



Hebrews Bible Study

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

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HEBREWS
LESSON 1

**FIVE WARNINGS THAT CREATE
PROBLEMS FOR THOSE FROM JUST
ABOUT ALL SCHOOLS OF THEOLOGY**

BACK GROUND- METHODIST VS. BAPTIST. GRANDMOTHER.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HEBREWS? THE WARNINGS ARE WHAT HAS CALLED MORE THAN ONE COMMENTATOR I HAVE READ TO SAY IT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT BOOK IN THE BIBLE TO UNDERSTAND

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HEBREWS

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW COVENANT AND THE
OLD COVENANT**

A PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**WHAT DOES JESUS HAVE TO DO WITH ALL THIS?
THE ANSWER?**

THE OT IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE NT, AND VISE VERSA. THOUGH ADDRESSED TO JEWS, THIS BOOK HAS A TIMELESS APPLICATION SO THAT INCLUDES US. THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST OVER ALL OTHER REVELATIONS FROM GOD.

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HEBREWS

**HEBREWS MUST BE INTERPRETED FROM A 1ST
CENTURY JEWISH PERSPECTIVE**

THERE ARE TERMS THAT ARE USED THAT USUALLY HAVE A DIFFERENT MEANING TO ANY WHO ARE GENTILES AND HAVE MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO GET INTO THE MIND OF A FIRST CENTURY JEW, PARTICULARLY ONE WHO HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO FAITHFULLY FOLLOW THE TEACHING OF THEIR RABBIS.

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HEBREWS

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW COVENANT AND THE
OLD COVENANT**

**A PROPER INTERPRETATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT OR
COVENANT**

BUT ALSO:

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH

**THIS BOOK HAS A TIMELESS APPLICATION SO THAT INCLUDES US. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH MOSAIC OR LEVITICAL LAW AS GENTILES.
WHAT DOES "LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH" MEAN? THE BENEFITS OF AN INCREASING CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROMISES AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT TRUSTING GOD OR LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH.**

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WHEN WAS HEBREWS WRITTEN?

- CLEMENT OF ROME 35-99 AD, QUOTES FROM HEBREWS IN 95 A.D. BUT DOESN'T NAME THE AUTHOR
- THE TEMPLE SACRIFICES SEEM TO BE CONTINUING SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BEFORE 70 AD SO, GIVEN THE SUBJECT MATTER, IT SEEMS THE AUTHOR WOULD HAVE MENTIONED THIS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE SUPPORTING HIS POINT.
- TIMOTHY WAS STILL ALIVE (13:23) "If"
 - (PAUL WAS PROBABLY KILLED IN 67 AD)

WHAT HAS TO BE DETERMINED TO GET THE MOST ACCURATE DATE ABOUT ANY EVENT? EARLIEST AND LATEST. THE WRITER WILL SPEND MUCH TIME DEMONSTRATING HOW JESUS CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO THE SACRIFICES MADE IN THE TEMPLE AND THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD ESTABLISHED UNDER MOSAIC LAW. PLUS

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HEBREWS 8:4

- 4 In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

FIRST CHRISTIAN TO DIE WAS STEPHEN, FIRST APOSTLE TO DIE JAMES SON OF ZEBADDEE AND BROTHER OF JOHN (44AD) IN JERUSALEM. NERO'S PERSECUTION BEGAN IN 64 AD BUT WOULD ONLY APPLY IF LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO CHURCH IN ROME WHICH DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE.. COULD MEAN THAT THE SPECIFIC GROUP HE WAS WRITING TO HAD NOT SUFFERED MARTYDOM.

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- **THE BEST COMMENTARY I HAVE HAS HEBREWS WRITTEN 68-69 A.D. OR SHORTLY BEFORE**

IF THE TEMPLE HAD ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED (70 AD), SURELY THE WRITER WOULD HAVE USED THAT FACT TO STRENGTHEN HIS CASE

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WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

WHAT ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS? SOMEONE, NOT ME HAS SAID “ONLY A WOMAN COULD WRITE A LETTER 13 CHAPTERS LONG AND SAY SHE HAD “WRITTEN BRIEFLY.” NO SHORTAGE OF CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY THEOLOGIAN OVER THE CENTURIES.

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WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

- **AND THE LEADING CONTENDERS ARE:**

- PAUL
- CLEMENT OF ROME
- BARNABUS
- LUKE
- SYLVANUS-ACTS AND 1 PETER 5:12
- PHILIP
- PRISCILLA WITH HUSBAND AQUILLA*
- APOLLOS- GAINING SUPPORT (MARTIN LUTHER)

SOMEONE, NOT ME HAS SAID “ONLY A WOMAN COULD WRITE A LETTER 13 CHAPTERS LONG AND SAY SHE HAD “WRITTEN BRIEFLY.” HEB 13:22 NO SHORTAGE OF CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY THEOLOGIAN OVER THE CENTURIES.

