

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

Handouts are in
the back. Or
download at
tny.sh/hebrews

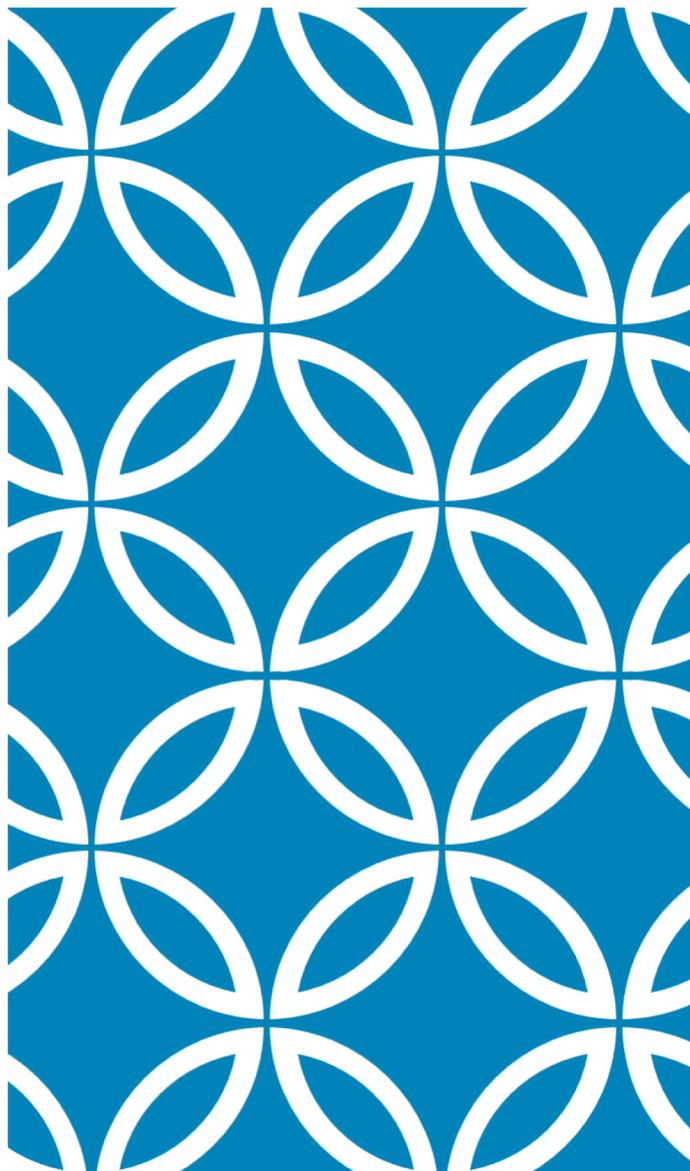


**WHAT MAKES
LIVING THE
CHRISTIAN
LIFE
DIFFICULT?**

We're a religion of faith, not tangible experiences

We don't fit-in with our culture

There's persecution from the world



JESUS IS BETTER, THEREFORE PERSEVERE

The theme of Hebrews

WHERE WE'RE GOING

Overview of the book

The original readers' situation

Who wrote Hebrews

Suggestions and notes for your own study

[Potentially] Questions

A ROUGH, BRIEF OUTLINE

1-10 – Jesus is Superior to Old Testament people and institutions, mixed with exhortations

11 – Transition – Historical examples of what it means to be a person of faith

12-13 – Applications

ENCOURAGEMENTS TO PERSEVERE - CHRIST IS BETTER THAN:

The Prophets (1:1-2)

The Angels (1:5ff)

Mankind (2:5ff)

Moses (3).

The Sabbath rest of the promised land (4)

The High Priest – Aaron. (5)

Melchizedek (7)

The Tabernacle (and all it stands for) (8)

Animal Sacrifice (9:1 1 ff)

He's the fulfilment of the longing faith of many (1 1)

5 WARNINGS TO PERSEVERE

- Don't neglect this great salvation (2:1-4)
- Don't be faithless like the exodus generation (3:7-19)
- Don't turn from the faith (5:11-6:12)
- Don't shrink back in fear (Hebrews 10:26-39)
- Don't refuse to heed this message (12:25-29)

MEANS TO PERSEVERE

Look to Christ

- Pay Attention to what you're hearing 2:1
- Consider Christ 3:1
- Hold Fast 3:6
- Strive to enter the rest 3:11
- Draw near to the throne of grace with confidence 4:16, 10:22

