

The Epistle to the Hebrews

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Theme: The absolute superiority of Jesus Christ.

Author: Unknown.

Setting: A community of Christians with Hebrew background who are contemplating a compromise which would be a major problem since it would amount to a departure from the Gospel concerning Jesus Christ that the apostles had been preaching and teaching. See **6:19**, “**we have an anchor.**”

This community was most likely located in Palestine. The compromise they were being tempted to make could have been with a group like the Essenes. It seems clear, however, that regardless of the group, the compromise would be with the Mosaic covenant and the Levitical priesthood.

Date: Prior to A.D. 70 since the present tenses used in the epistle to describe the Levitical priesthood's ministry would indicate they were still active (5:1-4; 7:21, 23, 27, 28; 8:3, 4, 13; 9:6, 7, 9, 13, 25; 10:1, 3, 4, 8, 11; 13:10, 11).

Exposition of the Old Testament

- Exposition of Verses from **Psalms, 2 Samuel 7, and Deuteronomy 32** (1:1–2:4)
- Exposition of **Psalm 8:4-6** (2:5-18)
- Exposition of **Psalm 95:7-11** (3:1–4:13)
- Exposition of **Psalm 110:4** (4:14–7:28)
- Exposition of **Jeremiah 31:31-34** (8:1–10:18)
- Exposition of **Habakkuk 2:3, 4** (10:32–12:3)
- Exposition of **Proverbs 3:11, 12** (12:4-13)
- Exposition of **Mt. Sinai Motif (Exodus 19–20)** (12:18-29)

Warnings

- Warning against **Drifting** from “what we have heard” (2:1-4)
- Warning against **Disbelieving** the “voice” of God (3:7-14)
- Warning against **Degenerating** from “the elementary principles of the oracles of God” (5:11–6:20)
- Warning against **Despising** “the knowledge of the truth” (10:26-39)
- Warning against **Devaluing** “the grace of God” (12:15-17)
- Warning against **Departing** from Him “who is speaking” (12:25-29)

Outline

- I.** The Superiority of Jesus Christ's **Position (1:1–4:13)**
- II.** The Superiority of Jesus Christ's **Priesthood (4:14–7:28)**
- III.** The Superiority of Jesus Christ's **Pact/Covenant (8:1–10:31)**
- IV.** The Superiority of Jesus Christ's **Service (10:32–13:17)**
- V.** **Conclusion of the Epistle (13:18-25)**