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WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

- **MANY, MANY THEORIES AND SUGGESTIONS**
- **PAUL? PROBABLY WOULD BE THE BETTING FAVORITE IN WESTERN CHURCH BUT NOT EASTERN**
 - FROM TIME OF PANTANEUS (DIED IN 190 AD)
 - CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (150-215 AD) THOUGHT PAUL HAD WRITTEN IT ORIGINALLY IN HEBREW AND LUKE LATER TRANSLATED IT INTO GREEK
 - **THE THEOLOGY IS PAUL’S BUT THE WRITING STYLE IS NOT**

YOUR LESSON TONIGHT WILL INCLUDE A LIST OF VARIOUS POSSIBLE WRITERS BY FAR, THE TWO MOST OFTEN MENTIONED ARE PAUL AND BARNABAS , **THE FINAL POINT IS FELT TO BE THE STRENGTH OF THOSE WHO FAVOR A PAULINE AUTHORSHIP, BUT IS THAT SUCH A LAY DOWN HAND?**

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- **IF HEBREWS WASN'T WRITTEN BY PAUL, THERE WAS A LEAST A CONNECTION BETWEEN PAUL AND THE WRITER**

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- **OTHER THAN PAUL, BARNABAS IS ONLY ONE OF THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES TO HAVE EARLY SUPPORT OF 2ND AND 3RD CENTURY CHURCH HISTORIANS**

VERY SIGNIFICANT

WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

- **BARNABAS?**
 - TERTULLIAN (CARTHAGE- NORTHERN AFRICA)- 155-220 AD (HE LIVED 65 YEARS)
 - QUOTED FROM HEBREWS AND WROTE THAT IT WAS FROM AN EPISTLE (LETTER) BY BARNABAS AND IN A MANNER THAT SEEMS TO INDICATE IT WAS KNOWN BY HIS READERS)
- **IN THE ANCIENT CATALOG OF CANONICAL BOOKS CALLED CODEX CLAROMONTANUS, THE BOOK OF HEBREWS, BUT SOME HISTORIANS SAY THERE IS ANOTHER BOOK LISTED CALLED THE EPISTLE OF BARNABAS**
- **THE ONLY CANDIDATE OTHER THAN PAUL WITH EARLY SUPPORT**
- **BARNABAS WAS A LEVITE (ACTS 4:36)**

IMPORTANT. TERTULLIAN PRETTY MUCH A CONTEMPORARY OF PANTANEOS AND WAS FIRST TO USE WORD "TRINITY". SAID TO LATER IN HIS LIFE TURN TO MONTANISM, HAD ELEMENTS OF MORMONISM AND RADICAL CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS. ***** CA NON IC' AL

- **THE GOSPEL OF BARNABAS IS PART OF ISLAM BUT CONTAINS OBVIOUS ERRORS AND EVEN CONTRADICTS THE KORAN**
- **THERE IS ANOTHER EPISTLE OF BARNABAS BUT IT CAN DATE NO EARLIER THAN 130 AD SO IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY THE BARNABAS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. ALSO VERY ANTI-JEWISH AND IS IN CONFLICT WITH HEBREWS**

CHRIST---MESSIAH, HEROD----PILATE, NAZERATH-- SEA PORT (JESUS SAILED TO NAZERETH)

PAUL AND BARNABAS

- Acts 4:36–37 (NKJV)
- ³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles' feet.
- (EARLY, CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APOSTLES AND THE EARLY CHURCH)

NOTICE A LEVITE. EVIDENTLY WAS GIVEN A NICKNAME BY THE APOSTLES. "SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT. THE JEWS JOINING THIS NEW MOVEMENT, HAD HAD JOHN'S BAPTISM AND OR COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT JESUS WAS MESSIAH AND HIS SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LEVITICAL SYSTEM. LOST FAMILY RELATIONS AND INHERITANCE, LOST JOBS, LOST FRIENDS.

- Acts 9:26–27 (NKJV)
- *Saul at Jerusalem*
- ²⁶ And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

BARNABAS SEEMED TO KNOW PAUL PRETTY WELL. THEIR RELATIONSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED EARLY ON. AGAIN, MABYE THEY WERE IN RABBINICAL SCHOOL TOGETHER. AGAIN, BARNABAS WAS A LEVITE.

