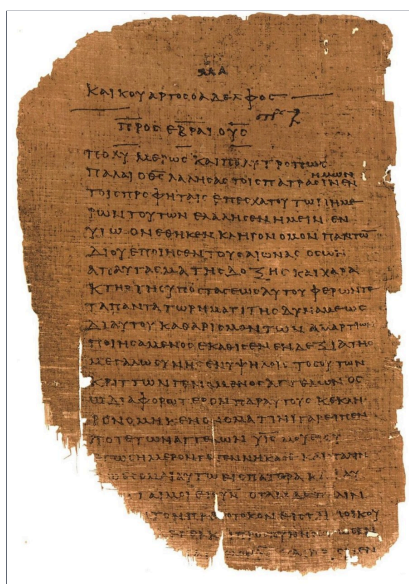


HEBREWS

Something Better

AUTHOR	Unknown. The letter never names its writer. Origen, about AD 240, said only God knows. See The Big Question pages, p.-.
WRITTEN FROM	Unknown. Those from Italy send you greetings, 13:24, so maybe Italy, or Italians living somewhere else.
DATE WRITTEN	Most likely about AD 60 to 69, while the temple sacrifices were still going on, 10:1 to 2. Some date it about AD 80 to 90.
WRITTEN TO	Believers in Jesus with a Jewish background, maybe in Rome or Jerusalem, who were tempted to go back to the old ways.
WHY HE WROTE	To show that Jesus is better than everything that came before Him, and to beg them not to drift away.
KEY VERSE	Hebrews 12:2. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.



THE OLDEST COPY OF HEBREWS

This is a page of Papyrus 46, a book of Paul's letters copied in Egypt about AD 200. At the top are the last words of Romans, and Quartus our brother, Romans 16:23. Under them is the title, To Hebrews, and the letter begins: On many past occasions and in many different ways, 1:1. A few lines down is the rare Greek word for radiance, 1:3. The page runs to about 1:7. Public domain.

Historical Setting

Hebrews reads like a sermon with a short note at the end; the writer calls it a word of encouragement, 13:22. His readers had a Jewish background and had already suffered for Jesus. They lost property, and some went to prison, 10:32 to 34. Now years had passed.

Jesus had not come back yet, some were skipping church, and the temple in Jerusalem, with its priests and sacrifices, still looked solid. Going back must have looked easy. So the writer walks through the Old Testament, the angels, Moses, the priests and the sacrifices, and shows that Jesus is better than all of it.

What Was Going Wrong

- DRIFTING.** Slowly sliding away from the faith, 2:1 and 3:12.
- SLOW LEARNERS.** They should have been teachers, but still needed milk, 5:11 to 12.
- SKIPPING CHURCH.** Some had stopped meeting together, 10:25.
- PRESSURE.** Insults, lost property and prison, 10:32 to 34 and 13:3.
- GOING BACK.** The pull of the old system of priests, food rules and sacrifices, 13:9 to 13.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Hebrews has one big word: better. Jesus is better than the angels and better than Moses. He is a better priest, with a better covenant, a better sacrifice and better promises. Everything in the Old Testament worship, the tabernacle, the priests and the blood, was a shadow pointing to Him. The book holds some of the strongest warnings in the Bible and some of its warmest comfort. Its answer to every problem is the same: fix your eyes on Jesus.

Hebrews at a Glance

CH 1 to 2	BETTER THAN ANGELS The Son is God's last word. He became human to rescue us.
CH 3 to 4	BETTER THAN MOSES Do not harden your hearts. A rest still waits for God's people.
CH 5 to 7	A BETTER PRIEST A priest forever like Melchizedek, who lives to pray for us.
CH 8 to 10	A BETTER COVENANT One sacrifice, once for all, opens the way to God.
CH 11	THE HALL OF FAITH Abel to Rahab and beyond: they trusted God without seeing.
CH 12	RUN THE RACE Eyes on Jesus. Discipline is love. A better mountain than Sinai.
CH 13	LIVING IT OUT Love, hospitality, marriage, contentment and a sacrifice of praise.

Where Jesus Shows Up

- HEBREWS 1:3** The radiance of God's glory, who sat down at His right hand. Psalm 110:1.
- HEBREWS 4:15** A High Priest who was tempted in every way like us, yet without sin.
- HEBREWS 7:17** A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. Psalm 110:4.
- HEBREWS 10:12** One sacrifice for sins for all time, then He sat down.

What to Watch for in Hebrews

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	1:3, 1:5-6, 1:8-13, 2:6-10, 2:12-14, 4:15, 5:5-7 and 20 more
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	2:17, 3:7-8, 4:4, 4:7, 4:9-10, 5:4, 6:18 and 14 more
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	11:12
END TIMES PROPHECIES	10:37, 12:26-27
THE HEART	3:12, 3:15, 4:12, 13:9

ARCHAEOLOGY	8:13, 9:2
MIRACLES	1:14, 2:4, 13:2
DEMONIC	2:15
NOTABLE	2:1, 4:14, 4:16, 5:12-14, 6:19, 9:27, 10:24-25 and 10 more
JESUS SPEAKING	Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

SEVEN QUOTES IN A ROW

Chapter 1 strings together seven Old Testament quotes to show the Son is greater than the angels.

A KING NAMED RIGHTEOUS

Melchizedek means king of righteousness, and Salem means peace, 7:2.

THE HALL OF FAITH

Chapter 11 names 16 heroes of faith and points to many more.

NO NAME

The writer never says who he is. People have been guessing for 1,800 years.

What Happened Next?

We do not know how the first readers answered. Within a few years, in AD 70, the Roman army burned the temple, and the sacrifices stopped for good, just as Hebrews said the old system was ready to vanish, 8:13. The church kept Hebrews and read it as Scripture, even while it argued about who wrote it.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | MIRACLES | OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

God used to speak in bits and pieces through the prophets. Now He has spoken through His Son, who made the universe and holds it together. Angels? They are great, but they are servants. The writer proves it with seven Old Testament quotes in a row, the ancient version of showing the receipts.

THE SUPREMACY OF THE SON // COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

¹On many past occasions and in many different ways, God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. ²But in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.

³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴So He became as far superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is excellent beyond theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say:

*"You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father"?*

Or again:

*"I will be His Father,
and He will be My Son"?*

⁶And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all God's angels worship Him."

- HEB 1:1 [NOTE] WHO WROTE IT? The letter never says. See the two Big Question pages, Who Wrote Hebrews?
- HEB 1:3 [FULFILLS] David's Lord sits at God's right hand until His enemies are His footstool ← PS 110:1 p.-
- HEB 1:3 [NOTE] RADIANCE. The Greek word, *apau-gasma*, is rare. The Wisdom of Solomon uses it for Wisdom, the radiance of eternal light, Wisdom 7:26, p.-. Hebrews says it of the Son. He sat down because His work was finished, Psalm 110:1.
- HEB 1:5 [FULFILLS] He would be called the Son of God and 3 more ← 2SA 7:14a; 1CH 17:13; PS 2:7; PS 89:26 p.-
- HEB 1:5 [NOTE] SEVEN QUOTES. Verses 5 to 13 quote Psalm 2:7, 2 Samuel 7:14, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 104:4, Psalm 45:6 to 7, Psalm 102:25 to 27 and Psalm 110:1. Each one shows the Son is greater than the angels.
- HEB 1:6 [FULFILLS] The nations would rejoice with God's people and angels would worship Him ← DT 32:43 p.-
- HEB 1:6 [FULFILLS] All the heavenly powers are told to worship Him ← PS 97:7 • MEDIUM p.-
- HEB 1:6 [TEXT] Let all God's angels worship Him follows the Greek Old Testament of Deuteronomy 32:43. Most

⁷Now about the angels He says:

*"He makes His angels winds,
His servants flames of fire."*

⁸But about the Son He says:

*"Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever,
and justice is the scepter of Your kingdom."*

⁹You have loved righteousness
and hated wickedness;
therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
above Your companions with the oil of joy."

