

Hebrews: Introduction

1. Salvation and the book of Hebrews: Hebrews focuses upon sanctification and glorification salvation.

a. Salvation is a multifaceted truth: 3 main aspects

ASPECTS OF SALVATION



Free Gift	Process	Evaluation
as a result of trusting Christ for salvation (John 3:16; Acts 16:31 Rom 3:24; Rev 22:17)	of abundant growth/maturity (John 10:10; Phil 2:12; 3:1-14 2 Pet 1:5-9)	to determine reward (Matt 16:24-27; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Cor 5:10; Col 3:23-25; Rev 3:21; 22:12)
Theological: Justification Past Aspect: have been saved	Theological: Sanctification Present Aspect: am being saved	Theological: Glorification Future Aspect: will be saved
Offer: Whosoever will Basis: Faith alone in Christ Description: Free Gift How often: One time	Offer: Christ's disciples Basis: Faith resulting in loving obedience Description: Works and deeds How often: Lifetime process	Offer: All believers Basis: Faithful obedience Description: Various degrees of reward How often: One time at the judgment seat of Christ

credit given to Kem Oberholtzer

b. Further clarification on the terminology: justification, sanctification, glorification

- i. Justification: **2 types** and Abraham's example of both Gen 15:6; 22:1-15
 1. Imputed: Free gift. Rom 4:1-5 (without works)
 2. Imparted: Process of maturity. James 2:21-26 (with works)
- ii. Sanctification: a setting apart for a holy purpose. **2 types**
 1. Positional: One time act at salvation. 1 Cor 1:2; Heb 3:1
 2. Experiential: A process of maturity. John 17:17; Eph 5:25-26; 1 Thes 5:23-24
- iii. Glorification: a changing into a body like Christ's
 1. All will be changed. 1 Cor 15:51-53
 2. All will not have the same amount of "glory". 1 Cor 15:40-43

2. Preliminary Information: A puzzling Book

- a. Authorship: Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Luke, etc? Not conclusive; still unknown.
 - i. Who ever wrote it had a great command of Greek and the Old Testament.
- b. Who were the intended recipients?
 - i. The exact local body of believers is uncertain.
 - ii. The nature of crisis and setting in life is uncertain.
- c. Genre is not clear, but is probably a sermon intended to be read to the congregation at one sitting.

3. Major themes or thrusts

- a. Heb 1:1-4 is the controlling theme for the book, Christology and His Christ's Melchizedekian Priesthood is a major theme in Hebrews. Heb 5:10-11. Typological key to unlock the apocalyptic connection between the OT and NT. A heavenly ministry in the holy of holies.
- b. The New Covenant and its application to Israel and the Church
- c. Judgment or Reward; Wrath or Rest
- d. Grace is not a license to sin. Via the Exodus generation example, Hebrews gives the most systematic explanation of the result of continual sin by God's people.
- e. Perseverance and maturity of believers are major themes. Heb 6:1; 10:19-25

4. Views concerning the 5 warning passages

- a. The book is centered around 5 warnings: Hebrews 2:1-5; 3:7-4:13; 6:4-8; 10:26-39; 12:25-29.
- b. Heb 13:22: the letter was written to all the readers, not a portion.
- c. Controversy, who is being warned and to what do the warnings pertain?
- d. 3 Main views.
 - i. Calvinist: Spurious or "false" believers. "Professors but not possessors."
 - ii. Arminian: "True" believers in danger of losing eternal life.
 1. Note the similarity of the Calvinist and Arminian view; both emphasize.
 - iii. **Partaker**: Believers in danger of losing their inheritance/reward. **This is the correct view.**
- e. Unity of the warnings: They build upon each other and compliment each other. The Exodus generation is used as an example for individual Christians.

5. Why the warnings?

- a. Love: God and the author knew the grave danger accompanying apostasy (falling away).
- b. Written to believers in danger of losing reward. Focused on the coming great Day of Judgment for believers, the Judgment Seat of Christ. Use of personal pronouns "we" and "us" over 24 times.
- c. Motivation to preserve: Fear of God's righteous judgment and our subsequent experience of His wrath!
- d. Pleasing God and experiencing the joy of the Lord (reward) is what God wants for all believers.

General Outline of the Book of Hebrews

I. God's final revelation through His Son is preeminently superior over all (1:1-2:18).

- A. Jesus is superior to the Old Testament prophets (1:1-4).
- B. Jesus is superior to all the angels (1:5-14).
- C. The Hebrews are warned against drifting from their so great salvation (2:1-18).

II. The Hebrews are warned not to repeat the unbelief of the Exodus generation (3:1-4:13).

- A. Jesus is superior to Moses (3:1-6).
- B. The Exodus generation judgment is used to warn the Hebrews (3:7-19).
- C. The Hebrews are warned to be reverently diligent to enter God's rest (4:1-13).

III. The order of Melchizedek is superior to Old Testament Worship (4:14-10:18).

- A. In contrast to the Aaronic Priesthood the Melchizedekian is perfect (5:1-10).
- B. Their persistent immaturity is pushing them toward apostasy and judgment (5:11-6:8).
- C. God's faithfulness can be trusted for better results (6:9-20).
- D. The Melchizedekian Priesthood of Christ is superior to the Levitical Priesthood (7:1-28).
- E. The high priesthood of Christ has inaugurated the new covenant (8:1-10:18).

IV. The Hebrews are admonished to obey the glory of New Testament worship (10:19-13:25).

- A. The Hebrews are warned to practice the priesthood of Christ (10:19-39).
- B. The faith of Old Testament heroes are examples to follow (11:1-40).
- C. The example of Christ is a pattern to follow in the trials of adversity (12:1-17).
- D. The glory of Mt. Zion far surpasses the austerity of Mt. Sinai (12:18-29).
- E. The Hebrews are given general ethical admonitions (13:1-19).
- F. The benediction exhorts the Hebrews to bear the warnings of the book (13:20-25).