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- Acts 11:22–25 (NKJV)
- ²² Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart (THE NEW GENTILE CONVERTS) they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.
- ²⁵ Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.

WHEN JEWS FLED AFTER STEPHEN'S DEATH MANY JEWISH BELIEVERS FLED TO ANTIOCOCH. THEY SHARED CHRIST WITH THE OTHER JEWS AND SOME BELIEVED. THEN SOME ALSO SHARED WITH GENTILES THERE AND SOME OF MANY OF THEM ALSO BELIEVED. BARNABAS SEEMED TO KNOW PAUL WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN JEWISH AND GENTILE BELIEVERS.

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- Acts 15:35 (NKJV)
- ³⁵ Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

AGAIN, PAUL CERTAINLY HAD SHARED HIS APOSTOLIC ENLIGHTENMENT WITH BARNABAS. BARNABAS IS ALSO CALLED AN APOSTLE BUT REMEMBER THE WORD MEANS MESSENGER. BIG A APOSTLE AND LITTLE A APOSTLE.

- Galatians 2:11–13 (NKJV)
- *No Return to the Law*
- ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

IT IS EASY TO FORGET THE SIGNIFICANCE AND COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GROWING NUMBER OF GENTILES WHO WERE BECOMING BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST. PAUL HAD CERTAINLY GRASPED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE OLD COVENANT TO THE NEW COVENANT THAN OTHERS INCLUDING BARNABAS. **THESE VERSES POINT TO THE DIFFICULTY MANY IF NOT MOST, JEWS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH GENTILES BEING SLOWLY BUT SURELY INCREASING IN THE CHURCH. LETS BE HONEST. IT'S HARD TO GO OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONE. CERTAINLY, BARNABUS WOULD HAVE BEEN EMBARRASSED AT HIS FAILUE IN ANTIOCH. HE WOULD HAVE NATURALLY WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS AND THERE WAS NO ONE BETTER THAN PAUL. THE THEOLOGY WAS PAUL'S.**

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WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

- EARLY CHURCH HISTORIAN EUSEBIUS QUOTES AN EVEN EARLIER CHURCH HISTORIAN, ORIGEN (184-253 AD) AS SAYING “GOD ONLY KNOWS”.

BARNABAS SPENT MUCH TIME UNDER PAUL’S TEACHING. HIS THEOLOGY WAS BE THE SAME AS PAUL’S BUT HIS STYLE WOULD BE DIFFERENT. PAUL TYPICALLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF BUT ISN’T EVEN MENTIONED IN HEBREWS. MAYBE HE HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED. HE WAS KILLED IN HIS HOME TOWN SALASMIS, CYPRUS. HEAD IS IN TOULOUSE, FRANCE. REST OF BODY IN SALAMIS. MARK SEEMS TO HAVE ESCAPED.

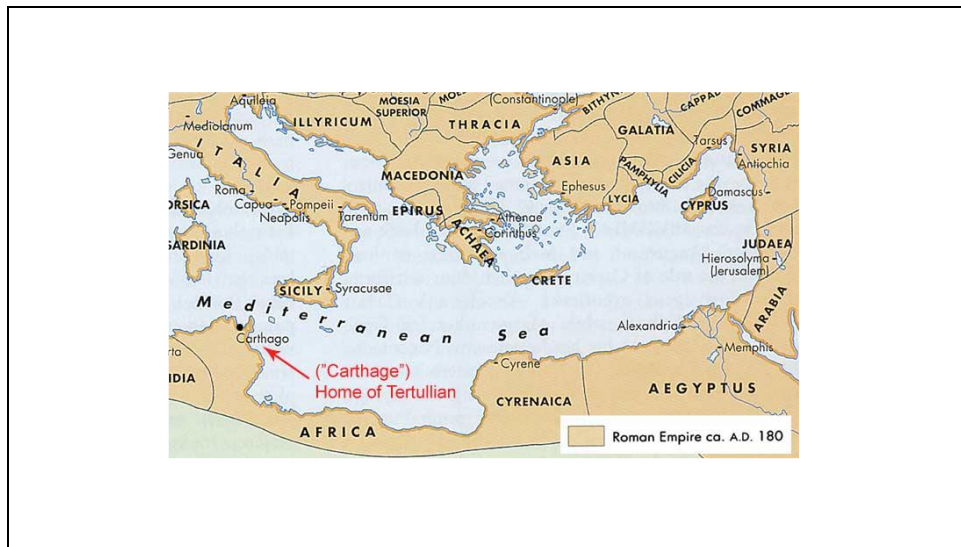
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- WILL THE REAL WRITER OF HEBREWS PLEASE STAND UP

WHO WAS HEBREWS WRITTEN TO?