¹⁰And:

*"In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the founda-
tions of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of Your hands."*

¹¹They will perish, but You remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

¹²You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed;
but You remain the same,
and Your years will never end."

¹³Yet to which of the angels did God ever say:

*"Sit at My right hand
until I make Your enemies a footstool for
Your feet"?*

¹⁴Are not the angels ministering spirits
sent to serve those who will inherit salva-
tion?

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

So pay attention, or you will drift like a boat with no anchor. Jesus was made a little lower than the angels for a while, became one of us, died, and broke the devil's grip on death. Now He is not ashamed to call us brothers, and He knows exactly how temptation feels.

- Hebrew Bibles are shorter there, but a Hebrew copy from Qumran, 4QDeut g, has a similar line.
- HEB 1:7 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 104:4 p.-
- HEB 1:8 [FULFILLS] 'He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God' and 2 more ← 2SA 23:3; PS 45:6; IS 32:1 p.-
- HEB 1:9 [FULFILLS] Anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure ← PS 45:7 p.-
- HEB 1:10 [PROPHECY] The heavens shall perish, but You remain; they shall grow old like a garment → STILL TO COME
- HEB 1:10 [FULFILLS] Messiah identified as the preexist-ent Son and Creator ← PS 102:25-27 p.-
- HEB 1:13 [FULFILLS] David's Lord sits at God's right hand until His enemies are His footstool ← PS 110:1 p.-
- HEB 1:14 [MIRACLE] Angels are ministering spirits sent for those who inherit salvation

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

MIRACLES

DEMONIC

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

SALVATION CONFIRMED

¹We must pay closer attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every transgression and disobedience received its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

This salvation was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴and was affirmed by God through signs, wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

JESUS LIKE HIS BROTHERS

⁵For it is not to angels that He has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶But somewhere it is testified in these words:

"What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You care for him?"

⁷You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor

⁸and placed everything under his feet."

When God subjected all things to him, He left nothing outside of his control. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. ⁹But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting for God, for whom and through whom all things exist, to make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For both the One who sanctifies and

those who are sanctified are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹²He says:

"I will proclaim Your name to My brothers; I will sing Your praises in the assembly."

¹³And again:

"I will put My trust in Him."

And once again:

"Here am I, and the children God has given Me."

¹⁴Now since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity, so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

¹⁶For surely it is not the angels He helps, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, in order to make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

The Letter With No Name

HEBREWS 2:3 · 13:22 TO 25 · 2 PETER 3:15 TO 16

WHAT THE LETTER SAYS

Nothing about who wrote it. Paul always starts with his name, but Hebrews has no greeting at all. A few clues: the writer is a friend of Timothy, 13:23. He heard the gospel from people who heard Jesus, 2:3. He writes the most polished Greek in the New Testament and quotes the Greek Old Testament.

■ HEB 2:1 [NOTABLE] The picture is a boat slipping past its harbor. Most people do not quit Jesus in one day; they drift.

■ HEB 2:3 [NOTE] HEARD IT SECONDHAND. The writer says the message was confirmed to us by those who heard the Lord. Paul said he got his gospel straight from Jesus, Galatians 1:12. This is one reason many doubt Paul wrote Hebrews.

■ HEB 2:4 [MIRACLE] God confirmed the gospel with signs, wonders, various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

■ HEB 2:6 [FULFILLS] The son of man God cares for ← PS 8:4 p.~

■ HEB 2:6 [FULFILLS] His humiliation followed by exaltation ← PS 8:5-6 p.~

■ HEB 2:9 [FULFILLS] Wounded for our transgressions ← IS 53:5a p.~

■ HEB 2:10 [FULFILLS] The Captain of the Lord's host ← JOSH 5:14-15 · MEDIUM p.~

■ HEB 2:10 [FULFILLS] A leader and commander of the peoples ← IS 55:4b · MEDIUM p.~

■ HEB 2:12 [FULFILLS] His resurrection declared to His brethren ← PS 22:22 p.~

■ HEB 2:13 [FULFILLS] The Messiah would trust God and stand with the children God gave Him ← IS 8:17-18 · MEDIUM p.~

■ HEB 2:14 [DEMONIC] Jesus destroys the devil, who held the power of death, and frees those enslaved by fear of death

■ HEB 2:14 [FULFILLS] He would crush the head of Satan ← GEN 3:15 p.~

■ HEB 2:17 [FULFILLS] A faithful and lasting High Priest would arise ← ISA 2:35 · MEDIUM p.~

THE FIRST CENTURY

Clement of Rome, about AD 96, borrows lines from Hebrews in his own letter, so Hebrews was already known in Rome. But he never says who wrote it.

EGYPT SAYS PAUL

Papyrus 46, about AD 200, puts Hebrews right after Romans. Clement of Alexandria, about AD 200, said Paul wrote it in Hebrew and Luke put it into Greek. He thought Paul left his name off out of humility, because Jesus Himself was sent to the Hebrews. Church historian Eusebius, about AD 325, passes this on.

ORIGEN'S FAMOUS ANSWER

Origen, the great teacher of Alexandria, about AD 240, said the thoughts are Paul's, but the wording is someone else's. Then he added: who wrote the letter, in truth, God knows.

THE WEST WAS NOT SURE

In Rome and North Africa many doubted Paul for about 200 years. Tertullian, about AD 220, said Barnabas wrote it. Jerome and Augustine, about AD 400, accepted it with Paul's letters, and church councils in North Africa about that time listed it with them. That settled it for over a thousand years.

THE REFORMATION

Martin Luther doubted Paul. In his 1522 New Testament he moved Hebrews near the back with James, Jude and Revelation, and later he guessed Apollos. John Calvin said he could not believe Paul wrote it and thought of Luke or Clement. The KJV of 1611 still titled it The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews.

TODAY

Most scholars, including many conservative ones, say we do not know. Some still defend Paul. The next page gives the case for every name.

The Case for Each Name

HEBREWS 2:3 · 11:32 · 13:22 TO 25 · ACTS 4:36 · ACTS 18:24 TO 26

PAUL

The case: the Eastern church from about AD 200 said so, Papyrus 46 puts it with his letters, the writer knows Timothy, 13:23, and it ends with grace be with you all, like Paul, 13:25. Some copies of 10:34 even say my chains. Against: the writer heard the gospel secondhand, 2:3, but Paul said he got it straight from Jesus, Galatians 1:12. The style is very different, and Paul always names himself.

