

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Hebrews

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Introduction

- Author - not named
 - Member of Paul's ministry team (Heb 13:23)
- Audience -
 - Predominantly Jews
 - Christians (including warnings to those who believe themselves to be in the faith)
 - Heb 13:24 seems to indicate Jewish believers AND pretenders in Rome
- Date - 64-68AD

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Uniqueness of Hebrews

- Inspired sermon manuscript
- Author is giving a written sermon that he would have preached if in person
- Closest to what we have to a sermon of the NT church
- Keith Essex: "I don't like to talk about the *author*, but about the *preacher*."

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Historical/Theological Themes

- Old Testament
 - Ps. 8:4-6 in 2:6-8
 - Ps. 95:7-11 in 3:7b-11
 - Ps. 110:4 in 5:6; 7:17, 21
 - Jer. 31:31-34 in 8:8b-12; 10:16-17
 - Ps. 40:6-8 in 10: 5b-7
 - Hab. 2:3-4 in 10:37-38
 - Prov. 3:11-12 in 12:5b-6
- The Great God (68x)
 - The Living God (3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22)
 - The Creator (2:10; 3:4; 4:4)
 - The Consuming Fire (12:29 w/12:23)

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Historical/Theological Themes

- The Incomparable Son, Jesus Christ
 - (Son = 12x; Christ = 12x; Jesus = 13x)
 - Son of God -- 1:1-4, 10-12; 2:9; 3:6; 4:14; 5:7-10; 7:28
 - The High Priest -- 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-5:10; 7:11-28; 8:1-2; 9:11-14
- The Better -- 1:4; 6:9; 7:19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24
- Faith -- 4:2, 3; 6:12; 10:22, 38, 39; 11:1-40; 12:2; 13:7
- Encouragement -- 2:17-18; 3:13; 4:14-16; 6:9-10; 8:1-2; 10:19-25; 12:1-2, 22-24

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Historical/Theological Themes

- Warning-- 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:19-39; 12:18-29
 1. Chpt 2 -Don't drift from the truth
 2. Chpt 3 -Don't ignore the Spirit of God
 3. Chpt 5/6 -Don't become bad listeners
 4. Chpt 10 -Don't ignore the knowledge of the truth
 5. Chpt 12 -Don't ignore the warnings of Christ
- POINT: Jesus is great; ignore Him at your own risk
- "Today" -- 1:5; 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7; 5:5; 13:8

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Literary Structure and Purpose

- Somewhat typical Pauline structure (doctrine then exhortation)
- Maybe organized more by repeated themes
- Amazing book for preaching
- ✓PURPOSE: Jewish Christians (and possibly false converts), who were considering safety in Judaism, were instructed and exhorted to progression, steadfastness, endurance and maturity by looking to Jesus, the Son of God and great High Priest, the better way.

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Interpretive Issues

- How Hebrews uses the OT
- Warning passages
 - Loss of salvation?
 - Loss of reward?
 - “Near” Christians?
 - Apostasy of “professing” Christians (e.g., 2 Peter 2:20)?
 - Both “near” and “professing” Christians

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Interpretive Issues

- Example of Warning Passage—Heb 6:4-6
 - SOUNDS like loss of salvation—BUT:
 - None of these phrases are used elsewhere to speak of a saved person—this is one who is AROUND Christians and Christianity, not one who is regenerate
 - Author switched pronouns to “those” and “them”
 - Indicates that God will not abide always with one who plays with Christianity

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