- THE READERS HAD A HISTORY KNOWN BY THE WRITER (10:32-34, 6:10)
- THE WRITER PLANNED TO VISIT THEM (13:19, 23)
- THE WRITER ASKED FOR THEIR PRAYERS (13:18)
- THE READERS WERE PRIMARILY JEWISH IN BACKGROUND
POSSIBLY IN ISRAEL BUT.....

ALMOST CERTAINLY WRITTEN TO A CHURCH DOMINATED BY JEWISH CHRISTIANS.



POINT OUT JERUSALEM, CYPRUS (HOME OF BARNABAS), ALEXANDRIA (GREAT LIBRARY), CYRENE (SO PROMINENT IN ACTS AND EVEN IN CHRIST'S PROCESSION TO CROSS), AND CARTHAGE (HOME OF TERTULLIAN) ALL ON OBVIOUS TRADE ROUTES
ALEXANDRIA HAD BECOME THE LARGEST URBAN CENTER OF JUDISM IN ALL THE WORLD. THE SEPTUAGINT WAS PRODUCED THERE.

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EARLY SIGNIFICANCE OF CYRENE

- **Matthew 27:32 (NKJV)**
- **³² Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.**

THERE IS A LOT OF REFERENCES TO JEWS ASSOCIATED WITH CYRENE.

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EARLY SIGNIFICANCE OF CYRENE

- **Acts 2:10 (NKJV)**
- **¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,**

PRESENT AND MANY WITNESSED THE MIRACLE AT PENTECOST.

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EARLY SIGNIFICANCE OF CYRENE

- Acts 11:20 (NKJV)
- ²⁰ But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

THERE COULD CERTAINLY HAVE GROWN UP A SECT OF CHRISTIANS STILL STRUGGLEING WITH LEAVING MOSAIC LAW BEHIND.

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EARLY SIGNIFICANCE OF CYRENE

- Acts 13:1 (NKJV)
- 13 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

THE GOSPEL WAS REACHING JEWS LIVING IN GENTILE LANDS VERY EARLY IN CHURCH AND SOON AFTER THE RESURRECTION. . ME? I LEAN TOWARD BARNABUS. HE WAS BORN AND WAS BURIED IN SALAMIS, ON YHE ISLAND OF CYPRUS. CYRENE AND ALEXANDRIA ARE STRONG CANDIDATES FOR BEING THE ORIGINAL RECEIPIENTS OF THE LETTER

THEORIES GAINING POPULARITY

- TO PRIMARILY JEWISH BELIEVERS IN NORTHERN AFRICA AND/OR CYPRUS
- THE BOOK OF HEBREWS WAS WRITTEN TO THE JEWISH SECT OF ESSENES AT QUMRAN

POSSIBLY WRITTEN BY AN ESSENE PRIEST. WOULD EXPLAIN BY THE WRITER COMPARES JESUS WITH ANGELS EARLY ON. THE ESSENES TAUGHT THAT ANGELS WOULD RULE DURING THE KINGDOM.

TWO OPTIONS FOR THE READERS OF HEBREWS:

1. GO BACK INTO PHARISAIC JUDAISM IN EFFECT DENYING THEIR BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST WHICH WILL RESULT IN DEATH IN 70 AD. LOSS OF "PHYSICAL SALVATION" AND PRESENT AND FUTURE "INHERITANCE"
2. MAKE A FINAL BREAK WITH JUDAISM AND GO ON TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND EXPERIENCE THE "REST" THAT IS PROMISED

I ADDED "PHARISAIC". BIBLICAL JUDAISM WOULD NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH CHRIST'S REJECTION. THAT IS IN O.T. PROPHECY. BY APPLICATION, WE ARE TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAK WITH OUR OLD LIVES WHEN SCRIPTURE DEMANDS IT, OR FACE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES RANGING FROM PREMATURE DEATH OR DESERVED SUFFERING FROM GOD TO BREAK US AND BRING US BACK TO PRACTICING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST.

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- Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)
- **Him Whom They Have Pierced**
- ¹⁰ “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a **spirit** of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

EVEN DANIEL PROPHISIZES MESSIAH WILL BE “CUT OFF” OR KILLED. HEBREWS WAS WRITTEN TO A GENERATION OF ISRAEL THAT IS CURSED. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER GENERATION OF JEWS WHO WILL COME TO KNOW THEIR FOREFATHERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR REJECTING THE KINGDOM AND COME TO FAITH IN JESUS RECOGNIZING HIM AS MESSIAH. THE TRIBULATION GENERATION.

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