Be Holy

Invest in the church

MEANS TO PERSEVERE

Look to Christ

Be Holy

- Watch for an unbelieving heart 3:12
- Don't Harden your heart 3:7
- Grow to Maturity 6:1
- Imitate the faithful 6:12
- Be Purified 10:22
- Hold Fast our confession 10:23
- Recall former holiness 10:32

Invest in the church

MEANS TO PERSEVERE

Look to Christ

Be Holy

Invest in the church

- Encourage one another because we are self-deceived by sin (3:12-13)
- Serving the Saints is a fruit of genuine faith (6:10)
- Meet together and consider how to stir one another toward love and good deeds (10:23-24)
- First application - “Let brotherly love continue.” (13:1)

SITUATION OF THE AUDIENCE

Many things we don't know

Dating:

- Certainly before AD 95.
- Seemingly not too early, they're likely 2nd generation Christians (2:3)
- Probably before 70 (destruction of the Temple).
- Likely under Nero – 65-68AD.

SITUATION OF THE AUDIENCE

Suffering persecution – 10:32

- Probably no martyrdom – 12:4

Should be teachers, but not – 5:12

Author assumes a deep understanding of the Old Testament.

Somehow linked to Italy – 13:24

“The addressees appear to have been a group of Jewish Christians who had never seen or heard Jesus in person, but learned of him (as the writer of the epistle also did) from some who had themselves listen to him. Since their conversion they had been exposed to persecution -- particularly at one stage shortly after the beginning of their Christian career -- but while they had had to endure public abuse, imprisonment, and the looting of their property, they had not yet been called upon to die for their faith. They had given practical evidence of their faith by serving their fellow Christians and especially by caring for those of their number who suffered most in the time of persecution...

F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, Rev. ed, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans, 1990), 9.

...Yet their Christian development had been arrested; instead of pressing ahead they were inclined to come to a full stop in their spiritual progress, if not indeed to slip back to a stage which they had left. Very probably they were reluctant to sever their last ties with a religion which enjoyed the protection of Roman law and face the risks of irrevocable commitment to the Christian way. The writer, who has known them, or known about them, for a considerable time, and feels a pastoral concern for their welfare, warns them against falling back, for this may result in falling away from their Christian faith altogether; he encourages them with the assurance that they have everything to lose if they fall back, but everything to gain if they press on.”

F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, Rev. ed, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich: W.B. Eerdmans, 1990), 9.

AUTHORSHIP

“Who actually wrote the epistle, only God knows.”

—Origin (254)



WHAT WE DO KNOW:

Highly Educated and Rhetorically
Skilled

High knowledge of the Old Testament,
but uses the Greek Translation (LXX)

Pastoral Heart

2nd Generation Christian (2:3)

Knew Timothy (1 2:23)

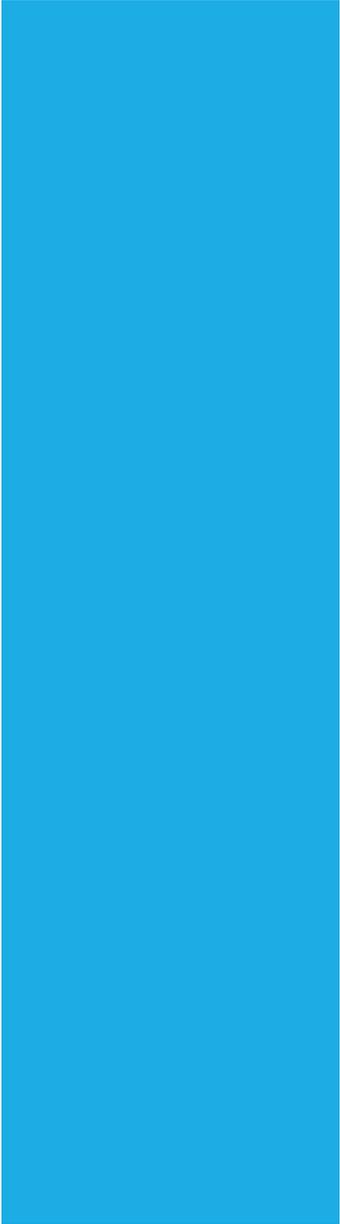
HOMework

Read the Book Before we Start It:

Good: Read it over the next 2 weeks (chapter a day?)

