

Introduction to Hebrews

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THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD



AUDIENCE: ?



SEE 10:32-34
PERSECUTION & IMPRISONMENT

THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



THE PROMISED LAND

2 MAIN GOAL

#1 ELEVATE JESUS AS SUPERIOR

#2 CHALLENGE THE READER TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS DESPITE PERSECUTION

1:1-3 IN THE PAST GOD SPOKE TO OUR ANCESTORS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US IN HIS SON

"THE Radiance of GOD'S GLORY" (JESUS)

"THE EXACT 'IMPRINT' of GOD'S NATURE"

THOSE BAPTIZATIONS MAKE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN JESUS AND GOD

<p>1-2 ANGELS & TORAH</p> <p>SEE DEUTERONOMY 32:27</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>GOD'S WORD</p> <p>FOLLOW GREAT MODELS OF FAITH</p>	<p>3-4 MOSES & THE PROMISED LAND</p> <p>ISRAEL</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>HOPE FOR NEW CREATION</p>	<p>5-7 PRIESTS & MELCHIZEDEK</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>ETERNAL PRIEST</p>	<p>8-10 SACRIFICE & COVENANT</p> <p>WARNING</p> <p>PERFECT SACRIFICE</p>
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- DESPITE HARDSHIP & PERSECUTION GOD WILL NOT ABANDON HIS PEOPLE
- ABEL
 - ENOCH
 - NOAH
 - ABRAHAM
 - SARAH
 - ISAAC
 - JACOB
 - JOSEPH
 - MOSES
 - RAHAB

Extra Tips

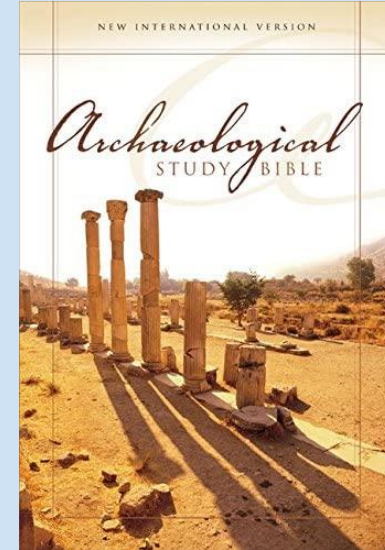
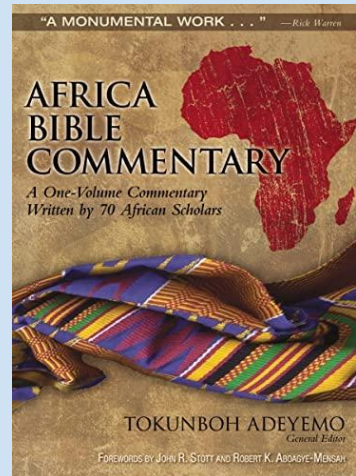
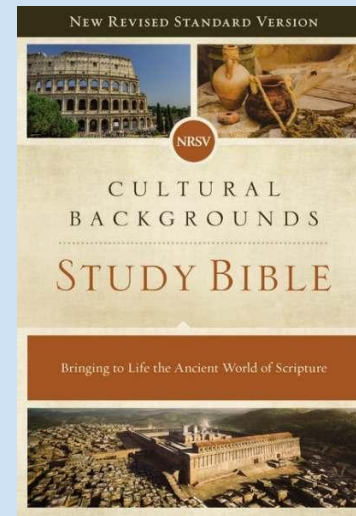
#1 LOOK UP OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS (THERE ARE A LOT)

#2 THE POINT IS TO FEEL A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT NOT AFRAID

created by the Bible Project

Sources

- Bibleproject.com
- Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible
- Archaeological Study Bible
- Africa Bible Commentary
- Dr. Chris Miller lectures



The Author of Hebrews

- Sophisticated Greek style
- rhetorical and literary skills more advanced than most NT books (such as ones attributed to Paul, Peter or James)
- 151 unique Greek words
- “Second-generation” Christian (Heb 2:3)
- Writer is close to Timothy (Heb 13:23) so possibly from Greek-speaking eastern Mediterranean region
- Quotes from Septuagint and familiar with Jewish customs

Old Testament Quotes in Hebrews- Example

- Hebrews 11:21 (NASB) “By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.”
- Genesis 47:31b (NASB) “Then Israel bowed in worship at the head of the bed.”

Masoretic Text vs Septuagint

- Masoretic Text: “Text of the Tradition”
- 24 books of the Hebrew Bible in original **Hebrew and Aramaic**
- OT in our Bibles uses this to directly translate from Hebrew to English
- “Greek Old Testament”, or “translation of the 70”, LXX
- Translated in **Koine Greek** in 3rd and 2nd centuries BC by Jewish scholars
- Few people could speak Hebrew in 2nd Temple period so need for Greek translation
- So OT quotes mentioned in the NT are translations from Hebrew to Greek to English

Possible Authors???

- Paul wrote it in Hebrew and Luke or someone translated it into elevated Greek
- Barnabus (Acts 4:36, Hebrews 13:22)
- Apollos (Acts 18:24)
- Silas had literary skills (1 Pe 5:12) and was a Jewish Roman citizen in the east (Ac 16:37)
- Priscilla
- Epaphras

Date - approximately 68 AD

- Hebrews 13:23- Timothy recently freed
- Timothy imprisoned under Nero
- Nero dies in 64 AD
- Temple in Jerusalem destroyed in 70 AD

Recipients

- Earliest believers in Christ were Jewish (Acts 2:41, 4:4, 21:20)
- Jewish readers familiar with Septuagint
- Title “to the Hebrews” does not appear in original manuscripts
- Hebrews 10:34 - prison and confiscated property (doesn't fit Ephesus or Corinth)
- Hebrews 13:24 those from Italy send them greetings
- Originally a sermon then later sent as a letter?

“GREATER THANS” in Hebrews:

Jesus >	● Prophets	1:1-3
	● Angels	1:4-14; 2:5
	● Moses	3:1-6
	● Joshua	4:6-11
	● Aaronic high priests	5:1-10; 7:26-8:2
	● Levitical priests	6:20-7:25
	● Abraham	7:1-10

More “Greater Thans”

- Jesus’ ministry > tabernacle ministry 8:3-6; 9:1-28
- Jesus’ new covenant > old covenant 8:7-13
- Jesus’ sacrifice > OT sacrifices 10:1-14
- Experiencing Jesus > Experience on Mt. Sinai 12:18-24

Themes

- Perseverance
- Faith Pleases God
- Discipline comes to God's children
- Christian living

Looking Forward

- Encouragement to hold fast in the faith

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

