

Remember Context

Author



Genre



Themes



Recipients



Early Church w Jewish background

When

**Before
70 AD**

Purpose

**A word
of exhortation**

OT Knowledge

Ps. 2; 8; 95; 110; Jer. 31; Ps. 40; Hab. 2

BASIC FLOW OF THE BOOK

Old Testament

- Genesis
 - God Created
 - God Spoke
 - Abrahamic Covenant
- Exodus
 - Moses – Prophet
 - Mt. Zion Giving of Law
 - Desert
- Leviticus
 - Tabernacle
 - Levitical Priesthood
 - OT Covenant Rituals
- Joshua
 - Entering promised land
- David
 - Kingship/Rule
- Jeremiah
 - New Covenant
- All the many stories of the OT

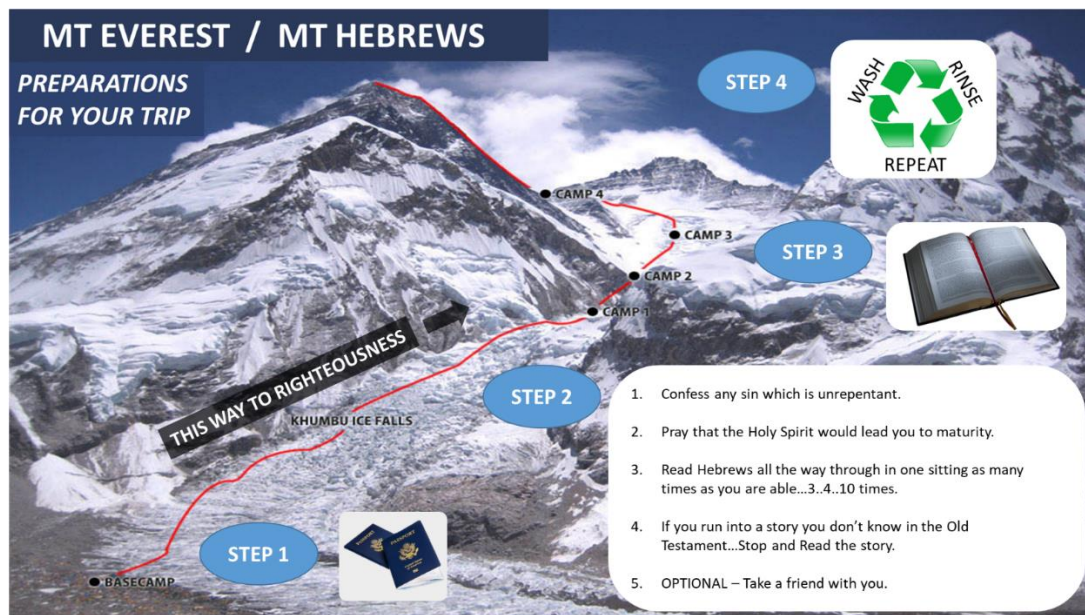


LUKE 24:13-35
Road To Emmaus

Acts 2 – Peter
Acts 7- Stephen
Acts 13:15 – Paul
Paul uses OT to Exhort

New Testament

- Jesus was God
- Jesus Created with God
- Jesus is the Greatest Word of God
- Jesus paid for sins
- Jesus now rules with God as His Son and our Savior
- Jesus is greater than prophets
- Jesus is greater than Angels
- Jesus is greater than Moses
- Jesus is greater than OT priests
- Jesus is a greater sacrifice
- Jesus offers a greater Rest than the promised land
- Jesus had a greater priestly calling than Aaron
- Jesus fulfills the Abrahamic covenant
- Jesus is a greater High Priest than Levitical High Priest
- Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant
- Jesus reigns over a better ministry
- Jesus entered a better Tabernacle
- Jesus offers a better inheritance
- Jesus offers a new and living way
- Jesus faith is greater than OT saints
- Jesus lives in a better kingdom than Mt Sinai



Lesson 2 – God Speaks

READ THE TEXT

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. NASB

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

- No introduction of the author.
- Assumptions
 - A belief in God...that He communicates and created the world.
 - Readers have a knowledge of the OT.
- Starts with God as the subject in first sentence
 - Emphasis on God Spoke
 - Hebrews 1:1...alliteration in Greek with 5 different words starting with “p” or π in Greek.

