

Introduction to Hebrews

The writer of Hebrews does not identify himself but was obviously well known to the original recipients. There have been various ideas as to the author, including Paul, Barnabas, and Apollos. Hebrews is thought to be written originally to Jewish believers, however some scholars also include Gentile believers. The date seems to point to the late sixties of the first century, before the fall of Jerusalem in a.d.70. The theme of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as Revealer and Mediator of God's grace.

Throughout the epistle there are frequent warnings for the reader to not neglect or reject this great salvation that has been provided in Jesus. The book of Hebrews stresses that there is a difference between listening and really hearing God's Word. Jesus often cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" This statement suggests that it takes more than physical ears to hear the voice of God. It also requires a receptive heart.

"Jesus Christ is the Father's last word. In Him, divine revelation is seen and heard in its fullness: and in Him, God's revelation is complete. When we see Him, we see the Father. Through Christ, we understand where everything came from, where it is going, what keeps it going, and why it is here." Warren Wiersbe "In Him" we have a "Living Hope".

Background Information

Various times (v 1) refers to the periods of O.T. history. **Various ways** (v.1) refers to the different methods God used to communicate to His people. Jesus is the *express image* (v 3) of His Father. This is the only time this expression occurs and means "exact representation" or "exact character". Since the theme of Hebrews is the superiority of Christ and His salvation to the Law of Moses, which was delivered by the angels, the writer would have to deal with the important subject of angels. Jesus is better than the angels because He is divine Himself.

BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 1:1–4 _____

Hebrews 1:5-14 _____



REFINED AS GOLD – HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 1:1–4 _____

Hebrews 1:5-14 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

FOR DISCUSSION:

In what ways is Christ superior to the angels?

What are the angels sent to do? v 14

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 1:1-4 _____

Hebrews 1:5-14 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

... Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Heb. 1:4

Radiating His Truth . . .

Jesus is greater than the angels because He is the eternal Son of God Whom the angels worship and serve. - Warren Wiersbe