BARNABAS

Tertullian named him about AD 220. The case: he was a Levite, Acts 4:36, so he would know the priests and sacrifices that fill Hebrews. His nickname means son of encouragement, and Hebrews calls itself a word of encouragement, 13:22, using the same Greek word. Against: no other early writer names him.

APOLLOS

Luther's guess. The case: Apollos was a learned man from Alexandria, powerful in the Scriptures, Acts 18:24, which fits the polished Greek and the Old Testament arguments. He knew Paul and Timothy's circle. Against: no early writer names him.

LUKE OR CLEMENT

Clement of Alexandria thought Luke translated it, and the Greek has some things in common with Luke and Acts. Origen said some named Clement of Rome. Against: Clement quotes Hebrews in his own letter, and his style is plainer.

PRISCILLA

The German scholar Adolf von Harnack suggested her in 1900. The case: she taught Apollos the way of God more accurately, Acts 18:26, and the writer's name might have been dropped because she was a woman. Against: in 11:32 the writer says time would fail me to tell, and the Greek word for me telling is masculine.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The church accepted Hebrews as Scripture because of what it says about Je-

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW THE HEART OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

sus, not because of a name. Whoever held the pen, Origen's answer still stands: God knows.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses was a faithful servant in God's house. Jesus is the Son who owns the house. Then a warning from Psalm 95: Israel heard God's voice and hardened their hearts in the desert. Today, if you hear His voice, do not repeat their mistake.

JESUS OUR APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST

¹Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, set your focus on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ²He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

³For Jesus has been counted worthy of greater glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴And every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

⁵Now Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be spoken later. ⁶But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are His house, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope of which we boast.

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS // PSALM 95:1-11

⁷Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you hear His voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts,

as you did in the rebellion,

in the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers tested and tried Me, and for forty years saw My works.

¹⁰Therefore I was angry with that generation, and I said,

"Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known My ways."

¹¹So I swore on oath in My anger, *"They shall never enter My rest."*

■ HEB 3:2 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← NUM 12:7 p.~

■ HEB 3:5 [QUOTES] Quotes ← NUM 12:7 p.~

■ HEB 3:7 [FULFILLS] Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts ← PS 95:7 · MEDIUM p.~

■ HEB 3:8 [HEART] Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.

THE PERIL OF UNBELIEF

¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked heart of unbelief that turns away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

¹⁴We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly to the end the assurance we had at first. ¹⁵As it has been said:

"Today, if you hear His voice,

do not harden your hearts,

as you did in the rebellion."

¹⁶For who were the ones who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷And with whom was God angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would never enter His rest? Was it not to those who disobeyed?

¹⁹So we see that it was because of their unbelief that they were unable to enter.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

God's rest is still open. Israel missed it, so do not miss it. God's word is sharper than a sword and sees right into the heart. The good news: our High Priest has felt every temptation, so walk right up to the throne of grace.

THE SABBATH REST // GENESIS 2:1-3; EXODUS 16:22-30

¹Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be deemed to have fallen short of it. ²For we also received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, since they did not share the faith of those who comprehended it.

³Now we who have believed enter that rest. As for the others, it is just as God has said:

"So I swore on oath in My anger, 'They shall never enter My rest.'"

■ HEB 3:12 [HEART] See that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from God.

■ HEB 3:15 [HEART] Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

■ HEB 3:15 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 95:7-8 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

THE HEART

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

And yet His works have been finished since the foundation of the world. ⁴For somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day in this manner: “*And on the seventh day God rested from all His works.*” ⁵And again, as He says in the passage above: “*They shall never enter My rest.*”

⁶Since, then, it remains for some to enter His rest, and since those who formerly heard the good news did not enter because of their disobedience, ⁷God again designated a certain day as “*Today,*” when a long time later He spoke through David as was just stated: “*Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.*”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰For whoever enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the same pattern of disobedience.

THE LIVING WORD // 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

¹²For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it pierces even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight; everything is uncovered and exposed before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sym-

■ HEB 4:3 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 95:11 p.-

■ HEB 4:4 [FULFILLS] God rested on the seventh day. This rest points to the rest believers find in Christ ← GEN 2:2-3 · MEDIUM p.-

■ HEB 4:5 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 95:11 p.-

■ HEB 4:7 [FULFILLS] Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts ← PS 95:7 · MEDIUM p.-

■ HEB 4:8 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← JOSH 21:44; 22:4 p.-

■ HEB 4:9 [FULFILLS] God rested on the seventh day. This rest points to the rest believers find in Christ ← GEN 2:2-3 · MEDIUM p.-

■ HEB 4:12 [HEART] God’s word judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

■ HEB 4:14 [NOTABLE] Our High Priest was tempted in every way like us, yet without sin, so we can come to God boldly for mercy and help.

pathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Every high priest is chosen by God, and Jesus was too, a priest in the order of Melchizedek. He learned obedience through what He suffered. Then the writer sighs: by now you should be teachers, but you still need baby food.

THE PERFECT HIGH PRIEST // PSALM 110:1-7

¹Every high priest is appointed from among men to represent them in matters relating to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and misguided, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³That is why he is obligated to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

⁴No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but He was called by the One who said to Him:

“*You are My Son;
today I have become Your Father.*”

⁶And in another passage God says:

“*You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek.*”

⁷During the days of Jesus’ earthly life, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from

■ HEB 4:15 [FULFILLS] A man of sorrows acquainted with grief ← IS 53:3c p.-

■ HEB 5:4 [FULFILLS] Aaron was called by God to serve as high priest ← EX 28:1 p.-

■ HEB 5:5 [FULFILLS] Declared to be the Beloved Son of God ← PS 2:7 p.-

■ HEB 5:5 [FULFILLS] A crown was set on Joshua the high priest, joining priest and king ← ZECH 6:11 · MEDIUM p.-

■ HEB 5:6 [FULFILLS] A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek ← PS 110:4 p.-

■ HEB 5:7 [FULFILLS] He cried for rescue from the sword and the wild dogs and 2 more ← PS 22:20-21; PS 22:24; PS 102:1-11 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | NOTABLE

what He suffered. ⁹ And having been made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him ¹⁰ and was designated by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

MILK AND SOLID FOOD // 1 CORINTHIANS 3:1–9

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain, because you are dull of hearing. ¹² Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to reteach you the basic principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food!

¹³ For everyone who lives on milk is still an infant, inexperienced in the message of righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained their senses to distinguish good from evil.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Time to grow up. Then the scariest warning in the book: those who fall away cannot be brought back. But the writer is sure of better things for his readers. God swore an oath to Abraham, and that hope is an anchor for the soul.

A CALL TO MATURITY

¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age—⁶ and then have fallen away—to be restored to repentance, because they themselves are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to open shame.

■ **HEB 5:10 [FULFILLS]** A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek ← PS 110:4 p. 10

■ **HEB 5:12 [NOTABLE]** By now they should be teachers, but they still need the ABCs. Grown up faith is trained by practice.

■ **HEB 6:4 [NOTE]** CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL AWAY? This and 10:26 to 31 are the hardest warnings in the book. See the two Big Question pages.

⁷ For land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is tended receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless, and its curse is imminent. In the end it will be burned.

