



Part 1

The book of Hebrews is written in a stereotypical Rabbinic style called Midrash. The root of Midrash means to dig, hence the writer of Hebrews is digging deeply into the scripture. It is commonplace for a rabbi to write and exegete scripture in the manner we see below. Gathering multiple different scriptures and splicing them together to make a point. We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews but its aim seems to be to confirm to a Jewish populace the messianic reign of Jesus. Some theorize it was Paul but that was disputed from the beginning. Absent authorship there was never any question of the canonicity of the book among early Christian sects.

Hebrews 1:1-2 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 He also made the world.

Who is His Son, the appointed heir of all things? Why did the author choose not to use His name? He continues with description in the verses to follow, but not His name.

“World” here is eons and carries a denotation of time; the root meaning is forever.

John 17:3 And this is eternal (eon) life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Hebrews 1:3-5 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 Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, to the extent that He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are My Son, Today I have fathered You”? And again, “I will be a Father to Him And He will be a Son to Me”?

...when He had made purification of sins - what is this referring to?

Psalm 2:7 “I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have fathered You.

2 Samuel 7:12 When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and with strokes of sons of mankind, 15 but My favor shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”” 17 In accordance with all these words and all of this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.
(Redundant passage found in 1 Chronicles 17:13)

Why is “descendant” singular and not plural in verse 12? Who is the author speaking of?

Who does the “descendant” come from?

Hebrews 1:6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “And let all the angels of God worship Him.”

Psalm 97:7 May all those be ashamed who serve carved images, Who boast in idols; Worship Him, all you gods.

“gods” here is elohim; which means angels as well, the same word in Hebrew means angels, spirits, or any supernatural being.

Hebrews 1:7 And regarding the angels He says, “He makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire.”

Psalm 104:4 He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers.

“Winds” here is ruach meaning spirit but also breath connoting temporality like.

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. For you are just a vapor that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away.

Hebrews 1:8-9 But regarding the Son He says, “Your throne, God, is forever and ever, And the scepter of righteousness 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 joy above Your companions.”

Psalm 45:6-7 Your throne, God, is forever and ever; The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice. 7 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed (anointed is Messiah or Christ) You With the oil of joy above Your companions.

This statement being applied to Jesus is a strong affirmation of the deity of Jesus, as God is applied to “Son”.

Hebrews 1:10-12 And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands; 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they all will wear out like a garment, 12 And like a robe 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.”

Psalm 102:25-27 In time of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 Even they will perish, but You endure; All of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will pass away. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies A footstool for Your feet”?

Psalm 110:1 The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to provide service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

This passage can be summed up in the statement Jesus is greater than all the other servants of God and has a very strong emphasis on the deity of Christ.

Why are so many passages in Hebrews 1 parallels of old testament writings? Who was the intended audience of these letters? What levels of belief did these people have?



HEBREWS



Part 2

Hebrews 2:1-4 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every violation and act of disobedience received a just punishment, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God 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.

What does the author mean by do not drift away?

Spoken through angels disobedient receive punishment

Remembering the previous chapter compares the difference between angels aka messengers and Jesus being the son with an emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. Angels also means messengers so the emphasis may also be something akin to “he used to speak through messengers and now he spoke to us through his son”

Matt 21:33-40 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and he leased it to vine-growers and went on a journey. 34 And when the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his fruit. 35 And the vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they did the same things to them. 37 But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let’s kill him and take possession of his inheritance!’ 39 And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?”

Neglect such a great salvation

If we deny that Jesus is the messiah

First spoken by the Lord and confirmed by those who heard

This is likely a reference to the exodus Mt Sinai to be more specific

Hebrews 2:5-8 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But someone has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You think of him? Or a son of man, that You are concerned about him? 7 You have made him for a little while lower than angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor; 8 You have put everything in subjection under his feet.” (Psalm 8:4-6)

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.

Is this about man in general or Jesus? The language of the Psalm is about mankind but the statement subject under his feet seems specific to a messianic Psalm 110:1The Lord says to my Lord:“Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” . **Or is this reference to Gen 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of

the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of His suffering death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

What is meant by it was by the favor or grace of God that Jesus died so he might taste death for everyone?

Hebrews 2:10-11 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the originator of their salvation through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Have you ever sat and thought about the fact that Jesus calls you brother?

Hebrews 2:12-13 saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brothers, In the midst of the assembly I will sing Your praise.” (Psalm 22:22) 13 And again, “I will put My trust in Him.” (I’m not exactly sure which verse this is a citation from because its a citation of about 50 different verses) And again, “Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me.” (Isaiah 8:18)

Take note how the author again uses the midrashic style of writing by splicing scriptures to make his point

Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same,

John 1:1-2,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14-16 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. 16 For clearly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham.

Why does he not give help to angels? Why do angels need help?

Gen 6:1-2 Now it came about, when mankind began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of mankind were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, *these* He has kept in eternal restraints under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Why did Jesus have to become like us? Surely God being omniscient knew what it was like to be tempted so why did he become human? It's not as though there was a lesson he needed to learn.

In the same manner it's not like he was not able to come to the aid of those who were tempted before... so what is the author meaning or trying to get to by these statements?



Part 3

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession:

Apostle and priest of our confession: Apostle literally means messenger or ambassador. The church has exalted the word almost to the point that the classical uses of the word have become lost. Jesus is the messenger/ambassador of our heavenly calling. He is also our high priest to intercede for us while we carry out our heavenly calling and assists us as we live out the heavenly calling.

Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. 3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the **builder of the house** has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; 6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope.

Do not think "builder of the house" in terms that we use today as a company who is the builder of a physical structure that we call a house. The term builder of the house is a paternalistic family term like we would use the term "head or beginner of the household".

"Moses was a faithful servant but Christ is a faithful son", is intended to show superiority of the message of Christ to the message of Moses, at least as it is understood by them.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished! 19 Therefore, whoever nullifies one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The term fulfill in Greek is play-ro'-o which means to fill something up like someone fills a cup with water. Hence its not getting rid of the law but teaching it properly, this is a very important concept to the people that this book is being written to.

