

SECTION A



ASSIGNMENT:

Read the Book of Hebrews four times. Note, each “read through” should be done at one sitting.

Memorize Hebrews 3:12-14 and write it when you take Examination 1

Listen to Lectures 1 – 6 following along with this syllabus

Take Examination 1 after listening to lectures 1- 6

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

I. THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTER

A) Paul.

- 1) The Eastern Church from the second century regarded Paul as the author (Clement of Alexandria; Origen).
- 2) The western church excluded it from the Pauline canon but later adopted the Pauline viewpoint in the fifth century (AD 419, Council of Hippo).
- 3) Some view Paul as the author of a Hebrew original and a Greek translation by Luke.
- 4) It was not until the Reformation (sixteenth century) that this traditional view was reevaluated.
- 5) Problems with this view:
 - (a) Absence of a self identifying greeting at the letter’s beginning (2 Th. 3:17)
 - (b) Identification as a second-generation hearer (2:3; cf. Gal. 1:11-12)
 - (c) Different style of the Greek language
 - (d) Different themes (high priesthood, new covenant)
 - (e) Different vocabulary words
 - (f) Quotations of the OT only from the LXX (Paul used the Hebrew OT at times)
 - (g) Different order of doctrine and application

B) Others.

- 1) Barnabas - so said Tertullian (2nd century).
- 2) Clement of Rome - so said Calvin.
- 3) Luke - so said Calvin.
- 4) Apollos – so said Luther
- 5) Priscilla - so said some Christian feminists (but see the masculine dihgoumenon in 11:32).
- 6) Others such as Silas, Timothy, Ephaphras, Philip, Mary the mother of Jesus

C) Unknown.

- 1) In the third century (AD 225) Origen said, “But who wrote the epistle, in truth, only God knows.”
- 2) “The insolubility of the problem is only emphasized when scholarly minds, working with the same material, reach diametrically opposed conclusions; and this at least says to us that we must be content not to know and willing to shun dogmatic declarations when the authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews is being discussed” (Hughes, p. 29)
- 3) Perhaps he chooses to remain anonymous and let the message of the book carry the full weight of influence

II. THE RECIPIENTS OF THE LETTER.

A) Their Condition

- 1) Jewish Christians who were suffering for Messiah Jesus (3:1; 6:9; 10:25,32-36; note the repeated references to Jewish elements of the OT)
- 2) Jewish non-Christians who were intellectually convinced of the Messianic claims of Jesus (2:1-3; 3:12-14; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; 12:25-29)
- 3) Thus the author addresses a mixed group, not unlike the other NT letters and the churches of our own day.

B) Their Location

1) Not Jerusalem or nearby

- (a) When the author quotes the OT, he *never* refers to the Hebrew but to the Greek translation (LXX)
- (b) The author never refers to the second temple, only the tabernacle

2) Possible Rome or elsewhere

- (a) Geographical reference is made in 13:24, "Those from Italy greet you." This may refer to where the author is, or simply that some Italians with him sent greetings.
- (b) But if it is Rome, why is there no mention of Gentile believers?
- (c) Thus it was written to a group of Jewish believers outside Israel.

III. THE DATE OF THE LETTER

A) The author is a "second generation" believer (2:3), and the earliest he could have written would be AD 50-60

B) There is no mention of the destruction of the second temple in AD 70. Since he is arguing that the OT shadows have been fulfilled in Jesus, it would only seem natural to refer to the temple's destruction

C) The author uses Greek present tenses to describe the sacrificial system (5:1-4; 7:21, 23, 27, 28; 8:3, 4, 13; 9:6, 9, 13, 25; 10:1, 2, 3, 8, 11; 13:10, 11). Although this may not be conclusive proof, it fits well with the main argument

D) Most conservatives place the date in the 60's, before the temple's destruction in AD 70