⁹ Even though we speak like this, beloved, we are convinced of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love you have shown for His name as you have ministered to the saints and continue to do so.

¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. ¹² Then you will not be sluggish, but will imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

DEBATED | THE BIG QUESTION

CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL AWAY?

The Warning Passages

HEBREWS 3:12 TO 14 · 6:4 TO 12 · 10:26 TO 39

WHAT HEBREWS SAID

It is impossible for those who have been enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift and shared in the Holy Spirit, and then have fallen away, to be restored to repentance, 6:4 to 6. If we deliberately go on sinning after we know the truth, no sacrifice for sins remains, 10:26. But the writer also says: we are confident of better things in your case, 6:9, and we are not of those who shrink back, 10:39.

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

The Shepherd of Hermas, about AD 140, taught only one more chance to repent after baptism. Tertullian, about AD 210, used Hebrews 6 to say the church could not forgive the worst sins after baptism. When Emperor Decius persecuted the church in AD 250, many denied Christ. Novatian said they could never come back. Most churches, led by Cyprian of Carthage and the bishop of Rome, took them back after real repentance.

AUGUSTINE

About AD 428 Augustine wrote that God

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

gives His chosen people the gift of perseverance, so they keep going to the end. He also believed some baptized people do not persevere.

THE REFORMATION

The Catholic Council of Trent, 1547, taught that grace can be lost by serious sin and regained through repentance and confession. John Calvin taught that true believers cannot finally fall away, and that Hebrews 6 describes people who tasted but never truly believed.

ARMINIUS AND DORT

Followers of the Dutch teacher Jacob Arminius said in 1610 that the question needed more study. The Synod of Dort, 1618 to 1619, answered with the perseverance of the saints. Later Arminians, and John Wesley in the 1700s, taught that a true believer can fall away and can also be restored.

TODAY

Many Baptists and Presbyterians say once saved, always saved, or that true believers persevere. Methodists, many Pentecostals, Churches of Christ, Catholics and the Orthodox say a believer can fall away. The next page gives every view.

The Case Each Side Makes

HEBREWS 6:4 TO 9 • 10:26 TO 39 • JOHN 10:28 TO 29 • 1 JOHN 2:19

THEY WERE NEVER SAVED

The Reformed view. These people tasted, but never truly fed. Like the field in 6:7 to 8, they never bore real fruit. Key verses: 1 John 2:19, John 10:28 to 29, Philippians 1:6 and Hebrews 6:9. Best case: it keeps every promise that God finishes what He starts.

TRUE BELIEVERS CAN FALL AWAY

The Arminian and Wesleyan view. Enlightened, sharing in the Holy Spirit and sanctified by the blood, 10:29, sound like real Christians. Key verses: Hebrews 3:12, 2 Peter 2:20 to 22, Galatians 5:4 and John 15:6. Best case: it reads the warnings plainly. Some say this falling away is final; others say a person can come back.

A WARNING GOD USES

Many today say the warnings are real,

and they are one of the ways God keeps His people from falling, like a sign that says bridge out. Key verses: Hebrews 6:9 to 12, Philippians 2:12 to 13 and 1 Corinthians 10:12. Best case: it holds both the warnings and the promises together.

ONLY IF IT COULD HAPPEN

The hypothetical view. The writer is saying: if a Christian could fall away, there would be no way back, because Christ cannot be crucified again, 6:6. Since that is unthinkable, hold on. Best case: it explains the word impossible.

LOSS OF REWARDS

The Free Grace view. Falling away brings God's discipline and lost rewards, not hell. The burned field, 6:8, is like works burned up while the person is saved, 1 Corinthians 3:15. Best case: it guards that salvation is a free gift.

CATHOLIC AND ORTHODOX

Grace can be lost through serious sin and restored through repentance and confession. John Chrysostom, about AD 400, read 6:4 to 6 as no second baptism, not as no way back. Key verses: 1 John 1:9, James 5:19 to 20.

THE FIRST READERS

Many think the danger was Jewish believers turning back to the temple sacrifices. If you leave Jesus' sacrifice, no other sacrifice is left, 10:26.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Jesus' sacrifice is the only one. Keep going, keep meeting, and keep your eyes on Him, 10:24 to 25 and 12:2. Many pastors also point out that a person worried about falling away is not the hard hearted rebel of 6:6.

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLE PROMISE

¹³ *When God made His promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater to swear by, He swore by Himself,* ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply your descendants." ¹⁵ And so Abraham, after waiting patiently, obtained the promise.

¹⁶ Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and their oath serves as a confirmation to end all argument. ¹⁷ So when God wanted to make the unchang-

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ing nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise, He guaranteed it with an oath. ¹⁸ Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged.

¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus our forerunner has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

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CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Meet Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, who blessed Abraham and got a tenth of his loot. No family tree, no birth, no death written down. Jesus is a priest like him: forever, sworn in by God, and always living to pray for us.

MELCHIZEDEK AND ABRAHAM // GENESIS 14:17–24

¹ This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham apportioned to him a tenth of everything. First, his name means “king of righteousness.” Then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³ Without father or mother or genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God, he remains a priest for all time.

- **HEB 6:18 [FULFILLS]** Cities of refuge gave safety to those who fled there ← NUM 35:11–12 · MEDIUM p.~
- **HEB 6:19 [NOTABLE]** The anchor became one of the earliest Christian symbols, carved in the Roman catacombs.
- **HEB 6:20 [FULFILLS]** A priest in the order of Melchizedek ← GEN 14:18 p.~
- **HEB 6:20 [FULFILLS]** A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek ← PS 110:4 p.~
- **HEB 7:1 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** A Dead Sea Scroll from Qumran Cave 11, first century BC, where Melchizedek is a heavenly figure who brings release on a Day of Atonement → FIELD NOTES p.11
- **HEB 7:1 [FULFILLS]** Behold the Man whose name is the BRANCH; He shall build the temple of Yahweh; He shall be a priest on His throne ← ZECH 6:12–13 p.~
- **HEB 7:1 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← GEN 14:17–20 p.~
- **HEB 7:2 [FULFILLS]** King of righteousness and king of peace (Salem) ← GEN 14:18 p.~
- **HEB 7:3 [NOTABLE]** Some scholars speculate that Melchizedek, the priest king who blessed Abram in Genesis 14:18, was really Jesus appearing before He was born. No father, no mother, no beginning and no end sounds like the Son of God Himself. Others say it means Genesis never names his parents, which makes him a picture of Jesus.
- **HEB 7:3 [NOTE]** WHO WAS MELCHIZEDEK? Three answers. A real king and priest whose family the Bible

⁴ Consider how great Melchizedek was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder. ⁵ Now the law commands the sons of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their brothers—though they too are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But Melchizedek, who did not trace his descent from Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And indisputably, the lesser is blessed by the greater.

⁸ In the case of the Levites, mortal men collect the tenth; but in the case of Melchizedek, it is affirmed that he lives on. ⁹ And so to speak, Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham. ¹⁰ For when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the loins of his ancestor.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE SCROLL · IT IS NOT ABOUT JESUS

THE MELCHIZEDEK SCROLL

HEBREWS 5:6 · 7:1 TO 3 · GENESIS 14:18 TO 20 · PSALM 110:4



Pieces of 11Q13, Plate 579. Photo Shai Halevi, Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library, Israel Antiquities Authority.

never lists, so he pictures Christ. Jesus Himself, appearing before He was born in Bethlehem. Or Shem, the son of Noah, as Jewish tradition and Martin Luther said. Made like the Son of God suggests he was a picture, not the Son Himself. See The Melchizedek Scroll Field Notes page.