Hebrews 3:7-11 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As on the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers put Me to the test, And saw My works for forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways'; 11 As I swore in My anger, 'They certainly shall not enter My rest.'"

Psalms 95:8-11 Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah (lit. Contention when Moses struck the rock **Numbers 20**), As on the day of Massah (lit. Test when Moses spoke to the rock **Exodus 17**) in the wilderness, 9 "When your fathers put Me to the test, They tested Me, though they had seen My work. 10 For forty years I was disgusted with that generation, And said they are a people who err in their heart, And they do not know My ways. 11 Therefore I swore in My anger, They certainly shall not enter My rest."

Common rabbinical practice is being used here by reframing the point or message you are trying to get across with the Exodus. The Exodus to a Jew is not merely a history story, it is the story of “who we are” in their eyes. This is why the reference to the destruction of the generation that was saved from Egypt is central to the next point that the author is making.

Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

When Israel grumbled against the Lord and his servant Moses they were ultimately punished for it in the wilderness... How much worse is it to grumble against the Son of God. If you do not believe in Jesus you are falling away from the living God and you have become equivalent to the generation of the wilderness that was obstinate and stiff necked.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

“So that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” is the thing to avoid by encouraging one another but what is it that we are supposed to encourage one another in? This jumps back to verse 1 “the heavenly calling.”

Hebrews 3:14-19 For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end, 15 while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” 16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Part of the point here needs some background information because it went without saying in their day. The theological position of most Jews, even to this day is that they, by their bloodline, are intrinsically saved and will enter into the kingdom of God. The author here uses the comparison of the wilderness generation to not only defeat that presupposition but to encourage faith in Christ. The household of God is entered into by faithfulness to the one who built it.



HEBREWS



Part 4

Hebrews 3:16-19 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore, we must fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short. 2 For indeed we have had **good news** preached to us, just as they also did; but the **word** (Logos) **they** heard did not benefit them, because **they** were not united with those who listened with faith.

When you fall short we have the gospel. The word translated good news here is the same word as gospel.

Who are the “they”?

The “LOGOS” they heard did not benefit them because they didn’t hear it in faith.

John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word (**logos**), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 4:3-4 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “As I swore in My anger, They certainly shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”

Psalms 95:11 Therefore I swore in My anger, They certainly shall not enter My rest.”

Genesis 2:1-3 And so the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their heavenly lights. 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Matt 12:8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

The Author of Hebrews is comparing salvation through Christ to the Sabbath. Because they did not listen in faith they didn’t receive the real sabbath which is Jesus.

Hebrews 4:5-6 and again in this passage, “They certainly shall not enter My rest.” 6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who previously had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,

Remember verse 2 said “they were not united with those who listened with faith”, and verse 6 says they were disobedient, so what is the reason?

1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

Hebrews 4:7-10 He again sets a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. 9 Consequently, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

Psalm 95:7-8 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, As on the day of Massah in the wilderness,

Massah and Meribah is where Israel grumbled against Moses in Exodus 17 for water accusing Moses of "bringing them out of Egypt to kill them in the wilderness."

In Hebrew, Sabbath is not merely a day of the week but a precursor of something to come later. The rest of the Sabbath is supposed to be a picture of the messianic kingdom in which Israel will have rest from its enemies and we have rest from sin and death.

Deuteronomy 12:8-10 "You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes; 9 for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. 10 When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around you so that you live in security

Hebrews 4:11 Therefore let's make **every effort** to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by the same example of disobedience.

Every effort here does not mean "works" as in we enter his rest by works but is better translated diligence. Therefore let's be diligent to enter his rest.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word(LOGOS) of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.

Notice the grammar uses pronouns like his and him but the subject is the Logos. This again plays back into the Logos doctrine that Jesus is Logos incarnate.

John 1:1-2,14 In the beginning was the Word(LOGOS), and the Word(LOGOS) was with God, and the Word (LOGOS) was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word(LOGOS) became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 4:14-15 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let's hold firmly to our confession.15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin.

Sympathize here is the Greek word Sympatheo which means to suffer with, it's the etymological root of the word sympathy. Christ is able to sympathize with us because he suffered with and for us. Sympathy, empathy, and apathy are the same Greek word with different prefixes, em=in, sym=with, and a=without.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.

We approach the throne of grace with confidence because Christ has sympathized with us and paved the way by giving us grace and mercy.



Part 5

Hebrews 5:1-4 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of people in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; 2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is clothed in weakness; 3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins for himself, as well as for the people. 4 And no one takes the honor for himself, but receives it when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was.

Appointed for the people

Leviticus 16:15 “Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the atoning cover and in front of the atoning cover.

Offer sacrifices for himself

Leviticus 16:11 “Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

Does not take honor for himself until called to by God

Leviticus 16:2 The Lord said to Moses: “Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the atoning cover which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the atoning cover.

Hebrews 5:5 So too Christ did not glorify Himself in becoming a high priest, but it was He who said to Him, “You are My Son, Today I have fathered You”;

Psalm 2:7 “I will announce the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have fathered You.

Hebrews 5:6 just as He also says in another passage, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

This is the same Psalm that that Jesus uses to assert his greater degree of greatness than David as David calls him lord

Psalm 110:1 The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

Genesis 14:18-20 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has handed over your enemies to you.” And he gave him a tenth

of everything.

Abraham paid a tithe, which is a sacrifice, to Melchizedek and Jesus is assigned this priesthood. Ergo Jesus stands in the place of the priest that Abraham honored.

John 8:53-59 You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are You? The prophets died too. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him. And if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you; but I do know Him, and I follow His word. 56 Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced." 57 So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds.

(He being Jesus here) Hebrews 5:7-10 In the days of His humanity, He offered up both prayers and pleas with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His devout behavior. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him, 10 being designated by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Why the order of Melchizedek and not according to Aaron's priesthood?

