



**Don't
Depart!**

**Don't
fall
away!**

**Don't cast
away your
confidence!**

**Don't
neglect
your
salvation!**

**Don't
drift
away!**

**Don't
harden
your
heart!**

**A
Study
Of The
Epistle
To The Hebrews**

*how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?
(Hebrews 2:3)*

Bible Bookcase



Books of the New Testament



- **4 Gospels:** Mathew, Mark, Luke, John: The Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Acts of The Apostles:** The Miraculous growth and expansion of the Church on Earth: from Pentecost till about 62 AD
- **14 Epistles of St.Paul:** to explain the Gospel and its practical application.
- **7 Catholic Epistles:** teaching letters: 1 James, 2 Peter, 3 John, 1Jude.
- **The Book of Revelation:** The Prophetical Book of The NT.



St Paul's Epistles

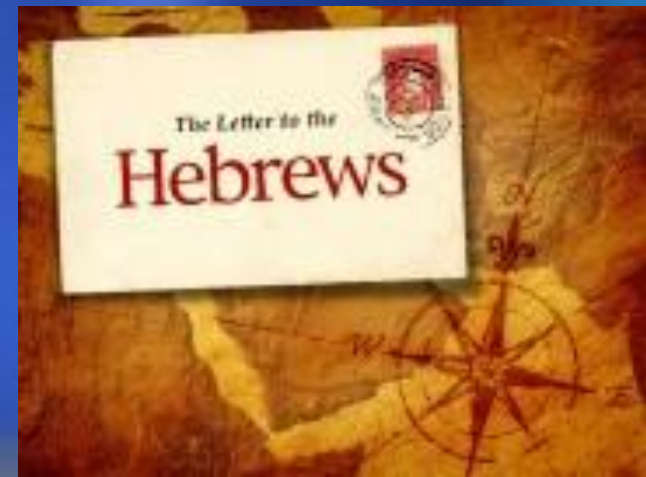
- What are St Paul's Epistles?
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon





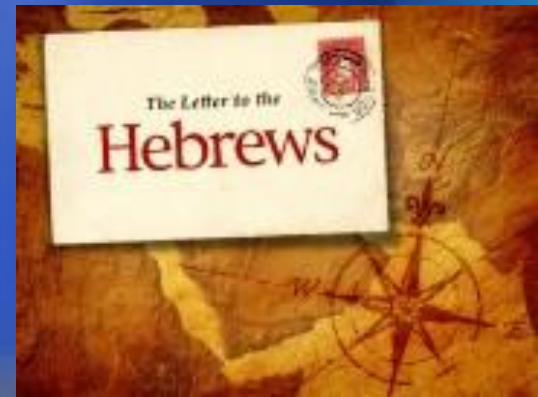
The Epistle to the Hebrews

- Date: Just before 70AD.
- What do you think the term “Hebrews” means?
 - The word Hebrew was 1st mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 14:13, relating to Abram (Abraham), the Hebrew. It stems from the Hebrew verb “to cross over”, as Abram crossed over to another place, obeying God.
- The Epistle was written to Jewish Christians (Greek speaking; perhaps in Palestine). Some were drawn back to Judaism and some had returned entirely to Judaism.



Who Wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews?

- the Orthodox Church accepts St. Paul as the author because of the content of the Epistles:
 - Relationship to St Timothy – (Heb 13:23)
 - Request for Prayers (Heb 13:18)
 - Expressions of “see you soon” (Heb 13:19), “God of Peace” (Heb 13:20) and “Grace be with all of you” (Heb 13:25)
 - Familiar with the “Italian” Brethren (Heb 13:23)
 - Familiar with the Law (Romans, Galatians)
- St Paul – St Clement of Rome (95 AD)
- Other churches attribute it to an unknown author but accepts it as inspired.





Major Theme

Persevere in the faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son. Hebrews was written as a 'rescue operation' to hold fast to the faith and persevere.

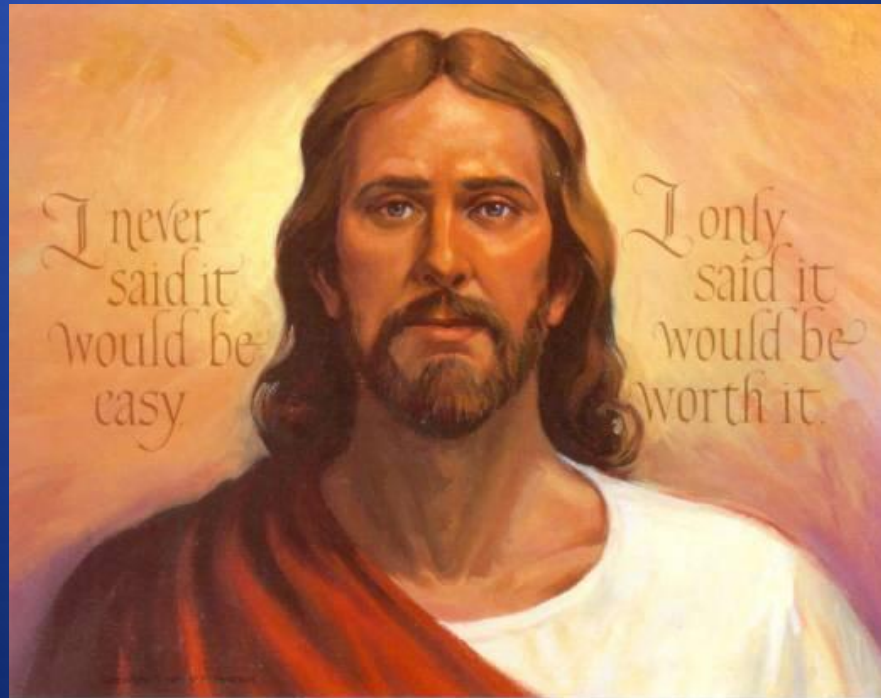
- What were the readers needs?
 - Christian who had put their Faith in the Lord (3:1)
 - Warned about “drifting” away (2:1)
 - Losing Confidence under Persecution (10:32-35)
 - Needed Knowledge
 - 5:12 – Should have been teachers...
 - 2:3 – Neglect so Great a Salvation
 - Christ death was troubling to some (Messiah’s hung on a tree?)
 - “Better than”....”once for all”....
 - Needed Exhortation - Heb. 13:22 (bear with this word....)
 - 2:1-4 - Exhorted against DRIFTING from God’s Word
 - 3:7-4:16 – Exhorted against DISBELIEVING God’s Word
 - 5:11-6:20 – Exhorted against DULLNESS toward God’s Word
 - 10:19-13:25 – Exhorted to DRAW near to God