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WHAT IT IS

Pieces of a Hebrew scroll found in Cave 11 at Qumran, near the Dead Sea. Scholars call it 11Q13, or 11QMelchizedek. It strings Old Testament verses together to explain what will happen at the end of days.

HOW OLD IT IS

Copied in the first century BC, most say about 75 to 50 BC. Bedouin found Cave 11 in 1956, and the Dutch scholar Adam van der Woude published the scroll in 1965.

WHAT IT SAYS

Melchizedek appears as a heavenly figure. At the end of the tenth jubilee he will proclaim liberty to the captives, Isaiah 61:1, and bring atonement on a Day of Atonement. He judges Belial, a name for Satan, and his spirits. The scroll even takes God stands in the divine assembly, Psalm 82:1, and applies it to Melchizedek.

OTHER JEWISH IDEAS

The Jewish writer Philo, about AD 40, called Melchizedek a priest king and a picture of God's Word. Later rabbis said he was Shem, the son of Noah, and Martin Luther agreed. Another old book, 2 Enoch, tells a strange story of his miracle birth.

HEBREWS IS DIFFERENT

Hebrews never says Melchizedek was an angel or that he will come back. It reads Genesis 14 carefully: no father, mother, birth or death is written down, so he is made like the Son of God, 7:3. The real eternal priest is Jesus, Psalm 110:4.

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

It shows that Jews before Jesus were already asking big questions about Melchizedek. The first readers of Hebrews may have heard ideas like these.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The scroll never mentions Jesus or Hebrews, and its Melchizedek is not the same as the one in Hebrews.

law), why was there still need for another priest to appear—one in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed as well.

¹³He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, a tribe as to which Moses said nothing about priests.

¹⁵And this point is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶one who has become a priest not by a law of succession, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷For it is testified:

*"You are a priest forever
in the order of Melchizedek."*

¹⁸So the former commandment is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰And none of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath, ²¹but Jesus became a priest with an oath by the One who said to Him:

*"The Lord has sworn and will not change
His mind:
'You are a priest forever.'"*

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³Now there have been many other priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office. ²⁴But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is able to save completely those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶Such a high priest truly befits us—One who is holy, innocent, undefiled, set apart

A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD

¹¹Now if perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on this basis the people received the

■ HEB 7:16 [FULFILLS] 'Length of days forever and ever' ← PS 21:4 · MEDIUM p.~

■ HEB 7:17 [FULFILLS] A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek ← PS 110:4 p.~

■ HEB 7:21 [FULFILLS] A priest forever in the order of Melchizedek ← PS 110:4 p.~

■ HEB 7:24 [FULFILLS] A faithful and lasting High Priest would arise ← 1SA 2:35 · MEDIUM p.~

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from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer daily sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people; He sacrificed for sin once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

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CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Our High Priest serves in the real sanctuary, in heaven. The earthly one was only a copy. God promised a new covenant in Jeremiah 31, with His laws written on hearts. New means the old one is getting ready to vanish.

CHRIST'S ETERNAL PRIESTHOOD

¹ The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who ministers in the sanctuary and true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. ³ And since every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, it was necessary for this One also to have something to offer.

⁴ Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ The place where they serve is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

THE NEW COVENANT // JEREMIAH 31:26-40

⁶ Now, however, Jesus has received a much more excellent ministry, just as the covenant He mediates is better and is founded on better promises. ⁷ For if that

first covenant had been without fault, no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,

when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah.

⁹ *It will not be like the covenant*

I made with their fathers

when I took them by the hand

to lead them out of the land of Egypt,

because they did not abide by My covenant,

and I disregarded them,

declares the Lord.

¹⁰ *For this is the covenant I will make*

with the house of Israel

after those days,

declares the Lord.

I will put My laws in their minds

and inscribe them on their hearts.

And I will be their God,

and they will be My people.

¹¹ *No longer will each one teach his neighbor or his brother,*

saying, 'Know the Lord,'

because they will all know Me,

from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² *For I will forgive their iniquities*

and will remember their sins no more."

¹³ By speaking of a new covenant, He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

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CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

A tour of the tabernacle: lampstand, table, ark and the Most Holy Place, where the high priest went once a year with blood. Jesus entered heaven itself with His own blood, once for all. People die once and then face judgment, and He is coming again.

THE EARTHLY TABERNACLE // EXODUS 40:1-33; ACTS 7:44-47

¹ Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

■ **HEB 8:8 [FULFILLS]** God would make a new covenant, write His law on hearts, and remember sins no more ← JER 31:31-34 p.~

■ **HEB 8:13 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** A stone from the top of the Temple Mount wall with Hebrew words: to the place of trumpeting, found in 1968 → FIELD NOTES p.14

■ **HEB 7:26 [FULFILLS]** Aaron was called by God to serve as high priest ← EX 28:1 p.~

■ **HEB 8:1 [FULFILLS]** David's Lord sits at God's right hand until His enemies are His footstool ← PS 110:1 p.~

■ **HEB 8:1 [FULFILLS]** Behold the Man whose name is the BRANCH; He shall build the temple of Yahweh; He shall be a priest on His throne ← ZECH 6:12-13 p.~

■ **HEB 8:5 [FULFILLS]** God would dwell among His people in the tabernacle ← EX 25:8 p.~

■ **HEB 8:5 [QUOTES]** Direct ← EX 25:40 p.~

■ **HEB 8:6 [FULFILLS]** Messenger of the New Covenant ← MAL 3:1c · MEDIUM p.~

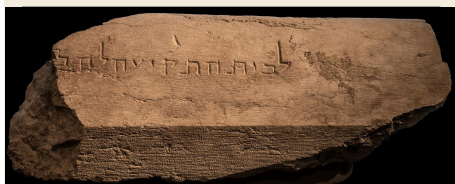
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² A tabernacle was prepared. In its first room were the lampstand, the table, and the consecrated bread. This was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ containing the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. Inside the ark were the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of glory, overshadowing the mercy seat. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH ·
THE LAST WORD IS BROKEN

THE PLACE OF TRUMPETING

HEBREWS 8:13 · 10:1 TO 2 · NUMBERS 10:10



The Trumpeting Place stone, Israel Museum, Jerusalem.
Photo Andrey Zeigarnik, CC BY SA 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

A big limestone block from the top of the Temple Mount wall that King Herod built. Carved on it in Hebrew are the words to the place of trumpeting, followed by a broken word. Many read it as to announce, or to separate, holy days from ordinary days.

HOW OLD IT IS

Carved while Herod's temple was being built, between about 20 BC and AD 64. In 1968 Benjamin Mazar's dig found it lying on the street at the foot of the southwest corner, where Roman sol-

diers threw it down in AD 70. It is about 8 feet long and is now in the Israel Museum. The one at the site is a copy.

