

I. Introduction to the book of Hebrews.

A. Why study Hebrews?

1. The book of Hebrews exalts Christ!
2. The book of Hebrews explains how the Old and New Testaments fit together.
3. The book of Hebrews is one of the most important books in the Bible.
4. The book of Hebrews is practical theology. 10:24 13:22

B. Who wrote Hebrews?

1. Various theories have been proposed: Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Priscilla, Jude, etc.
2. As long as we know the Divine author, it is not necessary that we identify the human author. 1:1-2a 12:25 II Ti. 3:16-17 II Pe. 1:21
3. What can we know about the human author? 11:32 13:19,23 2:3-4

C. To whom was Hebrews written?

1. To a particular Jewish (Hellenistic) congregation. 10:32
2. To a community in crisis. 10:32-34,19,25 6:10 13:3 12:4 5:12 3:3,12-14 4:16 2:3

D. When was Hebrews written? 8:4 9:6 10:32-34 Early to mid-60s AD?

E. What is the purpose of the book of Hebrews? 13:22 8:1 A pastoral sermon.

1. The great theme of Hebrews is the superiority of Christ, which is developed through expounding key Old Testament texts.
 - a. Prologue: Jesus brings superior revelation. 1:1-4
 - b. Jesus is superior to the angels. 1:5-2:18 Ps. 2:1f 110:1f 8:4-7
 - c. Jesus is superior to Moses. 3:1-4:13 Ps. 95:7-11 better prophet
 - d. Jesus is superior to Aaron. 4:14-7:28 Ps. 110:4 better priesthood: heavenly
 - e. Jesus is superior to the Old Covenant. 8:1-10:18 Jer. 31:31-34 Ps. 40:6-8
 - f. Practical exhortations. 10:19- 13:1-25
2. The author challenges Jewish believers to hear God's voice and to persevere in faith, not turning back in the face of suffering. 2:1-3 3:12f 4:1f 10:19f 12:25

F. The author introduces his great themes in the prologue. 1:1-4

II. God has spoken climactically through His Son. 1:1-2a

A. God is not silent! v. 1a Isa. 45:18f

1. God has chosen to reveal Himself. 2:1f 3:7,15-16 4:2,12-13 6:13 11:3 12:25-27 6:18
2. When God speaks we must listen. 12:25 3:15 4:12
3. How can we know God has really spoken? I Cor. 2:11-14

B. God spoke long ago through the prophets. v. 1b Ex. 20:18-21

1. God spoke through various prophets in various ways. Num. 12:6-8 Ex. 33:18
2. The prophets spoke of the Son who was to come. I Pe. 1:10-12 Gen. 3:15 Lu. 24:27
3. Gods Word through the prophets is infallibly recorded in the Old Testament. II Pe. 1:20-21 II Ti. 3:16
4. While the Word of God through the Prophets was inerrant, it was not complete.

C. God's has spoken in a superior way through His Son. v. 2a

1. In what ways is this a better revelation?

2. What is so significant about God speaking through the Son? 1:5,8 3:6 4:14
3. How can the author say *in these last days* thousands of years ago? 9:26 6:5 Js. 5:3 Nu. 24:14 Je. 23:20 Da. 10:14 Acts 2:17 I Co. 10:11 II Ti. 3:1 II Pe. 3:3 I Pe. 1:20
4. The Word of God through the Son is recorded in the New Testament. Eph. 2:20

D. Should we expect God to continue to speak to us today?

1. The revelation of the Son is God's decisive and final revelatory act in this age.
2. Some have falsely and destructively claimed revelation from God after Christ.
3. Those claiming to be prophets don't meet God's perfect standard. Dt. 13:1f 18:18f
4. Instead of seeking new speech from God, we should devote ourselves to understanding the full and sufficient revelation already given. Psalm 1

III. What makes the Son so much better? v. 2b-4

- A. The Son is Heir (Owner) of all things. v. 2b 1:6 Ps. 2:8 Mt.11:27 Co. 1:15-16 I Co. 15:24-28 Rev. 5:6 Rom. 4:13
- B. The Son is the eternal and wise Creator. v. 2c 1:10-12 3:4 7:3 13:8 Jo. 1:2-3 Col. 1:16 Pr. 8:22f
- C. The Son is the radiance of God's glory. v. 3a Jo. 1:14 8:12 Ex. 40:34f II Co. 4:6 3:18.
- D. He is the exact representation of God's nature. v. 3b Co. 1:15,19 2:9 Jo. 1:18 14:9
- E. The Son upholds (sustains) all things by the word of His power. v. 3c Col. 1:17b
- F. He has made complete purification for our sins all by Himself. v. 3d 9:13-14,22-23 10:1,11-12,22 Ex. 29:37 30:10 Lev. 16:19 I Pe. 1:18-19
- G. The Son has sat down and is exalted at the right hand of the Majesty on high. v. 3e 1:13 8:1 10:12 12:2 7:26 Eph. 1:19-20 Ps. 110:1 92:4 112:5 Mt. 28:18 26:64-67 Phil. 2:9-11 I Ti. 3:16 I Pe. 3:22 Acts 7:55f Rev. 5:6
- H. The Son has inherited a better name than the angels. v. 4

IV. Concluding applications.

A. What should we conclude about the Son?

1. He is Prophet through Whom God's final Word has come to us.
2. He is Priest Who made purification for our sins.
3. He is King Who reigns over all.
4. He is God!

B. Do you want to hear God speak? Listen to God's voice through His Son.

Questions for discussion

1. What do we know about the author of the book of Hebrews?
2. What do we know about the recipients of the book of Hebrews?
3. What is Hebrews all about?
4. Why does the church today need the book of Hebrews?
5. How is God's speech through the Son superior to what He revealed through the prophets?
6. How can the author say that he was *in these last days*?
7. Should we expect God to continue to speak to us today? Why or why not?
8. Where in our text can you identify Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King?
9. What is the only conclusion which can be drawn about the identity of the Son?
10. What should we do with the revelation God has given us?