Melchizedek was a priest prior to the Circumcision of Abraham. Meaning he is priest for gentiles as well as Jews we can deduce this from the same argument Paul makes in Romans 4.

Romans 4:9-12 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness." 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

Hebrews 5:11-14 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.

The author of Hebrews makes a sort of break between the first part of the letter and what comes next, by exclaiming that there is more to say but they aren't quite ready to hear it because they were poor listeners and infants (in knowledge).



HEBREWS



Part 6

Hebrews 5:11-14 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners. **12** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **13** For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **14** But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

What is meant by a foundation of repentance from dead works of faith? Levitical laws? Rituals? Sacrifices? The temple?

Hebrews 6:2-3 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and about the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. **3** And this we will do, if God permits.

Does he imply that these things are the dead works? If so then why say we will do these things?

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

This is a powerful statement, what is your take on it?

Deuteronomy 17:2-7 **2** "If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by violating His covenant, **3** and *that person* has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun, the moon, or any of the heavenly lights, which I have commanded not to do, **4** and if it is reported to you and you have heard *about it*, then you shall investigate thoroughly. And if it is true and the report is trustworthy that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, **5** then you are to bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil deed, *that is*, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death. **6** On the testimony of two witnesses or three witnesses, the condemned shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of *only* one witness. **7** The hands of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall eliminate the evil from your midst.

Hebrews 6:7-8 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and produces vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; **8** but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

Seems as though the writer here elaborates in a parable of types closely linked with one Jesus told.

Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. 26 And when the wheat sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also became evident. 27 And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ 28 And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves *said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he *said, ‘No; while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Is the statement in Hebrews about believers who went apostate or those who are false from the start?

Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things regarding you, and things that accompany salvation, even though we are speaking in this way.

This statement seems to imply that whoever he is talking to now is not ground yielding chaff to be burned but good fruit.

Matt 21:18 Now in the early morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. 19 And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves alone; and He *said to it, “No longer shall there ever be *any* fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered. 20 Seeing *this*, the disciples were amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither *all* at once?” 21 And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what *was done* to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. 22 And whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive it all.”

Matthew 23:37-Matthew 24:2 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’” 1 Jesus left the temple *area* and was going *on His way* when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 But He responded and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not *one* stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

Hebrews 6:10-12 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by still serving the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you demonstrate the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises.

Matthew 24:9-14 “Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. 12 And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will become cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. 14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Hebrews 6:13-18 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “indeed I will greatly bless you and I will greatly multiply you.” 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For people swear an oath by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath serving as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge

would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us.

Swearing an oath in ancient Hebrew culture is of the utmost importance. It is more than a rhetorical ploy but a soul binding promise. This is why Jesus tells us not to swear as part of his sermon on the mount.

Matthew 5:33-37 “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, take no oath at all, neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you take an oath by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. 37 But make sure your statement is, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil origin.

Jesus tells us to make no oath even by the hair on our head because we don't control things.

Hebrews 6:17-20 In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

If God is making and promising salvation as an oath through Jesus then you can take it to the bank.... But what veil is he talking about? Jesus never entered behind the veil in the temple as Jesus was not a son of Aaron. What is the author talking about here?



Part 7

Genesis 14:17-20 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has handed over your enemies to you." And he gave him a tenth of everything.

Hebrews 7:1-4 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. 4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

Exactly where the writer got the information in verse 3 is disputed but one thing is for certain, Jewish theology of the time holds Melchizedek in high regard. They typically identify Melchizedek with Shem the son of Noah who was still alive at the time.

(1st and 2nd century Rabbi) Pirkei DeRabbi Eliezer 27.7 Rabbi Joshua *The first edition add: "son of Korchah."* said: Abraham was the first to begin to give a tithe. He took all the tithe of the kings and all the tithe of the wealth of Lot, the son of his brother, and gave (it) to Shem,⁹ *He was the chief priest then; see supra, pp. 53 f., and cf. J.E. xi. 261 f. As we have seen, P.R.E. identifies Shem with Melchizedek; see Jubilees xiii. 25, especially Charles' note on pp. 100 f.* the son of Noah, as it is said, "And he gave him a tenth of all. Shem, the son of Noah, came forth to meet him,¹ *With bread and wine; see Gen. 14:18.* and when he saw all the deeds which he had done and all the wealth which he had brought back, he wondered in his heart. He began to praise, to glorify, and to laud the name of the Most High, saying: "And blessed be God the Most High, who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand"

Hebrews 7:5-6 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have a commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their countrymen, although they are descended from Abraham. 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

Genesis 28:20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God is with me and protects me on this journey I am taking and gives me food to eat and clothing to wear, 21 and I return safely to my father's home, then the Lord will become my God. 22 Then this stone that I have set up as a sacred stone will be the house of God, and I will surely give you back a tenth of everything you give me."

Numbers 18:21 "To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel as an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.

Hebrews 7:7-10 But without any dispute the lesser person is blessed by the greater. 8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, has paid tithes, 10 for he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him.

Even though the Levites received the tithe in the Mosaic covenant the author makes the statement that because Levi is part of Abraham then there is a greater priesthood that Abraham paid to and thus Levi paid tithe to a greater priesthood. Thus, the priesthood of Melchizedek, is a greater priesthood than that of the Levitical.

Hebrews 7:11 So if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 6:20 where Jesus our forerunner entered on our behalf, since he became a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

Why does law depend on priesthood?

Hebrews 7:13-16 For the one about whom these things are said belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses said nothing concerning priests. 15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

Jesus is of the tribe of Judah and thus forbidden by Mosaic law to officiate at the altar in Jerusalem. So he arose according to a different priesthood that was much older. Thus his priesthood is not bound by physical requirements such as: operating in Jerusalem, offering physical sacrifices for each sin, lighting the candles, burning the incense, and all the other duties of the Levitical priesthood.

