

Key to HEBREWS

1. BACKGROUND:

Writer: Unknown. Many Bible scholars believe Paul wrote this book. Date: About A.D. 65.
Written from Rome (13:24).

Occasion: The Gospel produced many converts from Judaism. Yet, up to A.D. 70 the religion of the Jews continued (10:11) as before the cross. The new Christians were severely persecuted and ostracized, so much so that many of them despaired, and contemplated turning back to Judaism. To counteract this tendency, the HOLY SPIRIT encourages and confirms by the truth of this book.

2. THEME:

CHRIST is the inevitable, the indispensable, the perfectly unique Person. He is better (word used 13 times), than anything or anyone. He is the fulfillment of all that the Old Testament promised. Without Him, all Old Testament persons and institutions are empty and pointless. To turn away from Him is to forsake life. So, do not allow yourselves to become discouraged under persecution. Rather you must press on to perfection. And our great High Priest, who is the same Lord JESUS CHRIST, now at GOD's right hand, will aid you. Your efficient weapon is "faith."

3. MAIN DIVISIONS

There are six divisions which include five parenthetical passages of special exhortation:

The great salvation (1; 2);
the rest of GOD (3; 4);
our Great High Priest (5-8);
the New Covenant (9; 10);
the way of faith (11);
the Believer-Priest (12; 13).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The pressure put on the early Hebrew Christians was tremendous. Zealous rabbis did everything short of murder in their effort to bring back Christian converts to the Jewish religion. To persecution and threats, they added arguments, remonstrances, and entreaties based on the excellencies of Judaism.

No New Testament book contains so many warnings. The word "**lest**" is used ten times to introduce the danger (2:1; 3:12, 13; 4:1, 11; 12:3, 13, 15, 16). Apostasy, or turning away, is shown to be the blackest sin one can commit.

5. OUTLINE:

Superiority of CHRIST (1 - 7)
Prophets, Angels,
Moses, High Priest
Superiority of Christianity (8 - 10)
Covenant, Worship
Fellowship
Witness (11)
Heroes of Faith
Perfecter of Faith
Exhortation (12; 13:1-7)
Conduct before GOD
Conduct before Men
Conclusion (13:8-25)

6. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The first four verses comprise one of the grandest passages in the Bible.

Some consider chapter 11 as the greatest passage in all of the Scriptures.

Hebrews is the greatest Book in the Bible to encourage believers in the faith and to challenge them to "**go on**" to mature perfection.

While the Gospels and Acts emphasize the finished work of CHRIST, this Book emphasizes the "unfinished" work, going on day by day at GOD's right hand (7:25).

7. KEY:

Hebrews is written to Christians who, under stress or difficulty, are tempted to turn back. This is GOD's divinely given basis of encouragement.

~ end of Hebrews ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