THE HIGH CORNER

The stone fell from the southwest corner, where two of the great walls met high above a busy street of shops. Some think this corner was the pinnacle of the temple where the devil took Jesus, Matthew 4:5, but that is only a guess.

WHAT JOSEPHUS SAID

The Jewish historian Josephus, about AD 75, says a priest stood up high on the temple wall and blew a trumpet to announce when the Sabbath began each Friday evening and when it ended the next evening.

TRUMPETS IN THE BIBLE

God told the priests to blow silver trumpets on feast days and new moons, Numbers 10:10. Hebrews 12:19 remembers the trumpet blast at Mount Sinai.

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

When Hebrews was written the temple was still standing, and priests still offered sacrifices, 10:1 to 2. The writer says the old covenant is aging and will soon disappear, 8:13. A few years later this stone lay in the street, and the trumpets were silent.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The stone tells about the temple, not about Hebrews or who wrote it. The broken last word means part of its meaning is a guess.

■ **HEB 9:2 [ARCHAEOLOGY]** Relief on the Arch of Titus in Rome, about AD 81, showing Roman soldiers carrying the temple lampstand, table and trumpets from Jerusalem → FIELD NOTES p.15

■ **HEB 9:4 [FULFILLS]** A jar of manna was kept before Yahweh for later generations ← EX 16:33 · MEDIUM p.--

■ **HEB 9:4 [FULFILLS]** The staff of the man God chose would sprout ← NUM 17:5 p.--

■ **HEB 9:4 [NOTE]** THE GOLDEN ALTAR. Exodus 30:6 puts the incense altar just outside the curtain. The Greek word here can mean altar or censer. Many think Hebrews means the altar belonged to the Most Holy Place, as 1 Kings 6:22 says.

■ **HEB 9:5 [FULFILLS]** God would meet His people above the mercy seat ← EX 25:22 · MEDIUM p.--

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH · LATER THAN HEBREWS

THE TEMPLE TREASURES IN ROME

HEBREWS 9:1 TO 5 · EXODUS 25:23 TO 40 · NUMBERS 10:2



The spoils panel inside the Arch of Titus, Rome. Photo Sailko, CC BY 3.0.

WHAT IT IS

A carved marble panel inside the Arch of Titus in Rome. Roman soldiers wearing victory wreaths carry the golden lampstand from the temple in Jerusalem. Next to it they carry the table for the bread of the Presence, with two long silver trumpets leaning across it, and signs held up on poles.

HOW OLD IT IS

The arch was built about AD 81 by Emperor Domitian to honor his brother Titus, who had just died. It shows the victory parade of AD 71, after Titus' army destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. The arch was repaired in the early 1800s, but this panel is the ancient original, worn by time.

JOSEPHUS SAW IT

Josephus watched the parade in Rome. He says the golden table, the lampstand and a copy of the Jewish Law were carried in it. Emperor Vespasian put the treasures in his new Temple of Peace, finished in AD 75.

HEBREWS 9:2

The first room had the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread. Hebrews describes the tabernacle of Moses' day, Exodus 25, and says Jesus entered the real Most Holy Place, heaven itself, 9:24.

WHERE DID IT GO?

The writer Procopius says the Vandals carried the treasures from Rome to Carthage in AD 455, and a Roman general brought them to Constantinople in

534. After that no one knows. Stories that the lampstand is hidden in the Vatican have no proof.

THE LAMPSTAND TODAY

In 1949 the new State of Israel put this very lampstand from the arch on its national emblem. Another panel of the same arch is in the 2 Corinthians Field Notes, A Roman Triumph, p.---

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The arch is later than Hebrews and shows Herod's temple treasures, not the tabernacle items Hebrews describes.

⁶ When everything had been prepared in this way, the priests entered regularly into the first room to perform their sacred duties. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the second room, and then only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

⁸ By this arrangement the Holy Spirit was showing that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ It is an illustration for the present time, because the gifts and sacrifices being offered were unable to cleanse the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They consist only in food and drink and special washings—external regulations imposed until the time of reform.

REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come, He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made by hands and is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption.

¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify

- HEB 9:7 [FULFILLS] Day of Atonement prefigures Christ's once-for-all sacrifice ← LEV 16:15-17 p.-
- HEB 9:7 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← LEV 16:2, 34 p.-
- HEB 9:11 [FULFILLS] Day of Atonement prefigures Christ's once-for-all sacrifice ← LEV 16:15-17 p.-
- HEB 9:11 [FULFILLS] The Most Holy Place would be anointed ← DAN 9:24c · MEDIUM p.-

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them so that their bodies are clean, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵ Therefore Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, now that He has died to redeem them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

¹⁶ In the case of a will, it is necessary to establish the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will does not take effect until the one who made it has died; it cannot be executed while he is still alive.

¹⁸ That is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."

²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with blood the tabernacle and all the vessels used in worship. ²² According to the law, in fact, nearly everything must be purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

²³ So it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a man-made copy of the true sanctuary, but He entered heaven itself, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God.

²⁵ Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

²⁷ Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so also Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

The old sacrifices were like reruns that never fixed anything. Jesus offered Himself once and sat down, job done. So come near to God, hold on, and keep meeting together. Then another stern warning, and a reminder: you already endured a lot, so do not throw your confidence away now.

CHRIST'S PERFECT SACRIFICE // PSALM 40:1-17

¹ For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the realities themselves. It can never, by the same sacrifices offered year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would not the offerings have ceased? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt the guilt of their sins.

³ Instead, those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,

- **HEB 9:13 [FULFILLS]** A spotless red heifer was killed outside the camp for cleansing ← NUM 19:2-3 · MEDIUM p.-
- **HEB 9:13 [FULFILLS]** His sprinkled blood would cleanse the nations ← IS 52:15 p.-
- **HEB 9:14 [FULFILLS]** A spotless, blemish-free Lamb required for atonement ← EX 12:5 p.-
- **HEB 9:15 [FULFILLS]** God would make a new covenant, write His law on hearts, and remember sins no more ← JER 31:31-34 p.-
- **HEB 9:18 [FULFILLS]** This is the blood of the covenant ← EX 24:8 p.-
- **HEB 9:20 [QUOTES]** Direct ← EX 24:8 p.-
- **HEB 9:22 [FULFILLS]** God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins, a picture of sin covered by sacrifice ← GEN 3:21 · MEDIUM p.-

- **HEB 9:24 [FULFILLS]** Day of Atonement prefigures Christ's once-for-all sacrifice ← LEV 16:15-17 p.-
- **HEB 9:25 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← LEV 16:2, 34 p.-
- **HEB 9:27 [NOTABLE]** One life, one death, then judgment. Compare the 2 Maccabees 12:45 note on prayer for the dead.
- **HEB 9:28 [PROPHECY]** Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation → STILL TO COME
- **HEB 9:28 [FULFILLS]** The scapegoat carried the people's sins away into the wilderness ← LEV 16:21-22 · MEDIUM p.-
- **HEB 9:28 [FULFILLS]** He would bear the iniquities of many ← IS 53:11c p.-
- **HEB 9:28 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 53:12 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

JESUS SPEAKING

but a body You prepared for Me.