Major Theme

The Christian Jews were under public contempt from their fellow Jews. We can relate to their struggles esp. In our schools, University and work environments.



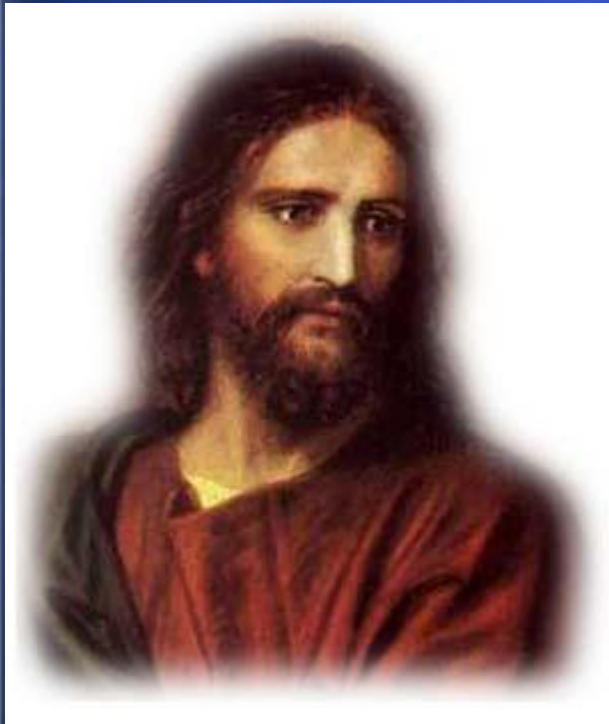
Have you ever felt isolated or made to feel low because of following Christ?



Theme: Christ Is Superior!

Superior Person (1:1 - 4:13)

- Superior to Prophets (1:1-3)
- Superior to Angels (1:4 - 2:18)
- Superior to Moses (3:1-19)
- Superior to Joshua (4:1-13)

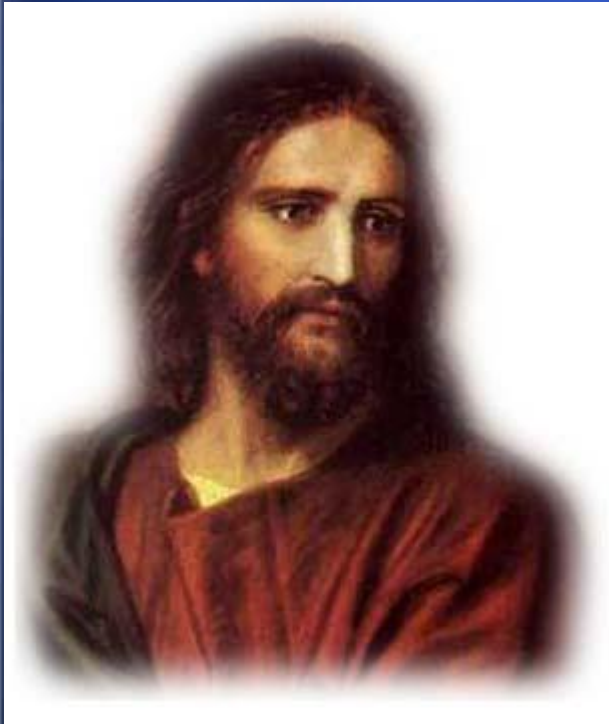


Superior Priest (4:14 - 7:28)

- Superior to Aaron (4:14 - 6:12)
- Superior to Melchizedek (6:13 - 7:5)
- Superior to Levi (7:6-28)



Theme: Christ Is Superior!



Superior Pact to Moses' (8:1 - 10:18)

- Superior Promises (8:1-13)
- Superior Sanctuary (9:1-15)
- Superior Sacrifice (9:16-28)
- Superior Results (10:1-18)

Superior Principle (Faith) to Moses' (10:19 - 13:25)

- Superior Things (10:19-39)
- Superior Actions (11:1-40)
- Superior Relationship (12:1-29)
- Superior Way of Life (13:1-25)

Conclusion

- **Thus to address the recipient Jews, St. Paul covers these areas:**
 - Jesus Christ is superior to the angels
 - Jesus Christ is superior to Moses
 - Christ's rest is superior to Joshua's
 - Christ's priesthood, in the order of Melchizedek, is superior to Aaron's
 - Christ's covenant is superior to Moses' covenant.
- **Persevere in:**
 - Spiritual progress
 - Faith (as the heroes of faith)
 - Discipline
 - Christian behaviour



A wooden cross is the central focus, with two hands holding it from below. The hands are positioned on either side of the cross's vertical beam, with fingers spread. The background is a circular, light-colored area with a subtle grid pattern. The text is centered over the cross.

**GLORY BE TO GOD, FOR
EVER and EVER. AMEN**