



Epistles

Epistle to the Hebrews

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

What does all that mean?
What's it about?

Hebrews

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Mixing the Gospel
with Faith

Hebrews 1:1

One of the most astounding statements in Scripture

- ◆ This is about the work of God
- ◆ It is about the revelation of God
- ◆ God's Word in the OT through the prophets is now superseded
- ◆ Jesus is God's Word, the Heir of all things, the Creator, the Glory and Image of God, Prophet, Priest, and King

Purpose and Argument

- ◆ Why did the author write what he wrote?
- ◆ How is the content organized in order to achieve his purpose?

Purpose and Argument

- ◆ Heb 10:32-34 - the readers' early walk
- ◆ Heb 2:1 - danger of drifting away
- ◆ Heb 3:12 - danger of unbelief and departing from God
- ◆ Heb 4:1 - danger of coming short of God's rest
- ◆ Heb 5:9-14 - danger of becoming dull of hearing
- ◆ Heb 6:6 - danger of falling away

Purpose and Argument

- ◆ In light of the concerns of the writer and how the book is arranged, a key verse that summarizes the argument of the book is Heb 4:2
 - ◆ “The gospel” - chapters 1-10
 - ◆ “Mixing” it with faith - chapters 11-13

Summary of Hebrews

Because of persecution and opposition, the Hebrew believers were returning to the practices of Judaism. The author's letter is a strong argument, giving key reasons why they need to stop living as Jews and to live as followers of Jesus. They had settled for what was good but temporary and insufficient in place of what far exceeds the Old Covenant, is permanent and perfect.

The Gospel

1. We have a better revelation, which is complete in Christ (Jesus vs Angels, Heb 1, 2)
2. We live under the Son, not a Servant (Jesus vs Moses, Heb 3)
3. We have God's rest made available in Christ (Jesus vs Joshua, Heb 4)
4. We have a better and perfect High Priest (Jesus vs Levitical Priesthood, Heb 5-8)
5. We have a better Covenant (Jesus vs The Old Covenant, Heb 9, 10)

The Gospel

1. We have a better revelation, which is complete in Christ (Jesus vs Angles, Heb 1, 2)
 - Jesus, who revealed God to us, is God's own image, the creator, exalted above angels, seated at the right hand of God after securing our salvation (ch 1)
 - Therefore, we must give earnest heed to that revelation (ch 2)
 - Prophetic revelation mediated through angels had its own consequences if rejected, so this revelation is much more significant. There is a privilege and responsibility to receiving God's revelation.

The Gospel

2. We live under the Son, not a Servant (Jesus vs Moses, Heb 3)
- Moses was a servant
 - Jesus is a son and the builder
 - Don't harden your hearts; we are partakers of Christ as Israel were partakers of Moses
 - Those under Moses forfeited the promise and God's rest because of unbelief

The Gospel

3. We have God's rest made available in Christ (Jesus vs Joshua, Heb 4)
 - A promise remains, but it can also be missed through unbelief
 - The gospel isn't profitable if not mixed with faith
 - The Word has power to do its work in us
 - We have access to the throne of grace because of our High Priest

The Gospel

4. We have a better and perfect High Priest (Jesus vs Levitical Priesthood, Heb 5-8)
- Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek, not like Levitical priests (5:1-11)
 - (Lack of maturity results in immature training. Since we can't go back and start over, we need to move on to maturity [5:12-6:12])
 - The lesser is blessed by the greater (6:13-20)
 - Melchizedek was superior to Abraham, and his priesthood was eternal (7)
 - Our perfect High Priest ministers in the heavenly tabernacle (8)
 - The old covenant is obsolete (8:13)

The Gospel

5. We have a better Covenant (Jesus vs The Old Covenant, Heb 9, 10)
- The fulfillment of the old is met in the new (9:1-14)
 - Jesus is mediator of the New Covenant (9:15-28)
 - The Old Covenant could not make partakers perfect, but Jesus offered one perfect sacrifice, bringing sacrifices to an end as promised (10:1-18)
 - In light of Jesus's provision, we must boldly exercise our spiritual privileges and fellowship with all perseverance (10:19-39)

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Mixing the Gospel with Faith

1. We have a great cloud of witnesses to the results of mixing the gospel with faith (Heb 11)
2. We must embrace and act upon the provisions of our Covenant, our Perfect Mediator and Priest by identifying with Him and diligently running our race, at whatever cost (Heb 12, 13)

Mixing the Gospel with Faith

1. We have a great cloud of witnesses to the results of mixing the gospel with faith (Heb 11)
 - The testimony of witnesses to living by faith (11:1-38)
 - Our place is to share in the ultimate reward (11:39, 40)

Mixing the Gospel with Faith

2. We must embrace and act upon the provisions of our Covenant, our Perfect Mediator and Priest by identifying with Him and diligently running our race, at whatever cost (Heb 12, 13)
 - In light of our provisions in Jesus, we must lay aside sin and run our race with endurance, looking to Jesus (12:1-3)
 - Discipline is proof of sonship, which should strengthen us, considering our position before God and the spiritual realm (12:4-24)
 - Let us serve Him with grace (12:25-29)
 - Our identification with Jesus includes exclusion and suffering (13)

Summary of Hebrews

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”

— Hebrews 4:1,2

There is a privilege and responsibility to receiving God's revelation.

Hebrews 13:20, 21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