⁶ *In burnt offerings and sin offerings
You took no delight.*

⁷ *Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about
Me in the scroll:
I have come to do Your will, O God.'*

⁸ In the passage above He says, *"Sacrifices
and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings
You did not desire, nor did You delight in
them"* (although they are offered according to the law). ⁹ Then He adds, *"Here I am,
I have come to do Your will."* He takes away
the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by
that will, we have been sanctified through
the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands to minister and to offer again and again the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ Since that time, He waits for His enemies to be made a footstool for His feet, ¹⁴ because by a single offering He has made perfect for all time those who are being sanctified.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says:

¹⁶ *"This is the covenant I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord.
I will put My laws in their hearts
and inscribe them on their minds."*

¹⁷ Then He adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts

I will remember no more."

¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, an offering for sin is no longer needed.

A CALL TO PERSEVERE // JUDE 1:17-23

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold resolutely to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to spur one another on to love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume all adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think one deserves to be punished who has trampled on the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

³⁰ For we know Him who said, *"Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,"* and again, *"The Lord will*

■ **HEB 10:5 [FULFILLS]** His delight was to do the Father's will ← PS 40:6-8 p.-

■ **HEB 10:5 [TEXT]** A body You prepared for Me follows the Greek Old Testament of Psalm 40:6. The Hebrew says My ears You have opened.

■ **HEB 10:8 [QUOTES]** Direct ← PS 40:6-8 p.-

■ **HEB 10:10 [FULFILLS]** Behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH; upon one stone are seven eyes ← ZECH 3:8-9 p.-

■ **HEB 10:12 [FULFILLS]** His declaration: 'It is finished' and 2 more ← PS 22:31; PS 110:1; ZECH 3:8-9 p.-

■ **HEB 10:14 [FULFILLS]** His declaration: 'It is finished' ← PS 22:31 - MEDIUM p.-

■ **HEB 10:14 [FULFILLS]** Behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH; upon one stone are seven eyes ← ZECH 3:8-9 p.-

■ **HEB 10:16 [FULFILLS]** God would make a new covenant, write His law on hearts, and remember sins no more ← JER 31:31-34 p.-

■ **HEB 10:16 [FULFILLS]** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will put My Spirit within you ← EZK 36:26-27 p.-

■ **HEB 10:16 [QUOTES]** Direct ← JER 31:33-34 p.-

■ **HEB 10:18 [FULFILLS]** His declaration: 'It is finished' ← PS 22:31 - MEDIUM p.-

■ **HEB 10:19 [FULFILLS]** The veil separated the people from the Most Holy Place ← EX 26:33 p.-

■ **HEB 10:22 [HEART]** Come near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

■ **HEB 10:22 [FULFILLS]** God would sprinkle clean water and cleanse His people ← EZK 36:25 - MEDIUM p.-

■ **HEB 10:24 [NOTABLE]** Some had already stopped coming. Faith is not a solo sport.

■ **HEB 10:26 [NOTE]** SEE 6:4. For every view on this warning, see the Big Question pages, Can a Christian Fall Away?

■ **HEB 10:27 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 26:11 p.-

■ **HEB 10:28 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DT 17:6; DT 19:15 p.-

■ **HEB 10:30 [QUOTES]** Direct ← DT 32:35-36 p.-

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

END TIMES PROPHECIES

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

judge His people.”³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Remember the early days that you were in the light. In those days, you endured a great conflict in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to ridicule and persecution; at other times you were partners with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you yourselves had a better and permanent possession.

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it holds a great reward. ³⁶ You need to persevere, so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. ³⁷ For,

“In just a little while,

He who is coming will come and will not delay.

³⁸ *But My righteous one will live by faith; and if he shrinks back, I will take no pleasure in him.”*

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Faith's hall of fame: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, even Rahab. They trusted God without seeing the finish line. Some won battles, some were sawed in two. None of them got everything promised yet, because God had planned something better.

FAITH AND ASSURANCE // GENESIS 1:1-2; JOHN 1:1-5

¹ Now faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the certainty of what we do

■ **HEB 10:34 [TEXT]** Many old copies say you sympathized with the prisoners. Others, followed by the KJV, say with me in my bonds.

■ **HEB 10:37 [PROPHECY]** Yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry → STILL TO COME

■ **HEB 10:37 [QUOTES]** Direct ← HAB 2:3-4; IS 26:20 p.-

■ **HEB 11:1 [NOTABLE]** The Bible's best known definition of faith. The KJV says the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

■ **HEB 11:1 [NOTE] FAITH.** The KJV says faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Sirach 44 to 50, Praise of the Fathers, p.-, lists heroes like this chapter does, but Hebrews 11 ends with Jesus, 12:2.

not see.”² This is why the ancients were commended.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

THE FAITH OF ABEL, ENOCH, NOAH // GENESIS 4-9

⁴ By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous when God gave approval to his gifts. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God. For anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

⁷ By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in godly fear built an ark to save his family. By faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH // GENESIS 15-22; ROMANS 4:1-12

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, without knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the promised land as a stranger in a foreign country. He lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith Sarah, even though she was barren and beyond the proper age, was enabled to conceive a child, because she considered Him faithful who had promised. ¹² And so from one man, and he

■ **HEB 11:3 [NOTABLE]** God made everything by His word, Genesis 1. Compare 2 Maccabees 7:28.

■ **HEB 11:5 [FULFILLS]** Enoch's bodily translation prefigures Christ's bodily ascension ← GEN 5:24 · MEDIUM p.-

■ **HEB 11:6 [NOTABLE]** Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES MESSIANIC FORESHADOW OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people died in faith, without having received the things they were promised. However, they saw them and welcomed them from afar. And they acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

¹⁴ Now those who say such things show that they are seeking a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac on the altar. He who had received the promises was ready to offer his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and in a sense, he did receive Isaac back from death.

THE FAITH OF ISAAC, JACOB, AND JOSEPH // GENESIS 27-50

²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning the future.

²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

²² By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones.

THE FAITH OF MOSES // EXODUS 2-15; ACTS 7:20-22

²³ By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after his birth, because they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were unafraid of the king's edict.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's

daughter. ²⁵ He chose to suffer oppression with God's people rather than to experience the fleeting enjoyment of sin. ²⁶ He valued disgrace for Christ above the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his reward.

²⁷ By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the first-born would not touch Israel's own first-born.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were drowned.

THE FAITH OF MANY // JOSHUA-MALACHI

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies in peace, did not perish with those who were disobedient.

³² And what more shall I say? Time will not allow me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the raging fire, and escaped the edge of the sword; who gained strength from weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.

³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused their release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others endured mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were put to death by the sword.

■ **HEB 11:30 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← JOSH 6:20 p.-

■ **HEB 11:31 [FULFILLS]** The scarlet cord in Rahab's window saved her whole household ← JOSH 2:18 · MEDIUM p.-

■ **HEB 11:32 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← JUDG 4:6; 6:12; 11:29; 13:24; 1SA 3:20; 16:13 p.-

■ **HEB 11:35 [NOTE] TORTURED.** Women received back their dead: 1 Kings 17:22 and 2 Kings 4:36. Others refused release to gain a better resurrection most likely means the mother and seven sons in 2 Maccabees 7, p.-.

