NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 58 OF 66

# Hebrews

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever (13:8)*

| 13 | Paul | c. A.D. 64–68 | “Better” |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chapters, 303 Verses | Author | Written | Key Word |

STRUCTURE

## The Book in Six Parts

Hebrews moves back and forth between teaching and exhortation. The first half shows who Christ is and what He has done; the second half calls believers to draw near, hold fast and run with patience.




Each bar shows that part’s share of the 303 verses.

I · 1 · 32 verses

### The Son

God’s final word; greater than the angels.

II · 2 · 32 verses

### Moses and Rest

A Son over His house; a rest that remains.

III · 3 · 65 verses

### High Priest

Sympathetic, sinless, after the order of Melchisedec.

IV · 4 · 59 verses

### Better Covenant

A better sanctuary; one sacrifice once for all.

V · 5 · 90 verses

### Faith

Draw near, hold fast, run the race.

VI · 6 · 25 verses

### Exhortations

Love, faithfulness and the God of peace.

BACKGROUND

## A Word of Exhortation

13:22

### A Written Sermon

The writer calls it “the word of exhortation.”

10:32–34

### Suffered Before

They had endured reproach and the spoiling of their goods.

2:1; 10:35

### Tempted to Drift

Now some were weary and in danger of turning back.

5:12

### Dull of Hearing

They needed milk when they should have been teachers.

13:23

### Timothy Set Free

Paul writes of his helper Timothy and hopes to visit with him.

13:24

### From Italy

“They of Italy salute you.”

THE KEY WORD

## Jesus Is Better

Again and again the letter shows that Christ is better than what came before.

| WHAT CAME BEFORE | CHRIST IS BETTER |
|---|---|
| The prophets spoke in many ways<br>1:1 | God has spoken by His Son<br>1:2 |
| The angels are ministering spirits<br>1:14 | The Son sits at God’s right hand<br>1:13 |
| Moses, a faithful servant<br>3:5 | Christ, a Son over His own house<br>3:6 |
| Joshua gave Canaan<br>4:8 | A rest remains for God’s people<br>4:9 |
| Aaron’s priests died<br>7:23 | Christ ever liveth to intercede<br>7:25 |
| The blood of bulls and goats<br>10:4 | His own blood, once for all<br>9:12 |

HEBREWS AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

# Warnings, Our High Priest and Melchisedec

FIVE WARNINGS

## Do Not Turn Away

1 2:1–4

### Do Not Drift

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation.”

2 3:7–4:13

### Do Not Harden

“To day if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your hearts.”

3 5:11–6:12

### Grow Up

“let us go on unto perfection.”

4 10:26–39

### Do Not Draw Back

“Cast not away therefore your confidence.”

5 12:25–29

### Do Not Refuse

“See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh.”

The warnings call every reader to hold fast to Christ: “we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (10:39).

CHAPTERS 4:14–5:10

## Our Great High Priest

4:14

### Passed into the Heavens

Jesus the Son of God.

4:15

### Touched with Our Weakness

Tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin.

5:8

### Learned Obedience

By the things which He suffered.

> *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*
>
> Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

CHAPTER 7

## After the Order of Melchisedec

7:1–3 · GENESIS 14

### King and Priest

King of Salem, priest of the most high God; king of righteousness and king of peace.

7:4–10

### Greater than Abraham

Abraham gave him a tenth and was blessed by him.

7:17 · PSALM 110:4

### A Priest for Ever

“Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

7:27

### Offered Himself Once

Not daily, as those high priests, but once.

> *“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*
>
> Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)

HEBREWS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

# The New Covenant and Once for All

CHAPTERS 8–9

## The Old and New Covenants

| THE FIRST COVENANT | THE NEW COVENANT |
| --- | --- |
| An earthly tabernacle, a pattern<br>8:5 | The true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched<br>8:2 |
| Laws on tables of stone<br>9:4 | Laws written in their hearts<br>8:10 |
| High priest enters once a year<br>9:7 | Christ entered in once for all<br>9:12 |
| Blood of goats and calves<br>9:12 | By His own blood<br>9:12 |
| Purifying of the flesh<br>9:13 | Purges the conscience from dead works<br>9:14 |

HEBREWS 9:27–28

### Once Offered, Coming Again

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

CHAPTER 10:1–18

## Once for All

1 10:4

### Not Possible

The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins.

2 10:10

### Sanctified

Through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

3 10:12

### Sat Down

One sacrifice for sins for ever; the work is finished.

> *"For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."*
>
> Hebrews 10:14 (KJV)

CHAPTER 10:19–25

## Three "Let Us" Calls

10:22 · FAITH

### Let Us Draw Near

With a true heart in full assurance of faith.

10:23 · HOPE

### Let Us Hold Fast

The profession of our faith without wavering.

10:24 · LOVE

### Let Us Consider One Another

To provoke unto love and to good works.

# Heroes of Faith, the Race, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 11

## The Heroes of Faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (11:1).

11:4–7
### Abel, Enoch, Noah
A better sacrifice; walked with God; prepared an ark.

11:8–19
### Abraham and Sarah
Went out not knowing whither; offered up Isaac.

11:20–22
### Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
Blessed by faith the things to come.

11:23–29
### Moses
Chose affliction with God's people; passed through the Red Sea.

11:30–31
### Jericho and Rahab
The walls fell; Rahab perished not.

11:32–38
### Judges, Kings, Prophets
"Of whom the world was not worthy."

CHAPTER 12

## Run the Race

12:1
### Lay Aside
Every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.

12:2
### Look unto Jesus
The author and finisher of our faith.

12:6
### A Father's Discipline
"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."

| NOT MOUNT SINAI · 12:18–21 | BUT MOUNT SION · 12:22–24 |
|---|---|
| Fire, blackness, darkness and tempest | The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem |
| 12:18 | 12:22 |
| NOT MOUNT SINAI · 12:18–21 | BUT MOUNT SION · 12:22–24 |
| So terrible that Moses feared and quaked | Jesus the mediator of the new covenant |
| 12:21 | 12:24 |

BIG IDEAS

## Key Themes

### The Supreme Son
God's final word, fully God and fully man.
1:1–3; 2:14

### Our High Priest
Sympathetic, sinless, ever living.
4:14–16; 7:25

### The New Covenant
Better promises, the law on the heart.
8:6–13

### Once for All
One sacrifice that never needs repeating.
9:12; 10:10–14

### Faith and Endurance
Hold fast and run with patience.
10:23; 11:1; 12:1–2

### Solemn Warnings
Do not drift, harden or draw back.
2:1; 3:12; 10:26

KEY VERSE

*"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

**Hebrews 12:2 (KJV)**