Hebrews 7:17 For it is attested of Him, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Is this where he gets the statement "indestructible life" from verse 16? If he is a priest forever then it would seem to be implied that he operates in this priesthood forever and thus needs to have indestructible life to do so.

Psalm 110:1-4 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." 2 The Lord will stretch out Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." 3 Your people will volunteer freely on the day of Your power; In holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew. 4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110 is the most quoted passage from the Tanakh, Old Testament, in the New Testament. It was universally accepted by the Jews, with the exception of Sadducees, to be a messianic prophecy. This is the reason that the New Testament writers hyper-fixate on this passage.

Hebrews 7:18 For, on the one hand, there is the nullification of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness

What is the nullification of a former commandment?

Hebrews 7:19-21 (for the Law made nothing perfect); on the other hand, there is the introduction of a better hope, through which we come near to God. **20** And to the extent that it was not without an oath **21** (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him,

“The Lord has sworn And will not change His mind, ‘You are a priest forever’”);

Psalm 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

There is no statement in the Torah that says the priesthood of Levi will stand forever, thus the writer makes a case that the priesthood of Christ is superior in this way as the Lord says, “I will not change my mind.”

Hebrews 7:22-25 by the same extent Jesus also has become the guarantee of a better covenant. **23** The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing; **24** Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. **25** Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Aaron and his sons all operated in the priesthood simultaneously but Jesus needs no help to offer this perfect sacrifice. Aaron and his sons died, Nadab and Abihu on the same day

Leviticus 10:1-2 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on the fire and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. **2** And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

Compare the death of Nadab and Abihu to the resurrection of Christ.

Hebrews 7:26-27 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens; **27** who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself.

Leviticus 16:6 Then Aaron shall offer the bull as the sin offering, which is for himself, so that he may make atonement for himself and for his household.

Hebrews 7:28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, who has been made perfect forever.

The Law comes first and preeminent in scripture, the Psalms came later and offered the promise of the Messiah in 110.



HEBREWS



Part 8

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord set up, not man.

What is this about? A true tabernacle does this mean the one set up by Moses, Solomon, and Zerubbabel was not a real tabernacle?

In Jewish thought there is no sitting in heaven. Chagigah 15a (Talmud)He said: There is a tradition that in the world above there is no sitting; no competition; no turning one's back before Him, i.e., all face the Divine Presence; and no lethargy.

By proclaiming that the high priest is sitting he is proclaiming that God is the high priest in the person Jesus

Mark 14:61 But He kept silent and did not offer any answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and *said to Him, "Are You the [a]Christ, the Son of [a]the Blessed One?" **62** And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." **63** Tearing his clothes, the high priest *said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? **64** You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him as deserving of death.

If Jesus is claiming to be sitting, in Jewish thought, he is either blaspheming or he is God. This is the highest Christological statement in all of scripture.

Hebrews 8:3-6 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things by the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain." 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, to the extent that He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

Exodus 25:9 According to all that I am going to show you as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, so you shall construct it.

Copy and Shadow the use of the word shadow here has an interesting Hebrew connection that goes back to Genesis chapter 1. The image of God in Hebrew is tsalem the root of the word is tsale which means shadow. Tsale is translated into the LXX as skia which is the Greek word used here. Hence man was made to be the shadow of God on the earth and the tabernacle was made to be the shadow of something in Heaven. Therefore the sacrifices were to be a shadow of a better sacrifice that would ultimately shed blood for the heavenly original.

Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been free of fault, no circumstances would have been sought for a

second.

If the covenant had been capable of elevating man to the presence of God then there is no reason for a new covenant. The covenant of Moses was sufficient to free Israel from slavery and set them up in a manner that was able to bless the world but it was not capable of setting man up to be in true relationship with God, as in the garden of Eden.

Hebrews 8:8-12 For in finding fault with the people, He says,

“Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will bring about a new covenant With the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day I took them by the hand To bring them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care about them, says the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel After those days, declares the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds And write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 11 And they will not teach, each one his fellow citizen, And each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ For they will all know Me, From the least to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful toward their wrongdoings, And their sins I will no longer remember.”

Jeremiah 31-34 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. 33 “For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord: “I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember.”

Jeremiah gives this prophecy on the heels of the Babylonian exile. Israel and Judah are being destroyed by Babylon because there was fault found in them. They had forsaken the covenant and began behaving like Babylonians so they were sent to be with Babylonians. Hence the Hebrews writer says “in finding fault” he declares a new covenant.

Let us break down the prophecy of Jeremiah 31 mentioned here and see what we can deduce from it.

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Hebrews 8:13 When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

By declaring a new covenant he is saying the old is insufficient or else he would just say I am restoring the covenant.

Jeremiah 31:32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

I was a husband to them has very strong emphasis in the book of Hosea. In which the Lord declares he is the husband of Israel and Israel is being a “cheating wife” by going after other gods. This imagery is also used in the early parts of the book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 3:1-2 God says, “If a husband divorces his wife And she leaves him And becomes another man’s wife, Will he return to her again? Would that land not be completely defiled? But you are a prostitute with many

lovers; Yet you turn to Me,” declares the Lord. 2 “Raise your eyes to the bare heights and see; Where have you not been violated? You have sat for them by the roads Like an Arab in the desert, And you have defiled a land With your prostitution and your wickedness.

Jeremiah 31:33 “For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord: “I will put My law within them and write it on their heart, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Notice the order of statements here. I will put my law within them. Them is a collective group not an individual. I will write my Torah on their heart once again a collective but now the Torah is on their heart not just in their midst. This does not mean that you, after being converted, should follow your heart as an individual. These are collective statements made to a whole community which is Israel. The gentiles are grafted into this group by the body of Christ aka the church.

Romans 11:17-20 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” 20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

It is through this grafting in mentioned that the prophecy of the new covenant becomes relevant to you.

Jeremiah 31:34 They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘**Know the Lord,**’ for they will all **know** Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember.”

