

TO HEBREWS
Hebrews 1:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

A. Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

- 1) This is of interest
- 2) It is of little importance. God did.

B. It was written by Paul

- 1) Clement of Alexandria says that Pantaenus, head of the Christian School at Alexandria taught that Paul was it's author.
- 2) Justin Martyr quotes it about the year 140, and ascribes it to Paul.
- 3) Eusebius, Bishop of Cesarea, in Palestine, early church historian said it was Paul's.
- 4) Why did it not bear Paul's name?

C. To whom was the letter written?

- 1) "to Hebrews"
- 2) It was most likely written to the Hebrews in Jerusalem, the church there.
- 3) Paul's name would have caused them to immediately lay the book aside.
- 4) They were never taught to go on to completeness or maturity.
- 5) *Acts 21:17-22*

D. Why was the letter written?

- 1) These people were double-minded
- 2) They were forsaking the simplicity of Christ for the beauty of the Mosaic law.
- 3) They were offended by the substance and preferred the shadows.
- 4) The sun's brightness offended them, so they preferred to gaze at the moon.

- 5) They could not bring themselves to walk away from the beautiful temple, made with hands, for the temple of God, made without hands.
- 6) The elaborate robes, the chanted hymns, the special days, holy seasons, consecrated ritual.

E. The time when it was written

- 1) While the temple was still standing
- 2) Before the civil wars of Judaea and the destruction of the nation.
- 3) Before violent persecution from outside the Hebrew family. Stephen, James.
- 4) It was while Paul was in Italy. 13:23-24

F. The theme of the letter

- 1) God spoke by the Prophets
- 2) He has now spoken by His Son
- 3) The First Covenant was good
- 4) The New Covenant is better
- 5) Christ is superior in all things

I. God, In Times Past, Spoke By Prophets *verse 1*

A. *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners..."*

- 1) *"sundry times"* = πολυμερως = "consisting of many parts", "in many portions", "by many fragments"
- 2) *"divers manners"* = "in many ways". There were many methods by which God spoke to prophets, visions, dreams, direct revelations.

B. *"spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets"*

- 1) "God in olden times"
- 2) "spoke to our fore fathers by prophets"

II. He Has Now Spoken Through His Son verse 2aA. *"Hath in these last days..."*

- 1) *"last"* = εσχατος = "the extreme", "that which concludes anything"
- 2) *"days"* = ημερα = "time" = dispensation

B. *"spoken unto us by His Son"*

- 1) *"spoken"* = "say" = λαλεω = "to utter words"
- 2) *"But in this final age He has spoken to us through (in) His Son."*

III. Jesus Is The Better Messenger verse 2bA. *"...whom he hath appointed heir of all things"*

- 1) *"appointed"* = τιθημι = "to put, place, set"
- 2) *"heir"* = κληρονομος = "he who has the inheritance", "one son", "one heir"
- 3) *"And to the Son he has ordained that all creation shall ultimately belong"* - Phi

B. *"by whom also he made the worlds;"*

- 1) *"made"* = ποιω = "to create"
- 2) *"worlds"* = αιων = "the unbounded time, past or future, in which the history of the world is accomplished."
- 3) *"And through whom he created all orders of existence"*
- 4) *John 1:1-*

C. *"who being the brightness of His glory"*

- 1) *"brightness"* = απωγασμα = gossamer + "radiance" It presents the idea of radiating or emitting brightness
- 2) *"Who being the outshining of His glory".* - Bas

D. *"and the express image of His person"*

- 1) *"express"* = χαρακτηρ = "impression or stamp" It refers to a reproduction made by a die or stamp. Here it carries the idea of an exact reproduction.
- 2) *"person"* = υποστασις = "what stands under and therefore gives the real strength. The essence of a matter in contrast to its appearance.
- 3) "And an exact reproduction of His being"

E. *"and upholding all things by the word of His power..."*

- 1) *"upholding"* = φερω = "to carry", Jesus is the one who moves all things toward their appointed place.
- 2) *"word"* = ειπον = "to utter definite words"
- 3) *"power"* = δυναμις = "inherent capability"

F. *"when he had by himself purged our sins"*

- 1) *"purged"* = ποιω = "to make" καθαρισμος = "a cleansing", Having made (by Himself) the purifications of our sins.
- 2) "And when He had effected our cleansing from sin." - BER

G. *"sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high"*

- 1) "Took His seat at the right hand of God in heaven" - BAS
- 2) "And then sat down in highest honor beside the great God of heaven."