - Jam 1:1, 1 Pet 1:1
- b. Stam thought the kingdom believers became part of the mystery body.
- c. There are no “Hebrew Christians” in this dispensation - Gal 3:28
- d. The audience has covenants/law/priest/city - Heb 5:9, 10:38-39, 12:8, 12:28, 13:14
- e. They were of the fathers and prophets - Heb 1:1-2 (Moses, Joseph, angels)
- f. They have learned from Jesus’ earthly and Pentecostal ministry - Heb 2:3-4, 6:4-5
- g. The doctrinal content and audience differs from what Paul writes elsewhere

5. Why it Matters

- a. The parallels to early Acts suggest someone assoc. with remnant of Israel wrote it
- b. If Paul was the author then he wrote an epistle not to Gentiles, about the kingdom gospel, about earthly covenants, claiming to be part of the city and people to come
- c. If you are the recipient of ‘Hebrews’ then you will make yourself spiritual Israel, under covenants, assoc w/ the law, in the kingdom, conditional positions, under chastisement, and you must overcome to enter into rest.