They will not teach again “know the Lord”? When you hear the word “know” what comes to mind? Is it some form of “head” knowledge like knowing the Pythagorean theorem or is it knowing like you know your wife, children, family, friends, etc? Know in the Hebrew concept is relational.

Genesis 4:1 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have obtained a male child with the help of the Lord.”

The Hebrew word here for Adam knowing Eve is the same as the Hebrew word in Jeremiah 31:34. To know someone means to be in a relationship with them similar to the husband-wife analogy mentioned above and in Hosea.

Then, when my Torah is in them, and we are in a relationship, they know me and I them, I will forgive their wrongdoings and not remember their sins.



HEBREWS



Part 9

Hebrews 9:1-5 Now even the first covenant had regulations for divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tabernacle was equipped, the outer sanctuary, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the sacred bread; this is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Most Holy Place, 4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's staff which budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the atoning cover; but about these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Numbers 17:10 But the LORD said to Moses, "Put the staff of Aaron back in front of the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, so that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me and they do not die."

Deuteronomy 31:24-26 It came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this Law in a book until they were complete, 25 that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, 26 "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, so that it may remain there as a witness against you.

Exodus 16:31-36 And the house of Israel named the bread manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey. 32 Then Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'A full omer of it is to be kept safe throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread that I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" 33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put a full omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept safe throughout your generations." 34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony, to be kept. 35 And the sons of Israel ate the manna for forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)

1 Kings 8:9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Hebrews 8:4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things BY THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN TO YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

Exodus 25:40 See that you make them by the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

Hebrews 9:6-7 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle, performing the divine worship, 7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

What is The High priest offers sacrifice for sins committed in ignorance? What about intentional sins?

When sin was committed intentionally there were legal repercussions, remember that Israel was a theocracy, and the religion was the government. When someone sinned they had to bring a sacrifice or payment for what

they had done and had to atone separately.

Hebrews 9:8-10 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed (revealed) while the outer tabernacle is still standing, 9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly, both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, 10 since they relate only to food, drink, and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

If the divine worship does not cleanse the person's conscience then what was it for? God did not give things meaninglessly.

It seems as though the Hebrews writer is interjecting the person and his need into the divine worship. Showing that the religious piety only serves as worship to the Lord but the person does not get what he needs from it.

Hebrews 9:11-12 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things having come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all time, having obtained eternal redemption.

So referring back to verse 9, how does the sacrifice of Christ perfect the conscience where the sacrifices that came before could not?

What is the perfect tabernacle not of this creation?

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The sacrifices before could only cleanse the flesh but the sacrifice of Christ is perfect and cleanses all of the person.

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the violations that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The death of Christ makes redemption for those under the first covenant and gives them an eternal inheritance. This refers to people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.

Matthew 27:50-54 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. 52 Also the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now as for the centurion and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the other things that were happening, they became extremely frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Hebrews 9:15-18 (NET) And so he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the eternal inheritance he has promised, since he died to set them free from the violations committed under the first covenant. 16 For where there is a will, the death of the one who made it must be proven. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it carries no force while the one who made it is alive. 18 So even the first covenant was inaugurated with blood.

A will leaves an inheritance. So with the death of Christ, who is the Word incarnate, the inheritance that the

Word promised is now passed on. That being said the one who died to give the inheritance has to own the inheritance in order for it to be passed down.

Every covenant is inaugurated with blood, the covenants of the Torah were inaugurated with the blood of animals while the new covenant was inaugurated with the blood of God.

Hebrews 9:19-22 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU." 21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. 22 And almost all things are cleansed with blood, according to the Law, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

Exodus 24:6-8 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it as the people listened; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Hebrews 9:23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these things, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Matt 26:26-29 Now while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it with you, new, in My Father's kingdom."

Hebrews 9:24-26 For Christ did not enter a holy place made by hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year by year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

The sacrifice of Christ was perfect. He did not enter a copy to continue in the shadow and seasons of things to come but completed the task once and for all. The sacrifice of Christ lacks nothing.

Hebrews 9:27-28 And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

The death of Christ is sufficient to pay for your death that is appointed you by Adam. When he appears again the thought of sin is of no relevance for those who believe in him. However, like the items placed in the Ark of The Covenant, the death of Christ will bear witness against those who do not believe.



HEBREWS



Part 10

Hebrews 10:1-4 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the form of those things itself, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins

We discussed a bit of this in the previous lesson. Christ is the sacrifice that only needed to be made once because his sacrifice makes us perfect and in him, we lack nothing. The sacrifices for sins were also a reminder of sin and that we needed to make a sacrifice to cleanse ourselves from its effect.

Hebrew 10:5-7 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED SACRIFICE AND OFFERING, BUT YOU HAVE PREPARED A BODY FOR ME; 6 YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN PLEASURE IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND OFFERINGS FOR SIN. 7 THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IT IS WRITTEN OF ME IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’”

Psalms 40:4-8 How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who become involved in falsehood. 5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is no one to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, They would be too numerous to count. 6 You have not desired sacrifice and meal offering; You have opened my ears; You have not required burnt offering and sin offering. 7 Then I said, “Behold, I have come; It is written of me in the scroll of the book. 8 I delight to do Your will, my God; Your Law is within my heart.”

Hebrews 10:8-10 After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND OFFERINGS FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE IN THEM” (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. 10 By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

Hebrews 10:11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

Hebrews 9:8-10 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed (revealed) while the outer tabernacle is still standing, 9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly, both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, 10 since they relate only to food, drink, and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

Verse 11 builds off of the previous chapter’s argument. That if the sacrifices in the temple were capable of taking away sin then they would not need to be continuously offered.

Hebrews 10:12-13 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, 13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.

As we have discussed before Rabbinic thought claims there is no sitting in heaven. So Christ sitting down in heaven, at the right hand of God, is a profound claim. This claim both ascribed deity to Jesus as well as the completion of the divine work. Sitting implies rest and completion, therefore with Christ seated it means that

he is God and his work is complete. If the work of sacrifice for sins is complete then there is no more need for them.

