

## HEBREWS - OUTLINE

### THEME OF THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS: **GOD'S FINAL REVELATION IS IN JESUS CHRIST.**

**God spoke previously through the prophets, but in these last days he spoke through Jesus Christ".**

To *God's covenant people, Jewish Christians*, who share in the heavenly calling (3:1): they are slow to learn (5:11), need someone to teach them the ABC of the bible all over again (5:12), are spiritual babies in need to grow to maturity (5:11 - 6:3), bore fruit of good works and love (6:8,10; 10:34) and have the hope of the fulfilment of God's promise as an anchor hooked in God's presence (6:19). They belong to those who believe and are saved (10:39).

Some of them participated in the New Testament covenant without being born again. They became unfaithful to God's covenant and slid back into their traditional Judaism: they drifted away (2:1), ignored such a great salvation (2:3), continued deliberately in sin (3:12; 10:26), continued in unbelief (3:12; 4:2), turned away from the living God who had revealed himself in Christ (3:12), became hardened (3:13), did not persevere to the end (3:14; 4:11), fell short of attaining the promise to enter the rest (4:1), continued in disobedience (4:6-7,11), shared in the New Testament covenant without being born again and fell away (6:4-8), trampled Christ underfoot, treated the New Testament covenant as useless and insulted the Holy Spirit who offered them grace (10:29). They belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed (10:39).

#### **[I] THE FINALITY OF CHRISTIANITY (1:1 - 2:18)**

1. Christ is God. He is God's final revelation to man (1:1-3).
2. Christ as God is superior to angels (1:4-14).
3. Warning (1<sup>st</sup>) against paying the message about Christ (gospel) less attention (2:1-4).
4. Christ is Man. He is exalted only through humiliation (2:5-9).
5. Christ as Man is the author of salvation and the merciful and faithful high priest (2:10-18).

#### **[II] THE TRUE HOME (REST) OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD (3:1 - 4:13)**

1. Christ as Apostle and High Priest is greater than Moses as servant (3:1-6).
2. Warning (2<sup>nd</sup>) against rejecting Christ (3:7-19).
3. The true home or rest of God may be forfeited (4:1-10).
4. Exhortation to persevere and attain God's rest (4:11-13).

#### **[III] CHRIST QUALIFIES FOR THE HIGH PRIESTHOOD (4:14 - 5:10)**

1. Christians have a great high priest. They should approach him with bold confidence (4:14-16).
2. Every high priest must be appointed by God and be a merciful and sympathetic person (5:1-4).
3. Christ qualifies for the high priesthood in another order (5:5-10).

#### **[IV] WARNING AGAINST APOSTASY OF MAN AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOD (5:11 - 6:20)**

1. Exhortation to pursue spiritual maturity (5:11 - 6:3).
2. Warning (3<sup>rd</sup>) against falling away from the New Testament covenant (6:4-8).
3. Encouragement that God is just and will keep his promise (6:9-20).

#### **[V] THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST SUPERSEDED THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD (7:1-28)**

1. The priesthood of Christ is the antitype of the type, Melchizedek the priest (7:1-3).
2. The priesthood of Christ is great, because Melchizedek is great (7:4-10).
3. The priesthood of Christ is not based on the Old Testament Levitical priesthood (7:11-14).  
(based on ancestry and making nothing perfect)
4. The priesthood of Christ is superior, because it is permanent and effective (7:15-19).  
(based on an indestructible life and saving completely)
5. The priesthood of Christ is superior, because God guarantees the fulfilment of the covenant (7:20-22).  
(based on God's sworn oath)
6. The priesthood of Christ is superior, because it is non-transferable and never-ending (7:23-25).  
(based on the fact that Christ always lives)
7. The priesthood of Christ is superior, because of the perfect character of Christ (7:26-28).  
(based on the fact that Christ is sinless)

**[VI] THE NEW ORDER SUPERSEDED THE OLD ORDER (8:1 - 10:18).**

1. The old order sanctuary, priesthood and covenant contrasted with the new (8:1-7).
2. The old covenant definitely superseded by the new covenant (8:8-13).
3. The sanctuary under the old covenant was inadequate and temporary (9:1-5).
4. The sacrifices under the old covenant were inadequate and temporary (9:6-10).  
(not able to clear the inward conscience, because they are outward ceremonial regulations)
5. The sacrifice of Christ is perfect in nature and eternal in effect (9:11-14).
6. Christ is the Testator (Guarantor) and the Executor (Mediator) of the new covenant (9:15-22).
7. The sacrifice of Christ was a perfect sacrifice that is perpetually effective (9:23-28).
8. The old order was a shadow of the new reality (10:1-4).
9. The new order is the reality (10:5-10).
10. The new order has an enthroned high priest (10:11-18).  
(who made a perfect sacrifice of atonement for sins for those people who are now continually being sanctified)

**[VII] UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS CHRISTIAN FAITH (10:19 - 12:29)**

1. Christian faith involves bold confidence towards God and stimulating provocation towards Christians (10:19-25).
2. Christian faith involves taking the warning (4<sup>th</sup>) about the wilful sin of apostasy seriously (10:26-31).
3. Christian faith involves the call to perseverance in doing God's will (10:32-39).
4. Christian faith involves following in the footsteps of the Old Testament believers (11:1-40).
5. Christian faith involves keeping the eyes fixed upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (12:1-3).
6. Christian faith involves God's discipline of believers (12:4-11).  
(discipline is training by instruction, correction, punishment and hardship)
7. Christian faith involves taking action to stay spiritually fit and fruitful in righteousness and holiness (12:12-17).
8. Christian faith involves realising their citizenship in the heavenly Jerusalem (12:18-24).
9. Christian faith involves paying heed to the voice of God (12:25-29).  
(and not refusing him who speaks, who will shake everything, who is a consuming fire)

**[VIII] PRACTISING CHRISTIAN FAITH (13:1-21)**

1. Christians are called to live a moral life with high standards (13:1-6).
2. Christians are called to follow good examples (13:7-8).
3. Christians are called to bring true Christian sacrifices (13:9-16).  
(the sacrifice of going outside the camp to bear the disgrace of Christ)
4. Christians are called to submit to their real leaders (13:17).
5. Christians are called to pray (13:18-21).

**[IX] POSTSCRIPT (13:22-25)**

1. Personal notes (13:22-23).
2. Final greeting and benediction (13:24-25).