



**Background:** Though the author of this book chose to remain anonymous, there is little question as to whom the book was addressed. The term "Hebrews" was used to designate a very specific ethnic group that had descended from Abraham (Genesis 14:13) through Isaac and later Jacob. By the book of Exodus the Hebrew people would become a nation commonly referred to as Israel. In writing to the "Hebrews" the author was specifically writing to an ethnic group who were religiously connected to both Judaism and later Christianity.

**Main Point:** Because the 1st century Hebrews would find themselves in one of four religious categories, the book addresses a wide array of varying issues. First, the majority of Hebrews would adhere to Judaism and have completely reject the Christian faith. In addressing this group the author systematically builds the case for the superiority of Christ over the religious system of Judaism. Though the law was good, the author builds the case that Jesus came to provide a better way.

Second, there was a group attempting to blend the two religions together. On one hand they claimed to be followers of Jesus, all the while striving to obey the laws and traditions established in Judaism. To this group the author builds the case for the superiority of the priesthood of Christ. Jesus trumped the Levitical order by establishing a superior order, covenant, sanctuary, and sacrifice.

Third, there was a prominent group that would have rejected Judaism to become genuine followers of Jesus. In addressing this group the author discusses how the practical aspects of the new life found in Christ was superior to the one found in the law. In Jesus we place our faith, hold fast as our hope, and enjoy the depths of His love.

Finally, there was a group of Jewish Christians who were struggling with their faith because of the incredible social pressures to renounce Christ by the Jewish community. At various points throughout this book the author issues a series of warnings both encouraging these struggling believers to hold fast their faith while at the same time reminding them of the consequences of unbelief.

### SIX WARNINGS

1. **DRIFTING FROM THE WORD (2:1-4)**
2. **DOUBTING THE WORD (3:7-4:13)**
3. **DULLNESS TOWARDS THE WORD (5:11-14)**
4. **DEPARTING FROM THE WORD (6:1-20)**
5. **DESPISING THE WORD (10:26-39)**
6. **DENYING THE WORD (12:15-29)**

### OUTLINE OF HEBREWS:

#### 1. THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 1:1-3    | SUPERIOR TO THE PROPHETS   |
| 1:4-2:18 | SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS     |
| 3:1-4:13 | SUPERIOR TO MOSES & JOSHUA |

#### 2. THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

- |            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 4:14-6:20  | SUPERIOR TO THE AARON & LEVITIES |
| 4:14-16    | JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST   |
| 5:1-10     | FULFILLS THE QUALIFICATIONS      |
| 5:10-7:28  | SUPERIOR ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK    |
| 8:1-13     | SUPERIOR COVENANT                |
| 9:1-15     | SUPERIOR SANCTUARY               |
| 9:16-10:39 | SUPERIOR SACRIFICE               |

#### 3. THE LIFE PROVIDED BY CHRIST

- |         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 11:1-40 | LIFE OF FAITH    |
| 12:1-29 | THE GREAT HOPE   |
| 13:1-25 | A CONTINUAL LOVE |



### *Day 1: Supreme Revelation....*

**Hebrews 1:1-4 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does the word "revelation" mean? (2). What are the various modes of communication God uses to reveal Himself to us? (3). From this passage what do you learn about the person of Jesus Christ you might not have known?

### *Day 2: Resonance....*

**Hebrews 4:14-16 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What makes Jesus the perfect high priest for humanity? (2). What does it mean that Jesus can "sympathize with our weaknesses?" (3). With the reality established that Jesus lived as a man and was tempted in all areas as we are, what should our natural response be in light of these truths?

### *Day 3: Walking Away....*

**Hebrews 6:1-8 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Regardless of preconceived theological ideologies, what clear spiritual scenario is the author presenting in this passage? (2). What is the end result for the person described in these verses? (3). Aside from any kind of theological argument, what is the clear warning presented to the believer?

### *Day 4: Melchizedek....*

**Hebrews 7:1-8:6 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). After a study of this passage, Genesis 14, and Psalms 110 who do you think Melchizedek actually is? (2). Why is it important that Jesus was a priest in the order of this mystery man? Can this be valid (3). What practical benefits are there to having Jesus as our high priest?

### *Day 5: Life By Faith....*

**Hebrews 11 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What is the formal definition presented by Scripture of the word faith? (2). In what way does this challenge the misconceptions we tend to attribute to faith? (3). Take some time to study this chapter. In these verses you will find many Old Testament examples of men and women who lived lives of faith. How do their stories encourage you? Do you have your own story?

### *Day 6: Weight & Sin....*

**Hebrews 12:1-7 // THINKING POINT:** (1). The author encourages you to lay aside two specific things so that you can run the race God has called you to run with endurance? (2). What does the author mean by listing sin and weight? Examine your own life and see if there are things that are slowing down your walk with God. (3). What is the fundamental key to running the race of faith?

# DEVOTIONS

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