Chagigah 15a There is a tradition that in the world above there is no sitting; no competition; no turning one's back before Him, i.e., all face the Divine Presence; and no lethargy. Seeing that someone other than God was seated above, he said: Perhaps, the Gemara here interjects, Heaven forbid, there are two authorities, and there is another source of power in control of the world in addition to God. Such thoughts led *Aher* to heresy.

The "two separate powers" is a Jewish heresy, but Christ is not a separate power from God, even when he is revealed in a separate form, his ontology is that of God

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

What does it mean to be perfected? Are we perfected? Are we sanctified?

Sanctified (ἁγιάζω)(Kiddush or separated for God's use) = to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow

- A. to separate from profane things and dedicate to God**
 - i. consecrate things to God
 - ii. dedicate people to God
- B. to purify**
 - i. to cleanse externally
 - ii. to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
 - iii. to purify internally by renewing of the soul

Hebrews 10:15-17 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, 16 "THIS IS THE COVENANT WHICH I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEARTS, AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR MIND," He then says, 17 "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL NO LONGER REMEMBER."

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. 33 "For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord: "I will put My law within them and write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember."

If God is no longer remembering our sins and he puts his Torah within our hearts, then in some manner we are perfected..... Even when we fail to actualize it. So try and look at yourself the way God looks at you and do so while remaining humble.

Hebrews 10:18-19 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required. 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have the confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

There is no need for a sacrifice to enter into God's presence. So how do we enter the holy place with confidence?

Hebrews 10:20-22 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, through His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let's approach God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

This is how we enter boldly. Through the body of Christ that was sacrifices, sincere heart, full assurance in faith, hearts sprinkled clean from evil, and washed clean. What do these things mean and represent?

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, 25 not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

What is the confession that we are holding to?

Christ is the Messiah, our sacrifice, and through him we are made righteous. Now that we are made righteous we get to enter into relation with God.

Hebrews 10:26-28 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. 28 Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 17:5-7 Then you are to bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil deed, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death. 6 On the testimony of two witnesses or three witnesses, the condemned shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. 7 The hands of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall eliminate the evil from your midst.

Hebrews 10:29 How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Jude 1:4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are saved by grace but we have to respect this grace. We cannot think "Because I am saved by grace I can sin all I want." This type of thinking disregards the holiness of God and insults the very savior that saved us. This merely shows us that you are not saved at all.

Hebrews 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Deuteronomy 32:35-36 Vengeance is Mine, and retribution; In due time their foot will slip. For the day of their disaster is near, And the impending things are hurrying to them.' 36 For the Lord will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their strength is gone, And there is none remaining, bond or free.

The confidence that allows us to approach the Lord boldly seems to be contingent upon receiving the grace that allows salvation. But that seems to be contingent upon our respect for the grace. Therefore we have to have the right attitude and cannot insult God. God knows our hearts and we cannot deceive him.

Psalm 145:18-21 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever

and ever.

Hebrews 10:32-34 But remember the former days, when, after being enlighteneded, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, 33 partly by being made a public spectacle through insults and distress, and partly by becoming companions with those who were so treated. 34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better and lasting possession.

Acts 5:40 They followed his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. 41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and preaching the good news of Jesus as the Christ.

Hebrews 10:35-38 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY 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, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.

Habakkuk 2:2-5 Then the Lord answered me and said, "Write down the vision And inscribe it clearly on tablets, So that one who reads it may run. 3 For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hurries toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it delays, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay long.4 "Behold, as for the impudent one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous one will live by his faith.5 Furthermore, wine betrays an arrogant man, So that he does not achieve his objective. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all the nations And collects to himself all the peoples.

So what does it mean to endure? How do we endure?



HEBREWS



Part 11

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

A better translation is the substance of things hoped for. The Greek word substance is hypostasis, literally what stands beneath something. Faith is what stands beneath the things we hope for. Therefore it is the foundation of what we hope for and the proof or conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

Genesis 15:5-6 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He credited it to him as righteousness.

Abraham was approved by God because he trusted him and followed him. True faith stands beneath the actions that we do.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

“Word” here is not Logos but a literal sound. Sound is not seen and yet by it God created the world. “And God said, ‘let there be light.’”

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Genesis 4:9-11 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” 10 Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground. 11 Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

Genesis 5:21-24 Now Enoch lived sixty-five years, and fathered Methuselah. 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he fathered Methuselah, and he fathered other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Notice the intrinsic link between believing in him and seeking him. Pistis, the Greek word for faith, also means devotion. It is not merely an acknowledgment of existence.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Noah had no other reason to think that the earth was going to be flooded other than trusting what the Lord had told him. Not only did he hear what God said, he reacted in the way that God told him to. This is what Pistis truly means.

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Genesis 11:27-28 Now these are the records of the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. 28 Haran died during the lifetime of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans

The Bible can be summarized as a tale of two cities; the city of God and Babylon. Abraham was living in Chaldea aka Babylon. He left looking for a city whose builder and maker was God.... What city is this?

Revelation 21:1-2 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Abraham left Babylon looking for the New Jerusalem which was not even on Earth yet. Much of the Bible, into the book of Revelation, can be understood as Babylon, the worldly city versus Jerusalem the city of God.

Hebrews 11:11-12 By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

As good as dead is not necessarily referring to his age alone but the fact that he had no heirs. A person with no heirs lives his life in vanity because he has left nothing to the world. So by Abraham and Sarah being past the age of conceiving children, they were as good as dead. When they died there would have been nothing remaining of them to the world. However, by faith, they received a promise, that they trusted in God for, which ultimately changed the world.

Hebrews 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Abraham did not receive the city that he was looking for. They all, like he, received a shadow of the truth. Abraham received the worldly Jerusalem, and Sarah received Isaac, not Jesus.