πολυμερως και πολυτροπως παλαι ο θεος λαλησας τοις πατρασιν εν τοις προφηταις
επ εσχατωντων ημερων τουτων ελαλησεν ημιν εν υιω
- At different times and in different ways long ago - God having spoken to the fathers in the prophets

- Contrast in first two verses

At different times and in different ways	↔	“implied singularity in and through His son” – Phil’s Addition
Long Ago	↔	In these last days
God Spoke	↔	He has spoken
To the fathers	↔	to us
By the prophets	↔	by His Son

CHIASM: WHAT IS IT?

- A literary structure used to emphasize the main point and provide clarity.
- Derived from the Greek letter X (Chi)
 - When the going gets tough, the tough get going
 - The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.
- Read as ABB'A', ABC X C'B'A', etc.

$$\begin{array}{cc} A & B' \\ B & A' \end{array}$$
- Examples of documents which used Chiasms
 - Daniel, Proverbs, etc.
 - Iliad and Odyssey
 - Beowulf
 - Paradise lost
 - Many Greek writings
- Be careful...
 - Don't start seeing Chiasm's everywhere!
 - Never divorce structure from content!

Chiastic structure of the Genesis Flood Narrative

A: Noah and his sons (Gen 6:10)	
B: All life on earth (6:13:a)	
C: Curse on earth (6:13:b)	
D: Flood announced (6:7)	
E: Ark (6:14-16)	
F: All living creatures (6:17-20)	
G: Food (6:21)	
H: Animals in man's hands (7:2-3)	
I: Entering the Ark (7:13-16)	
J: Waters increase (7:17-20)	
X: God remembers Noah (8:1)	
J: Waters decrease (8:13-14)	
I': Exiting the Ark (8:15-19)	
H': Animals (9:2,3)	
G': Food (9:3,4)	
F': All living creatures (9:10a)	
E': Ark (9:10b)	
D': No flood in future (9:11)	
C': Blessing on earth (9:12-17)	
B': All life on earth (9:16)	
A: Noah and his sons (9:18,19a)	

Chiasm of the numbers 7, 40, and 150

α: Seven days waiting to enter Ark (7:4)	
β: Second mention of seven days waiting (7:10)	
γ: 40 days (7:17)	
δ: 150 days (7:24)	
χ: God remembers Noah (8:1)	
δ': 150 days (8:3)	
γ': 40 days (8:6)	
β': Seven days waiting for dove (8:10)	
α': Second seven days waiting for dove (8:12)	

Source: Reference work by Gordon Wenham

CHIASM IN HEBREWS 1:1-4

- A = God's final and superior word was spoken to us through **His Son** (1-2a)
 B = The Son is superior as he is the **exalted heir** of all things (2b)
 C = The Son's is superior since He **created all of the ages** (2c)
 X = The Son is superior because He is **the radiance of God's glory** (3a)
 X' = The Son is superior because He **has God's exact nature** (3b)
 C' = The Son is superior as He **sustains all things** by His word (3c)
 B' = The Son is superior as He **now reigns** after His purification for sins (3d-e)
 A' The Son's superiority is demonstrated in **His name** being above the angels (4)

MAIN POINT = Jesus is God therefore...