Better: Read it in one sitting (potentially multiple times)

Best: Read it out loud to your family – 45 minutes or less. It was written as a sermon meant to be read aloud



POTENTIALLY HELPFUL:

ESV Scripture Journal. \$4 on Amazon.

Don't just bring that to Sunday School with you.

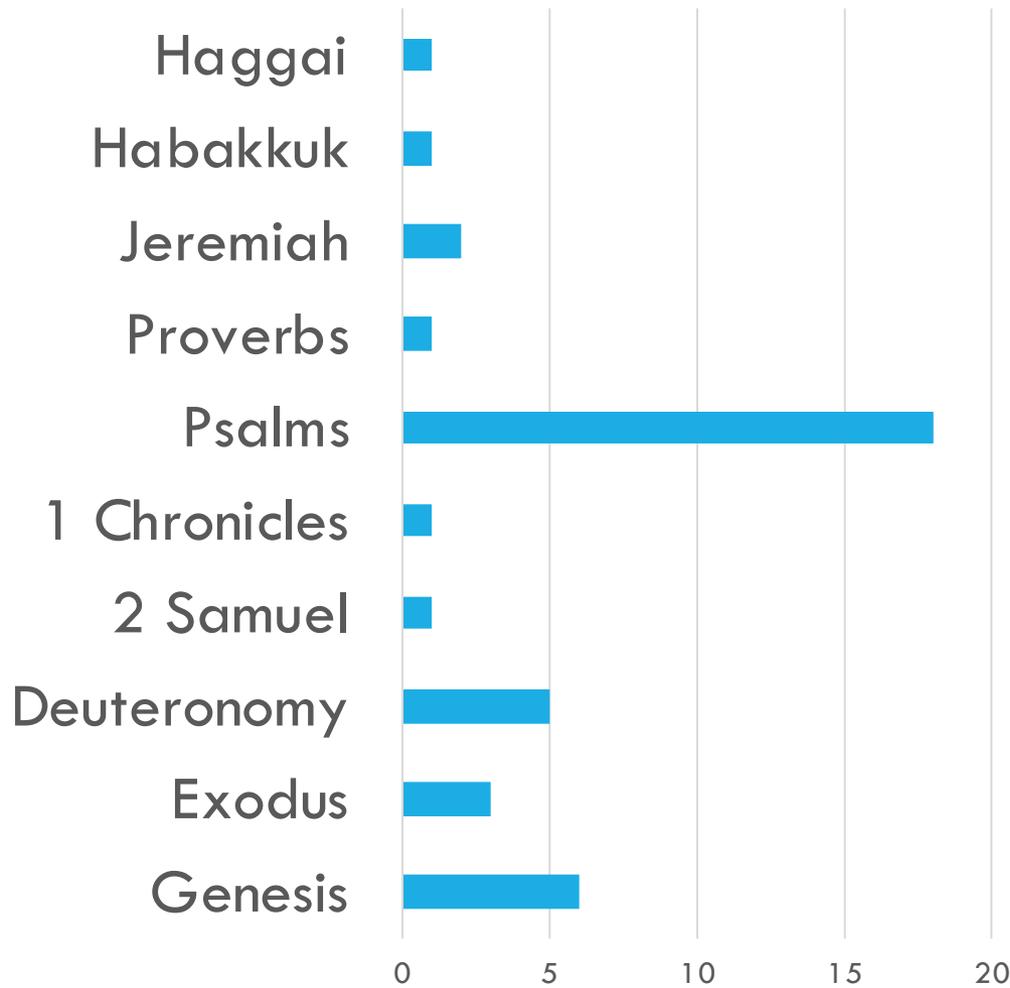
SIGNIFICANT OLD TESTAMENT USAGE



SOMETHING LIKE 40
QUOTES, PARAPHRASES,
OR CLEAR ALLUSIONS TO
THE OLD TESTAMENT.



KEY TEXTS: PSALM 8, 95,
110; JEREMIAH 31



OLD TESTAMENT QUOTES

OTHER NOTES

The author brings a cultic point of view

"Perfected" is a difficult word to translate – think "qualified". (2:10, 5:8-9)

Much of the text may seem irrelevant because it's not about you

Everything must be read in light of the theme of the sermon: Jesus is better, therefore persevere

QUESTIONS