Hebrews 11:13b-16 they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

They all knew within themselves that the world was not as it should be. God was making another world for those who were faithful. This is the classic Rabbinic language of Olam Ha-ba or the world to come.

The ancient rabbis believe in two worlds: their present, lived reality, which they refer to in Hebrew as *olam ha-zeh*, or “this world”; and a future, not-yet-experienced realm, which they call in Hebrew *olam ha-ba*, or “the world to come.” It is in *olam ha-ba* that the just receive their divine reward and the wicked incur their divine punishment. The world to come thus solves the problem of theodicy, or divine justice.

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Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, “In Isaac your descendants shall be called.” 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Abraham believed that if he sacrificed Isaac then God would have raised him from the dead. This is what faith does. Abraham was going to offer Isaac because he trusted in the promise of God so fully that he was willing to kill Isaac believing that he would have been resurrected.

Hebrews 11:20-22 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. 21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the Exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Genesis 50:24-26 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will assuredly take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will assuredly take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.” 26 So Joseph died at the age of 110 years; and they embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

How, if faith is merely belief as skeptics claim, is this faith?

As I stated previously, *pistis* is devotion not merely belief. Moses' parents were willing to suffer the king's punishment to do what was right. Then by trusting in God, they placed their son into an ark believing that he was going to survive.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

How did Moses know he was a Hebrew?

When Moses killed the taskmaster who was abusing the Hebrews he was willing to protect his own people even at the cost of breaking the laws of Egypt.

Exodus 2:13-15 Now he went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, “Why are you striking your companion?” 14 But he said, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and said, “Surely the matter has become known!” 15 When Pharaoh heard about this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.

Hebrews 11:27-29 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

Here it says Moses was not afraid of Pharaoh but previously he ran from Pharaoh. What happened to change this?

Hebrews 11:30-31 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

Rahab the harlot believed that the Lord was giving the land to Israel and hid spies from her own people.

Hebrews 11:32-37 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented

Matthew 23:34-39 "For this reason I am sending you prophets and wise men and experts in the law, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, 35 so that on you will come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 I tell you the truth, this generation will be held responsible for all these things! 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it! 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate! 39 For I tell you, you will not see me from now until you say, '*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!*'"

2 Chronicles 24:20-21 Then the Spirit of God covered Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest like clothing; and he stood above the people and said to them, "This is what God has said, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, He has also abandoned you.'" 21 So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the house of the LORD.

Hebrews 11:38-40 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.



HEBREWS

Part 12

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us,

This is a reference back to the so-called Hall of Faith of chapter 11. All those who came before us who endured in faith without receiving the promised Messiah.

Hebrews 12:1b-2 Let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What does the Author and perfecter of our faith mean?

Remembering that Hebrews is written to Jews to convince them that Jesus is the messiah it seems unlikely that he is referring specifically to Christianity here. Rather he is telling the Jews that Jesus the Messiah is the Author (beginning) and the perfecter (end) of their faith. In other words, the entire substance of Judaism is found in Jesus Christ. Therefore the Jews need to run the race of faith focused on Jesus who is the Word of God, that they so revere, incarnate. He has endured the cross and shame and has SAT DOWN at the right hand of God. Once again the sitting in heaven reference.

Hebrews 12:3-4 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

Christ has suffered and died and had his blood shed because of sinners. Yet we are not so willing to even resist sin. Yet Christ teaches us the following.

Matthew 5:29-30 Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Hebrews 12:5-6 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE PUNISHED BY HIM; 6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE PUNISHES EVERY SON WHOM HE ACCEPTS."

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His rebuke, 12 For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, *Just* as a father *disciplines* the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

This comparison seems to be lost on us in modernity as society attempts to tell us that discipline is a bad thing.

Seneca De Providencia says, "Do you not see how differently fathers and mothers indulge their children? How the former urge them to begin their tasks betimes, will not suffer them to be idle even on holidays, and exercise them till they perspire, and sometimes till they shed tears — while their mothers want to cuddle them in their laps, and keep them out of the sun, and never wish them to be vexed, or to cry, or to work. God bears a fatherly mind towards good men, and loves them in a manly spirit. "Let them," says He, "be exercised by labours, sufferings, and losses, that so they may gather true strength." Those who are surfeited with ease break down not only with labour, but with mere motion and by their own weight. Unbroken prosperity cannot bear a single blow; but he who has waged an unceasing strife with his misfortunes has gained a thicker skin by his sufferings, yields to no disaster, and even though he fall yet fights on his knee. Do you wonder that God, who so loves the good, who would have them attain the highest goodness and preeminence, should appoint fortune to be their adversary?"

Hebrews 12:8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

This is a strong statement. If you are without discipline (training, chastisement, correction) then you are illegitimate. What does he mean by "which we have all become partakers?" Is this a reference to Christian persecution or Jewish subjugation? Remember Hebrews was written before the destruction of the temple in 70 AD.

Hebrews 12:9-10 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

A human father disciplines from his subjective perspective which could be faulty. However, the discipline and chastisement from our Father in heaven is always perfect and for our ultimate perfection.

Hebrews 12:11 For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

This is why the world does not like discipline or think that we should discipline our children... the world does not like righteousness.

Hebrews 12:12-15 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is impaired may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. 14 Pursue peace with all people, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

This is a hard statement. Without holiness, no one will see the Lord. How do we reconcile the apparent need for holiness with salvation by grace? This seems to set up grace as something that we have to achieve to avoid falling short

Hebrews 12:16-17 that there be no sexually immoral(pornos) or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. 17 For you know that even afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

Think back to chapter 11 when there is a Hall of Faith but now we have a negative example of Esau. Esau lived his life entirely immoral and yet still wanted the blessing that he would have defiled, even though he sought the blessings of God, yet without repentance of his evil deeds, he could not find them. Even though we are saved by grace and salvation is a gift, it cannot be received without repentance.

Hebrews 12:18-21 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to

darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words, which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. 20 For they could not cope with the command, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

Exodus 19 reference. This is to show the contrast in the covenants. Mount Sinai vs Mt Zion.