IV. AN OUTLINE OF THE LETTER

Theme: The Supremacy of Jesus, the Messiah
Introduction: Superior Revelation (1:1-4).
 I. Superior to the Angels (1:5-2:18)
 1st Warning (2:1-4).
 II. Superior to Moses & Joshua (3:1-4:13)
 2nd Warning (3:6b-4:2)
 III. Superior to the Aaronic Priests (4:14-7:28)
 3rd Warning (5:11-6:8)
 IV. Superior as Our High Priest (8:1-10:39)
 4th Warning (10:26-31)
 V. Superior Way of Faith (11:1-12:29)
 5th Warning (12:25-29)
Conclusion: Superior Lifestyle (13:1-25)

*And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation:
for I have written a letter unto you in few words.
Hebrews 13:22*

ANALYSIS OF HEBREWS

- Theme: The Supremacy of Jesus, the Messiah (kreittwn =)

1:4 -	9:23 -
6:9 -	10:34 -
7:7 -	11:16 -
7:19 -	11:35 -
7:22 -	11:40 -
8:6 -	12:24 -

- Introduction: Jesus is Superior to the Prophets (1:1-3).
 - A) The OT Prophets (1:1)
 - God spoke “to the fathers” long ago...
 - 1) In various times

2) In various ways

B) The Son (1:2-3)

- God spoke “to us” in the “last days” (Jam. 5:3; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18).

1) In His Son

2) Characteristics of the Son

I) Jesus is Superior to the Angels (1:4 - 2:18)

A) The Proof from the Old Testament (1:5-14)

1) Psalms 2:7.2

2) Samuel. 7:14

3) Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalms 97:7

4) Psalms 104:4

5) Isaiah 45:6-8

6) Psalms 102:25-27

7) Psalms 110:1

B) 1st Warning (2:1-4)

C) The Purpose of the Incarnation (2:5-18)

1) In Jesus' Humanity (2:5-9)

2) In Jesus' Suffering (2:10-18)

(a) To complete His identification with humanity (2:10-13)

(b) To destroy the devil (2:14-16)

(c) To become a merciful high priest (2:17-18)

II) Jesus is Superior to Moses & Joshua (3:1 - 4:13)

A) Comparison of Moses and Jesus (3:1-6a)

	MOSES	JESUS	VERSES
<i>Their Character</i>			
<i>Their Houses</i>			
<i>Their Positions</i>			

B) 2nd Warning (3:6b-4:2)

1) The Warning to Hold Firm (3:6b-12).

- Notice the word “if” in the warning passages (2:3; 3:6,14; 4:7; [6:6]; 10:26,38; 12:25)

- “Falling away” (afisthmi) = apostasy; how do these passages translate the word?

(a) Luke 2:37

(b) Luke 8:13

(c) Acts 15:38

(d) 2 Corinthians 12:8

(e) 2 Timothy 2:19

2) The Encouragement to Persevere (3:13-4:2)

C) Invitation to Enter Rest (4:3-13)

1) God's Rest (4:3-1 1)

- Who is "Jesus" in 4:8 of AV ('Ihsouv)?

2) God's Word (4:12-13)

3) Encouragement to Persevere (4:14-16)

III) Jesus is Superior to the Aaronic Priests (5:1 - 7:28)

A) The High Priesthood (5:1-10)

1) General Qualifications (5:1-4)

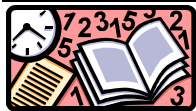
2) Jesus' Qualifications (5:5-10)

B) 3rd Warning (5:1 1-6:8)

1) Rebuke for Immaturity (5:11-14)

2) Plea for Maturity (6:1-3)

3) Warning against Apostasy (6:4-8)



HOMEWORK QUESTIONS- LEVEL 2 & 3 STUDENTS

On a sheet of paper, write from memory, Hebrews 3:12-14. Also note the translation you memorized it in. After writing it out, check your own paper. Deduct one point for each incorrect, omitted, or misspelled word. Write the total on the top of the sheet and submit it with your examination to the school.

Also on that sheet, indicate how many times you read the Book of Hebrews completely through [the assignment was four times].

After having done this, open the Examination 1 packet and answer the questions. You may not use your notes, books, or Bible. When you are done, submit it with the memory test sheet to the school.

Submissions should be sent to:

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If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We consider it a very real privilege to have you as a student and to be able to share the Word of God with you. May the Lord bless you as you continue your study in the Book of Hebrews.