

Introduction to Hebrews

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Writer: The writer of Hebrews is not identified by name.
 - 1. Possible writers include Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, etc.
 - 2. Evidence suggests that Paul may have been the writer.
 - a. (10:34) The writer had been in bonds (Colossians 4:3, 18).
 - b. (13:23) The writer was acquainted with Timothy (Philippians 2:19-23).
 - c. (13:24) "*They of Italy*" are mentioned (Acts 28:16, 30-31).
- B. Purpose: This letter refers to itself as a "*word of exhortation*" (13:22).
 - 1. Its message is designed to encourage Christians to remain faithful to Christ (3:12-13).
 - 2. A key expression is "*let us*" (4:1, 11, 14, 16; 6:1; 10:22-24; 12:1; 13:13, 15).
- C. Theme: The theme of Hebrews is "the superiority of Christ."
 - 1. Christ is highly exalted throughout the letter, and His covenant is shown to be far greater than the old covenant.
 - 2. A key word is "*better*."
 - a. (1:4) Christ is better than the angels.
 - b. (7:22) Jesus was made a surety of a better testament.
 - c. (8:6) Christ is the mediator of a better covenant that was established upon better promises.

II. OUTLINE

- A. (ch.1-4:13) The superiority of Christ as God's spokesman
 - 1. (1:1-3) Christ is superior to the prophets.
 - 2. (1:4-ch.2) He is superior to the angels.
 - 3. (ch.3-4:13) He is superior to Moses and Joshua.
- B. (4:14-ch.10) The superiority of Christ as High Priest
 - 1. (4:14-5:10) Jesus is a great High Priest.
 - 2. (5:11-ch.6) The need for spiritual growth is stressed.
 - 3. (ch.7-10) Information is presented which proves that Christ's priesthood is superior to the Jewish priesthood.
- C. (ch.11-13) The superiority of the Christian faith
 - 1. (ch.11) Faith is explained and illustrated.
 - 2. (ch.12) Christians are exhorted to persevere.
 - 3. (ch.13) In order to persevere, Christians must fulfill their responsibilities.

III. IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION REVEALED IN HEBREWS

- A. Jesus is God's spokesman today (1:1-3).
- B. His Word is the new covenant (8:6-13).
- C. Christ died in order for His new covenant to become effective (9:15-17).
- D. The Lord wants to help His followers (4:14-16).
- E. God wants His children to become teachers (5:11-14).
- F. The great salvation offered in the new covenant must not be neglected (2:1-3).
- G. Falling away from Christ is a serious offense (10:26-31).
- H. God chastens those whom He loves (12:5-11).