Hebrews 12:22-23 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

In Verses 18-21 God is portrayed as unapproachable on Mt Sinai. However on Mount Zion, through Christ, he is available to the world. So that by approaching him we can be made perfect.

Hebrews 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Exodus 24:6-8 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it as the people listened; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!" 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Genesis 4:9-10 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 Then He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood(s) (דָּמָא) is crying out to Me from the ground.

Mishnah Sanheidren 4.5 For so have we found it with Cain that murdered his brother, for it says, "The bloods of your brother cry out" (Gen. 4:10). It doesn't say, "The blood of your brother", but rather "The bloods of your brother" meaning his blood and the blood of his descendants. Another saying is, "The bloods of your brother" that his blood was cast over trees and stones. Therefore but a single person was created in the world, to teach that if any man has caused a single life to perish from Israel, he is deemed by Scripture as if he had caused a whole world to perish.

Hebrews 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns us from heaven.

The one who is speaking is a reference to the blood of Jesus that was spilled. If we do not listen to the blood of Jesus then we heap judgment on ourselves.

Hebrews 12:26-27 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN." 27 This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Haggai 2:5-9 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit remains in your midst; do not fear!' 6 For this is what the LORD of armies says: 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of armies. 8 'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of armies. 9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the LORD of armies, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the LORD of armies."

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let's show gratitude, by which

we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Deuteronomy 4:21-24 “Now the LORD was angry with me on your account, and He swore that I would not cross the Jordan, and that I would not enter the good land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance. 22 For I am going to die in this land; I am not crossing the Jordan, but you are going to cross, and you will take possession of this good land. 23 So be careful yourselves, that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything against which the LORD your God has commanded you. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

This reference is to show that disobedience will be destroyed. As Moses was not permitted to enter the Land due to his disobedience, if we are disobedient to the blood of Christ we too will be destroyed.



HEBREWS



Part 13

Hebrews 13:1 Let love of the brothers *and* sisters continue.

Love here is philadelphia, not the normal Biblical word Agape. What is the difference between agape and philadelphia? Is there a difference other than the recipient?

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

The hospitality here is philoxenia or phileo to strangers. What do you think about the idea that some have entertained angels without knowing it?

Hebrews 13:3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, *and* those who are badly treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

What body is the author speaking of?

1 Corinthians 6:15a Do you not know that your bodies are parts of Christ?

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage* bed *is to be* undefiled; for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

1 Corinthians 6:13-20 Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, however God will do away with both of them. But the body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are parts of Christ? Shall I then take away the parts of Christ and make them parts of a prostitute? Far from it! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and *that* you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Hebrews 13:5-6 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER ABANDON YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

Deuteronomy 31:6-8 Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or in dread of them, for the LORD your God is the One who is going with you. He will not desert you or abandon you." 7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you will give it to them as an inheritance. 8 And the LORD is the one who is going ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not desert you or abandon you. Do not fear and do not be dismayed."

This is the charge of Joshua when he was told to take Israel into the promised land.

Psalms 118:6-9 The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me? 7 The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I will look *with satisfaction* on those who hate me.8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in people. 9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in noblemen.

This is the festival Passover song. The same one that they sang when Jesus entered Jerusalem in his triumphant entry when they sang Hosana.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their way of life, imitate their faith.

Remember Chapter 11 the Hall of Faith and the apostles who preached the word to us all. Imitate and act like them. Having faith even if we do not see the promise being fulfilled. Even unto death as the apostles.

Hebrews 13:8-9 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today, and forever. 9 Do not be misled by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,

This is a call to remain faithful to the Gospel. The Gospel does not change, we are saved by grace and not any other method. Even if someone offers a persuasive argument to the contrary we must not be swayed. The message of the Gospel does not change.

Hebrews 13:9b-13 not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. 10 We have an altar from which those who serve the Tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the Holy Place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood. 13 So then, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

What is the connection between Christ suffering outside the gate and the offerings burned outside the temple? Only the priests could eat of the sacrifices, but we are all called to eat of Christ? His blood shed outside the gates sanctifies those outside the gates and makes a home for us outside the gates.

Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking *the city* which is to come.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he left, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as a stranger in the land of promise, as *in* a foreign *land*, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 13:15-16 Through Him then, let’s continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God that is, the fruit of lips praising His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

In Christ, the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving from our mouths replaces the sacrifices in the Temple.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit *to them*—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this *would be* unhelpful for you.

What leaders is he talking about that look over our souls? Is this referring to legal, clergy, or some other form of leadership?

Hebrews 13:18-19 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. 19 And I urge *you* all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you more quickly.

Seeing that we do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews it becomes a speculation of what is meant by, “I may be restored quickly”?

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *that is*, Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

This section is a benediction to end the letter. He is reminding us to do what is pleasing in the eyes of the Lord. His teaching is concluded and now he is reminding us of what is most important.

Hebrews 13:22-25 But I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, listen patiently to this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. 23 Know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. 24 Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. 25 Grace be with you all.

By this statement, we know that whoever wrote Hebrews is somehow connected with the disciple of Paul Timothy of Ephesus. The interesting thing about this statement is that it informs us that whoever wrote this letter is writing from Italy.

My theory is that Rabbi Gamaliel wrote this letter. Jewish traditions inform us that Gamaliel was excommunicated for listening to Christian Halakha. Christian tradition tells us that Gamaliel died in Pisa Italy and is buried in a Christian tomb. Both of these facts in conjunction with this benediction support my theory.

Acts 5:33-39 But when they heard *this*, they became infuriated and *nearly* decided to execute them. 34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. 35 And he said to them, “Men of Israel, be careful as to what you are about to do with these men. 36 For, some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee appeared in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he also perished, and all those who followed him were scattered. 38 And *so* in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and leave them alone, for if the source of this plan or movement is men, it will be overthrown; 39 but if the source is God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”