

## Outline of the Book of Hebrew

- I. Prologue: The Superiority of God's Final Prophet (1:1-4)
  - A. The Heir of all things
  - B. The Agent of creation
  - C. The outshining of the glory of God
  - D. The revelation of the exact nature of God
  - E. The Sustainer of the universe
  - F. He purified his people from their sins
  - G. He is received the place of honor at God's right hand
  
- II. The Superiority of Christ to Key Figures of the Old Covenant (1:5-7:28)

- A. **Christ is superior to the angels** (1:5-2:18)

- 1. Scriptural proof of superiority (1:5-14)
    - 2. Exhortation not to ignore the revelation of God in his Son (2:1-4)
    - 3. Further Scriptural proof of superiority over the angels (2:5-18)

The Incarnation enabled Christ to be our Redeemer.

- B. **Christ is superior to Moses** (3:1-4:13)

- 1. Demonstration of Christ's superiority (3:1-6)
    - 2. Exhortation to enter salvation-rest (3:7-4:13)

The perils of unbelief and rebellion

- C. **Christ's priesthood is superior to the Aaronic Priests** (4:14-7:28)

- 1. Exhortation to hold fast (4:14-16)
    - 2. Qualifications of a priest (5:1-10)
    - 3. Warning to abandon spiritual lethargy (5:11-6:12)
    - 4. Certainty of God's promises (6:13-20)
    - 5. The uniqueness of Melchizedek (7:1-10)
    - 6. Christ's superior priesthood (Chp. 7)

A key verse: v. 12: *For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.*

a. Like that of Melchizedek

1) An indestructible life

2) Appointed by an oath of God (Psalm 110:4)

b. His never failing intercessory ministry (v.25)

c. His special qualifications as a priest (v. 26ff)

1) holy

2) innocent

3) unstained

4) separated from sinners

5) exalted above the heavens

### III. The Superiority of Christ's Sacrificial Work (Chps. 8-10)

#### A. A better covenant (Chp. 8)

1. Founded on better promises – v. 8-13 (see Jer. 31:31-34)

a. The law of God would be internalized in God's people (v. 10)

b. God will be their God and they will know him (v. 11)

c. God will forgive their sins (v. 12)

#### B. A better sanctuary (Chp. 9)

1. The sanctuary (tent or tabernacle) under the law (v. 1-10)

2. The heavenly (true) sanctuary where Christ entered (v. 11-15)

#### C. A better sacrifice (9:13-10:18)

1. The requirement of blood (death) under the Old Covenant (v. 16-22)

2. Christ's ministry in heaven (v. 23-28)

3. The ineffectiveness of the OT sacrifices 10:1-4)

4. Christ's better sacrifice (10:5-18)

a. The offering up of his body according to the will of God (v.8-18)

b. This sacrifice was efficacious to forgive sins.

### IV. Exhortations based on Christ's high priestly ministry (10:19-39)

- A. Draw near to God in full assurance of faith, knowing that we are completely cleansed from all sins (v. 22)
- B. Hold fast our confession of faith (v. 23)
- C. Fail not to meet together for mutual exhortation and encouragement (v. 24-25)
- D. Fearful warning of apostasy (turning away from Christ) (v. 26-31)
- E. Encouragement and exhortation to have faith and persevere (v.32-39)

#### V. Final Plea for Persevering Faith (Chp. 11-12)

- A. Description of faith (11:1-2)
- B. Examples of heroes of the faith who held fast to God in faith through extreme trials of various sorts (11: 3-39),
- C. Exhortation to forsake sin and run with endurance the race of faith, following the example of Jesus. (12:1-4)
- D. The Lord's discipline of his people (11:5-11)
- E. Exhortations to Godly living (11:12-17)
- F. The greatness of God's final revelation (12:18-29)
  - Exhortations based on this revelation (12:25-29)

#### VI. Practical Applications (Chp. 13)

- A. Commands for Christian living (13:1-17)
- B. Request for prayer (13:18-19)
- C. Benediction (13:20-21)
- D. Greetings and final benediction (13:22-25)

(adapted from NIV Study Bible)

(sermon by Jeff Gregory)