

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

“JESUS CHRIST, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST”

AUTHOR

Some have supposed: Paul, Apollos, or others

Some arguments for Paul:

- He was a Jew (the author obviously related well to Jewish mindset)
- He was an apostle (Apollos and others were not)
- Ending... “They of Italy salute you.” – we know Paul ended up in Rome

Some arguments for another writer:

- Language/vocab. is not characteristic of Pauline epistles
- No Pauline salutation at beginning
- Ending reveals it may not be Pauline
 - “I have written a letter...” v. 22 – Paul often had an amanuensis
 - “our brother Timothy..” v. 23 – Paul calls Timothy “son”

DATE

Approx. A.D. 67-70 (exact time is unknown)

Probably written from Rome (“they of Italy salute you”)

THEME

“JESUS CHRIST IS BETTER”

This book is sometimes called “The Fifth Gospel Record” because it tells of:

- 1) Christ’s finished work on earth, and
- 2) Christ’s continuing work in heaven

The overall theme is approached in 1:4 – “...being made so much better...”

Christ is infinitely “better” than all things! He is better than...

1. angels (1:4-14)
2. the heavens and the earth (1:11-12)
3. Moses (3:3)
4. Aaron (5:4)
5. Melchizedek (7:17)
6. The law (7:19; 10:1)
7. The former testament (7:22; 9:15)
8. The sacrifices of the O.T. (10:4)
9. The priests of the O.T. (10:11-12)
10. His enemies (10:13)

OUTLINE

*See Baxter’s *Explore the Book* for outline

KEY VERSE

Hebrews 8:1

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”

KEY WORDS

Better (13 times), priest (26 times), faith (32 times), blood (22 times), “Let us” (13 times)

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. This book is the Holy Spirit’s commentary on the Pentateuch – especially the book of Leviticus.
2. There are 86 references to the Old Testament (obvious Jewish believers in mind)
3. Paints a grand portrait of Christ with the Old Testament as the backdrop.
*This reveals once again that God’s Word and God’s truth possesses the attribute of oneness (it is one living body of truth).

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

Christ is both our Great Sacrifice and our Great High Priest! (9:11-12)