

# Epistle

Listening to a telephone conversation.

= Need to piece out the conversation by looking at context and culture.

## Study on Hebrews

### Background knowledge:

Culture & Context

Bible study skills: Observation - Interpretation - Application

- =Words of Emphasis
- =& Repeated words
- =& Compare & Contrast (esp for Hebrews)

- Who is HEBREWS written to?
  - —24 Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. 25 Grace be with you all.
    - Hebrew Believers in Italy (Rome)
  - -Who is **HEBREWS**?
    - Exodus = Hebrews = 12 tribes of Israel/Jacob
    - NT = Mainly Jews (Judah) + some surviving members of other tribes.

- What is the context of HEBREWS?
  - 10:34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.
  - 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.

- When is the writing of HEBREWS?
  - Before the Temple Destruction (AD70)
    - Reference to the Temple in present tense
  - After the writing of Romans (AD57-AD58)
    - Different problems ie idolatry, immorality vs suffering church
  - Likely AD63-AD64
  - Reign of Emperor Nero (AD54-AD68)
    - Persecuted the Church ie new religion
    - Tolerated Judaism

## What is the <u>purpose</u> of *HEBREWS*?

- To encourage the believers (Jewish) not to return to Judaism.
- By pointing out Jesus as the Source (Exact representation) and Son of God.
- By pointing out the inadequacy of Judaism.
- By pointing a more perfect way to confront tribulation and suffering.
  - Don't drift, don't harden your heart, etc
  - Do pay closer attention, consider, encourage one another, <u>live by</u>
     <u>faith</u>

#### **OVERVIEW OF HEBREW**

#### **HEBREWS – THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS CHRIST**

SUPREMACY OVER OT OFFICES C1-7 SUPREMACY OVER OT ORDERS C8-10 SUPREMACY IN THE SAINTS C11-13

What would a pious Jews say about having a relationship with God?

Hear from God = Messenger: from God to man

Save by God = Deliverer: from God for man

Intercede to God = Mediator: between God and man

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OT OFFICES

C 1

Messenger;

from God to man such as angel & prophets C 3

**Deliverer**;

of God for man such as Moses & Joshua C 5

Mediator;

between God & man such as Priesthood;

**OT ORDER** 

C 8 Covenant

C 9 Tabernacle

C 10 Sacrifice

THROUGH FAITH C11

Faith defined

C12

Faith demonstrated

C13

Faith developed

# Read Chapter 1-2

Share Observations for Chapter 1

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son,

whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Mainety on high.

| God spoke       |  |             |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Long Ago        |  | Last Days   |
| In the Prophets |  | In His Son  |
| Many Portion &  |  | Has Spoken  |
| OS.             |  | (completed) |

Jesus is the complete **LOGOS**. God "speaks" through His Spirit to affirm the revelation of Jesus.

Is He still speaking today?

7 STATEMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS OVER PROPHETS (in v2 & 3)

HEIR

**CREATOR** 

**ESSENCE** 

**PURIFIER** 

**PRESERVER** 

**REIGNING GOD** 

**IMAGE** 

- 1. whom He appointed heir of all things,
- 2. through whom also He made the world.
- 3. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory
- 4. and the exact representation of His nature,
- 5. and upholds all things by the word of His por
- 6. When He had made purification of sins,
- 7. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty
- 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

5For to which of the angels did He ever say,

"YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? Ar "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO 6And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He sa "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

From v5-14 = 4 questions + 3 statements that Jesus is more superior than Angels

7And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." 8But of the Son He says,

"YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. 9"YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

10And,

Can you see the 4 Questions?

The HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 11THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, 12AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP;

LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

13But to which of the angels has He ever said,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? 14Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

## 4 rhetorical questions

#### 5For to which of the angels did He ever say,

# "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

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

"AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

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10And.

"YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 11THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, 12AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

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3 statements

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RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED

# YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YO APPOINTMENT COMPANIONS."

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RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED

## YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR **COMPANIONS."**

10And. WILL PERISH, BUT YO LIKE A GARMEN AND YOUR YEAR

"YOU, LORD, IN THE 4 rhetorical questions & 3 statements = Jesus is more superior than the Angels!

JR HANDS; 11THEY **ROLL THEM UP:** 

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"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

# Read Chapter 1-2

Share Observations for Chapter 2

#### **Hebrews 2 - Give Heed**

**1For this reason** we must **pay much closer attention** to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, **3how will we escape** if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

For = **BECAUSE** 

Jesus is greater than the Prophets and Angels (Messengers from God to man)

- Call to hear the Word V 1
- Call to heed the Word v3

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Can you see the contrast?

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| <b>Words from Angels</b> | Spoken through the Lord                      |
|--------------------------|--|
| Proved unalterable       | Confirmed by those who heard                 |
|                          | Testified by signs, wonders, miracles, gifts |
|                          | According to His own will                    |
| Received a just penalty  | How to escape? le more severe!               |

### **Hebrews 2 - Give Heed (BAD NEWS BEFORE GOOD NEWS)**

#### We see MAN

5For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6But one has testified somewhere, saying,

"WHAT IS MAN, THAT <u>YOU REMEMBER</u> HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT <u>YOU ARE CONCERNED</u> ABOUT HIM?

DIGNITY

7"YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE <u>CROWNED HIM</u> WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE <u>APPOINTED HIM</u> OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 8YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET "

For in **subjecting all things to him**, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do **not yet** see all things subjected to him.

#### WE SEE JESUS

- 1. who was made for a little while lower than the angels,
- 2. crowned with glory and honor,
- 3. taste death for everyone.
- 4. bringing many sons to glory,
- 5. author of their salvation
- 6. who sanctifies
- 7. call them brethren,
- 8. proclaim Your name to My brethren,
- 9. "I will put My trust in Him."

### 10.V14 partook of the same (nature)

- 11.might render powerless him who had the power of death,
- 12.might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
- 13. gives help to the descendant of Abraham.
- 14.had to be made like His brethren in all things,
- 15.become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,

### 16.V17 to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

- 17.was tempted in that which He has suffered,
- **18.He** is able to come to the aid of those

**A SAVIOR WHO** 

**UNDERSTANDS** 

**-OUR NATURE** 

(INCARNATION V 14) AND

**-OUR NEEDS** 

(PROPITIATION V17).

# Interpretation

- What is God trying to say to us?
  - How do we link all our observations?

JESUS is more superior than all the messengers; ANGELS AND PROPHETS.

- He is the Eternal Word of Scripture (MESSAGE)
- He has done the Eternal Work of Salvation (MESSENGER)

# Application

#### **Application:**

- -Sins to confess,
- -Promises to claim,
- -Attitudes to cultivate,
- -Command to comply,
- -Example to copy,
- -Scripture to contemplate.

- In the light of the Word of God concerning
- SUPERIORITY OF JESUS OVER THE MESSENGERS...

- How then shall I live?
- CROWN HIM AS LORD & SAVIOR:
  - Make time to Hear His Word: 30mins per day
  - Make effort to Obey His Word: pray rehearse act (within 24hrs)

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Homework: C3-4