ANALYSIS OF HEBREWS 1:1-4 THROUGH THE FLOW OF THE CHIASM

A = God's final and superior word was spoken to us through His Son (1-2a)

Hebrews 1:1 God, after **He spoke** long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in **these last days** has spoken to us in His Son,

- What does it mean for **God to speak**?
 - Genesis – God's spoken word creates all things
 - God's Law ...given by angels to Moses to us (Gal 3:19, Acts 7:53, Heb 2:2)
 - Prophets – Intermediaries to Israel and to us (2 Peter 1:21)
 - Is God not acting upon us when he speaks? Are we not acting upon people when we speak to them?
 - Yet our power is finite. God's power is infinite.
 - Is not God's speaking part of His love for us?
- What does he mean **"these last days"** versus long ago?
 - The last days verbiage is drawn from Gen 49:1, Num 24:14; Isa 2:2; Jer 23:20, 25:19; Dan 10:14; Hos 3:5; Mic 4:1 which represent the days in which God's saving promises are fulfilled...the messianic age...the end of times.
 - I Cor 10:11 ...the ends of the ages have come
 - Heb 9:26at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days **has spoken to us in His Son**,

- Since we have read this book through several times☺ we know this author is heralding Jesus as superior. Therefore, **"Has spoken to us in His Son"** should have even an audible emphasis.
- What aspect of His Son is God's word to us?
 - Every Aspect

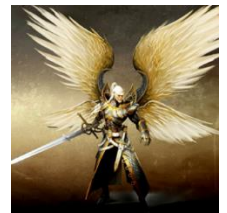
IMPLICATIONS

- OT is not irrelevant. We must learn to speak God's language starting in the Old Testament.
- There are no "new" words of God superior to Christ. Sola Scriptura!
- Are we looking for God to write on the walls of our home? Or bring fire from heaven?
 - This insults Christ.
- We need to gaze upon Jesus to learn what God wants us to learn.
 - This is done through studying the word of God and letting the Holy Spirit teach us all truth!
- What if gazing on Jesus doesn't move us or cause any desire for change?
 - Then you are in a very dangerous place. You need to seek Jesus and pray that the Lord would open the eyes of your heart...do it now...today is the day of Salvation...don't wait.

A' The Son's superiority is demonstrated in His name being above the angels (4)

Hebrews 1:4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has **inherited** a **more excellent name** than they.

- Points back to sitting down and reigning as well as inheriting all things which **includes a better name**.
- Angels 101- Heb. 1:14 ...ministering spirits to those who will inherit salvation
- In what sense did Jesus **inherit** the name Son? Wasn't he the Son at creation?
 - Clearly this is a reference to the God - Man inheriting the name Son.
- What greatness is indicated in the word Son as compared to Angel?
 - A servant may carry the master's words but the Son carries the image and love of His father with an intimacy untouched by a servant.



IMPLICATIONS

- Should we fear Good angels? No...not if you are a believer.
- How about fallen angels? No...Fear God instead Matt 10:28
- Did Christ die for angels? No ...see Hebrews 2:16
- What do people think of when they think of your name?

B = The Son is superior as he is the exalted heir of all things (2b)

B' = The Son is superior as He now reigns after His purification for sins (3d-e)

2b whom He appointed heir of all things,

- He is contrasting the nation of Israel as inheriting the land of Israel...yet Jesus is the Heir of ALL things.

3d-e When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

- Jesus died but is not dead. He reversed the curse of the fall of Adam.
- He sat down because his work was finished. Now he reigns with the Father.
- Psalm 110 used throughout Hebrews...alluded to here...Ps 110:1...cross Ref Matt 22:41-45

IMPLICATIONS

- Who owns you?
- Whom do you work for?
- How should you treat Jesus stuff?
- Did Jesus die for you?

C = The Son's is superior since He created all of the ages (2c)

C' = The Son is superior as He sustains all things by His word (3c)

2c Through whom also He made the world

- Escalating Jesus to God status in Genesis creation account...past view.



3c and upholds all things by the word of His power.

- Ties Jesus word to the same power as God's word which created the heavens and the earth...present and future view.

IMPLICATIONS

- With such incomprehensible power, how should we approach the 2nd person of the Trinity?
...when Jesus says, "if you love me, you will obey me"?
- Are your problems too big for Jesus?

X = The Son is superior because He is the radiance of God's glory (3a)

X' = The Son is superior because He has God's exact nature(3b)

3a&b And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature

What is Glory?

2 Corinthians 3&4

Beauty + Value + Greatness + Power

What is radiance?



What is meant by exact representation of His nature?