■ **HEB 11:12 [FULFILLS]** Abraham's offspring would be as many as the stars ← GEN 15:5 p.-

■ **HEB 11:17 [FULFILLS]** Abraham was told to offer his only son whom he loved ← GEN 22:2 p.-

■ **HEB 11:18 [FULFILLS]** Abraham's promised offspring would come through Isaac ← GEN 21:12 p.-

■ **HEB 11:21 [QUOTES]** Direct ← GEN 47:31 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

They went around in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, oppressed, and mistreated. ³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and hid in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. ⁴⁰ God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

So run your race with that crowd of witnesses around you, eyes on Jesus. Hard times can be a Father's training. You did not come to a scary mountain of fire like Sinai, but to Mount Zion and the city of the living God. Do not refuse Him.

A CALL TO ENDURANCE // 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-13

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race set out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorn-
ing its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

GOD DISCIPLINES HIS SONS

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons:

*"My son, do not take lightly the discipline of the Lord,
and do not lose heart when He rebukes you.*

■ **HEB 11:37 [NOTE]** SAWED IN TWO. The Old Testament never says this. Jewish tradition, in the Ascension of Isaiah and the Talmud, says King Manasseh had Isaiah sawed in two.

■ **HEB 12:1 [NOTABLE]** The heroes of chapter 11 finished their race. Now it is our turn, eyes fixed on Jesus.

■ **HEB 12:1 [NOTE]** CLOUD OF WITNESSES. Some say the heroes of chapter 11 watch us from heaven like fans in a stadium. Others say they are witnesses because their lives speak to us, as 11:4 says Abel still speaks. Both views agree on the point: run.

■ **HEB 12:2 [FULFILLS]** David's Lord sits at God's right hand until His enemies are His footstool ← PS 110:1 p.-

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastises every son He receives."

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you do not experience discipline like everyone else, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have all had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not much more submit to the Father of our spirits and live?

¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may share in His holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields a harvest of righteousness and peace to those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore strengthen your limp hands and weak knees. ¹³ Make straight paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

A CALL TO HOLINESS // 1 PETER 1:13-21

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no root of bitterness springs up to cause trouble and defile many. ¹⁶ See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. He could find no ground for repentance, though he sought the blessing with tears.

AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM // EXODUS 20:18-21; DEUTERONOMY 5:22-33

¹⁸ For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom, and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to a voice that made its hearers beg that no further word be spoken. ²⁰ For they could not bear what

■ **HEB 12:5 [NOTABLE]** Hard times can be a Father's training, not His rejection. It hurts now and yields peace later.

■ **HEB 12:5 [QUOTES]** Direct ← PROV 3:11-12 p.-

■ **HEB 12:12 [QUOTES]** Quotes ← IS 35:3; PROV 4:26 p.-

■ **HEB 12:14 [NOTABLE]** Two things to chase on purpose, not wait for.

■ **HEB 12:15 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DT 29:18 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

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THE HEART

MIRACLES

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."²¹ The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

²² Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to myriads of angels ²³ in joyful assembly, to the congregation of the firstborn, enrolled in heaven. You have come to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if the people did not escape when they refused Him who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject Him who warns us from heaven? ²⁶ At that time His voice shook the earth, but now He has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth, but heaven as well."²⁷ The words "Once more" signify the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that the unshakable may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. ²⁹ "For our God is a consuming fire."

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

Love one another, open your home, remember the prisoners, honor marriage, skip the love of money. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Offer God a sacrifice of praise. And good news: Timothy is out of jail. Grace be with you all.

■ HEB 12:20 [QUOTES] Quotes ← EX 19:12-13 p.-

■ HEB 12:21 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 9:19 p.-

■ HEB 12:24 [FULFILLS] Abel's blood cries out from the ground. Jesus' blood speaks a better word ← GEN 4:10 - MEDIUM p.-

■ HEB 12:24 [FULFILLS] God would make a new covenant, write His law on hearts, and remember sins no more ← JER 31:31-34 p.-

■ HEB 12:26 [PROPHECY] Now I will shake not only the earth, but also heaven... the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain → STILL TO COME

■ HEB 12:26 [QUOTES] Direct ← HAG 2:6 p.-

■ HEB 12:29 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 4:24 p.-

BROTHERLY LOVE

¹ Continue in brotherly love. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them, and those who are mistreated as if you were suffering with them.

⁴ Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

CHRIST'S UNCHANGING NATURE

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said:

"Never will I leave you,
never will I forsake you."

⁶ So we say with confidence:

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace and not by foods of no value to those devoted to them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

¹¹ Although the high priest brings the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered

■ HEB 13:1 [NOTABLE] Church life in three commands: love each other, open your home, do not forget those in chains.

■ HEB 13:2 [MIRACLE] Some have entertained angels unaware

■ HEB 13:2 [NOTE] ANGELS UNAWARES. Abraham, Genesis 18, and Lot, Genesis 19, welcomed strangers who were angels. The KJV says entertained angels unawares. This is no promise that every stranger is an angel; it is a reason to be kind.

■ HEB 13:5 [NOTABLE] Be content with what you have, because God Himself has promised to stay.

■ HEB 13:5 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 31:6, 8; JOSH 1:5 p.-

■ HEB 13:6 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 118:6 p.-

■ HEB 13:8 [NOTABLE] Leaders come and go, 13:7. Jesus does not change.

■ HEB 13:9 [HEART] It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

outside the city gate, to sanctify the people by His own blood.¹³ Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore.¹⁴ For here we do not have a permanent city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

SACRIFICE, OBEDIENCE, AND PRAYER

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name.¹⁶ And do not neglect to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who must give an account. To this end, allow them to lead with joy and not with grief, for that would be of no advantage to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us; we are convinced that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.¹⁹ And I especially urge you to pray that I may be restored to you soon.

BENEDICTION AND FAREWELL

²⁰ Now 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,²¹ equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²² I urge you, brothers, to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have only written to you briefly.

²³ Be aware that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints.

Those from Italy send you greetings.

²⁵ Grace be with all of you.

■ **HEB 13:11 [FULFILLS]** The sin-offering burned outside the camp foreshadows Christ's death outside Jerusalem ← **LEV 16:27** p.–

■ **HEB 13:12 [FULFILLS]** A spotless red heifer was killed outside the camp for cleansing ← **NUM 19:2-3** · MEDIUM p.–

■ **HEB 13:12 [FULFILLS]** The owner's son would be seized, thrown out, and killed by the tenants ← **MT 21:37-39**; **MK 12:6-8**; **LK 20:13-15** · MEDIUM p.–

■ **HEB 13:15 [FULFILLS]** God's name would be great among the nations with pure offerings in every place ← **MAL 1:11** · MEDIUM p.–

■ **HEB 13:15 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← **HOS 14:2** p.–

■ **HEB 13:20 [FULFILLS]** Because of the blood of the covenant God would set the prisoners free ← **ZECH 9:11** · MEDIUM p.–

■ **HEB 13:23 [NOTE] TIMOTHY RELEASED.** The only hint that Timothy was ever in prison. The writer was part of Paul's circle of friends.

■ **HEB 13:24 [NOTE] THOSE FROM ITALY.** This can mean the writer was in Italy, or that Italians living elsewhere sent greetings home. Many think the letter went to Rome, where Clement quoted it by about AD 96.