

Bible Study on Hebrews 1/8

Introduction and 1:1-2 – Leader

Schedule:

1/19 – Hebrews Introduction & 1:1-2

1/26 – 1:3 - 2:18 (Jesus' Superiority over the Angels)

2/2 – 3:1 - 4:13 (Jesus' Superiority over Moses)

2/9 – 4:14 - 7:28 (Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood: Jesus, the New Melchizedek)

2/16 – 8:1 - 10:18 (Superiority of Jesus' Sacrifice)

2/23 – 10:19 - 11:40 (Exhortation to Faithfulness and OT Examples of Faith)

3/2 – 12:1-29 (Jesus the Ultimate Example of Faithfulness & warning against disobedience)

3/9 – 13:1-25 (Final Exhortations, Blessings and Greetings)

What is the book of Hebrews?

- Hebrews 13:22 - “bear with my word of exhortation” → encouragement
 - παρακαλῶ vs παρακλήσεως → same root, different emphasis
- This leads us to believe that Hebrews is a written sermon
- “It was likely meant to be read aloud in the place of the usual sermon, to a congregation that had assembled for the Divine Service.”¹

Who is the Speaker?

- He was a preacher, teacher and known leader to the church he wrote this for.
- In the early church, authorship was hesitantly ascribed to Paul, Barnabas, Clement of Rome, Luke.²
- “The most likely candidates for author are, in order of increasing probability, Barnabas, Apollos, St. Paul, Clement of Rome, and Luke.”³

When was Hebrews written?

- Based on the 1st letter we have written by Clement of Rome, scholars believe Hebrews was written between AD 50 & 90.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, quotations are from: Kleinig, John W. *Hebrews*. Concordia Commentary: A Theological Exposition of Sacred Scripture. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2017.

² Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 3.

³ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 4.

- Most discussion revolves around whether it was written before or after the destruction of the temple in AD 70.
- While it does presuppose the destruction of the temple (as Jesus prophesied), it does not mention the destruction even though it would strengthen the author's point about Christ being superior to the priests and sacrificial system.

How is it structured?

- If this book is a sermon, it is helpful to take everything in its entirety → Pastor Spencer's three favorite words for interpretation: **Context, Context, Context.**
- The author "does not speak on his own authority; he speaks God's Word with divine authority... The author holds that the Old Testament contains the prophetic words of God which all find their eschatological fulfillment in his Son (1:1-2)."⁴
 - This was a major passage in the formulation of the Apostle's Creed.
- "The author quotes directly from eleven OT books... there are thirty-five quotations."⁵
 - Psalm 110 appears to be the main passage - key sermon text.

How did Hebrews make it into the Bible?

- We do not know who wrote it, and it has a very harsh condemnation of sin with regards to repentance in Chapter 6:4-6 (we will spend time with this later).
- "Even though the author may not have been one of the twelve apostles, he, like Barnabas, Mark, and Luke was held to belong to the broader circle."⁶
- It is clear that Hebrews had been read and used in the early church, but it was the last to be added to the Canon by various groups and meetings as early as 200 AD and was made official by all in AD 419 at the Synod of Carthage.

⁴ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 27.

⁵ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 27.

⁶ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 32.