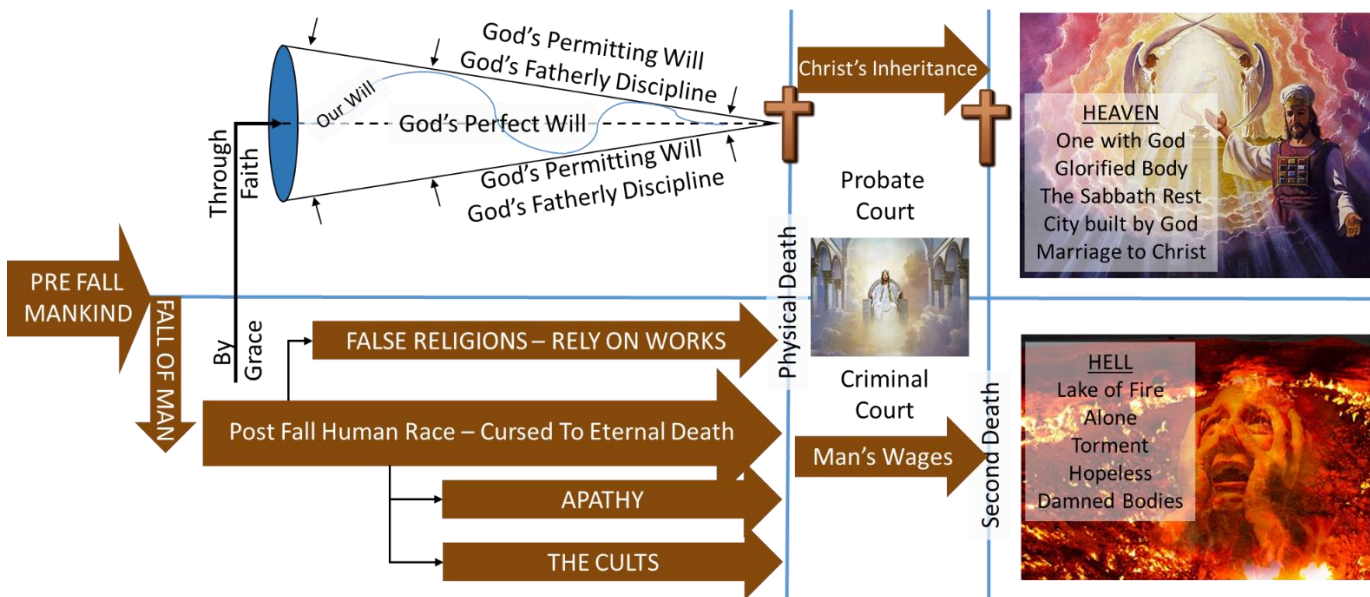
He is Risen...

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

IMPLICATIONS

- Jesus is 100% God.
- When we see Jesus we see God.
- Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, Hinduism, Judaism are false religions.
- Do we see Jesus glory? Do we see it in our "jar of clay"? Our marriage? Our local church?
- Where else should we turn for truth...salvation...resurrection power?

HEBREWS VIEW OF SALVATION / SANCTIFICATION / DISCIPLESHIP



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- God is a speaking God...He is not silent.
 - Do you hear Him speaking in the written word of God?
Hebrews 4:12 (NASB) 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - If so, are you listening to him?
 - Do you mix God's word with evil slanderous thoughts...trashy music/movies...gossip...curse words...???
- In just the first few verses, we see Jesus as...
 - Greatest and Final Prophet...Greatest and Final Priest...Greatest and Final King
 - God
 - Alive and Reigning on High
 - A Speaking Lord...by His life...death...resurrection...and ascension. His speaking now sustains our lives moment by moment.
 - How do you respond to Jesus?
 - With Awe...with fear...with curiosity...with apathy...with anger...with Joy and eagerness?
- When you are discipling someone or yourself, where should you begin?
 - Teach them the language of God
 - He exists...what is He like...He spoke and now speaks (how)...what does God say...begin with the Word of God.
 - Show them Jesus. Speak to them the Gospel of Jesus.
 - Encourage them to follow Him.