

# Journey Through the Bible: A Year of Our Lord

## Session 49: The Hebrew Christian Epistles (Part I)

Remember Acts 17:11

### The New Testament:

Historical Accounts	(5)
<u>Interpretive Letters</u>	(21)
Pauline Epistles	14
Hebrew Christian Epistles	7
<u>Hebrews*</u>	
<u>James</u>	
I & II Peter	
I, II, & III John	
<u>Jude</u>	
Prophecy (Apocalypse)	1

### Characteristics of the Hebrew Christian Epistles:

- None Are Directly Addressed to a Specific Church
- Many Offer a Theological Balance with the Pauline Church Epistles
  - o Ex: Faith vs. Works

### The Epistle to The Hebrews (c. 64AD):

- Unsigned (Lost Introduction?)
  - o Paul or Disciple (Similar Structure & Style)
  - o Author Had a Relationship with Apostles (Ch.2)
- Direct Audience Unknown
  - o Takes for Granted Extensive OT Knowledge
  - o Under Persecution (Ch. 10)
  - o Members Falling Away
- Agenda
  - o Explain the NT Fulfillment of the OT
  - o Elevate Jesus Above the Pillars of Pharisaic Judaism (Messiah)
  - o Challenge Potential Apostate Believers to Remain Faithful

### Outline:

Introduction	1:1-3
Jesus, Angels, & Torah	1:4-2
Jesus, Moses, & The Land	3-4
Jesus & The Priesthood	5-7
Jesus & The Mosaic Covenant	8-10
Examples of Faith to Follow	11-13

Introduction (1:1-3):

- Identity of Jesus
  - o Emphases on His Jewishness
  - o Living Message to the People of God
  - o Son of God (Heir of All Things)
  - o Divine Creator
  - o Fullness of God in Union with the Father

Jesus, Angels, & Torah (1:4-2):

- Jesus as a Messenger is Superior to the Angles
  - o Delivered Torah to Moses (Ref. Deut. 33:2)
  - o Warning: Pay Devote Yourself More to the New Message
  - o Demonstrates God's Glory & Grace

Jesus, Moses, & The Land (3-4):

- Moses Led the Building of the Tabernacle
  - o Jesus is the Builder of Creation
- Rebellion Against Moses (40 Years of Wandering)
  - o Increased Penalty for Rebellion Against Christ

Jesus & The Priesthood (5-7):

- The Aaronic Priests Represent Israel Before God & Offered Sacrifices
  - o They Were Imperfect & Required Sacrifices
  - o Sacrifices Were Insufficient to Completely Cleanse from Sin
- Jesus is the Perfect Priest After Melchizedek
  - o Sinless (No Need of Personal Sacrifice)
  - o Always Interceding for His People
  - o Melchizedek: Priest of Abraham (Greater than Aaron)
  - o Priest Holding Other Emblems of Authority
    - Prophet & King (Ref. Ps. 110)
  - o Rejecting Jesus is Rejecting God's Offer of Grace

Jesus & The Mosaic Covenant (8-10):

- Mosaic Sacrifices
  - o Are Frequent Events that Had to Be Repeated
  - o Did Not Remove the Sin Nature
  - o Temporary Stay on God's Wrath

Jesus & The Mosaic Covenant (Cont.):

- Jesus' Voluntary Sacrifice is Superior to All Others
  - o Once & for All
  - o Removed Sin & Satisfied God's Wrath
  - o Foundation of the New Covenant  
(All Sins Forgiven)

Examples of Faith to Follow (11-13):

- Pivot: "The just shall live by faith..." (10:38)
  - o Examples of Faithful Service to God
  - o Examples of Faithful Commitment to God
- Defining Faith (11:1) & Exemplars of the OT
- Persevere in Faith (Faithfulness) Through Christ's Example
  - o Endure Hardship as Discipline  
(God's Love is Still Present)
- Persevere in Love & Moral Living

The Epistle of James (c. 40AD):

Actually Jacob (Acts 12, 15; Gal. 1-2)

- Half Brother of Jesus
  - o Post-Resurrection Convert
- Leader of the Council of Jerusalem
  - o Remained There as a Church Leader
  - o Endured Famine, Poverty, & Persecution
  - o Thrown from The Temple in 62AD
- Open Letter to the Churches Outside of Israel
  - o Wisdom Literature for the NT (Poetic Style)
  - o References the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7)
  - o Proverbs 1-9

Outline:

Introductory Proverbs	Ch. 1
Partiality vs. Agape	2:1-13
Identifying Christian Hypocrisy	2:14-26
The <b>Forked</b> Tongue	3:1-12
True Wisdom	3:13-18
The Gossiping Tongue	4:11-12
The Boasting Tongue	4:13-17
The Boasting Rich	5:1-6
Suffering Well	5:7-11
Instructions for the Faithful Tongue	5:12
A Community of Prayer	5:13-20

The Epistle of Jude (c. 60AD):

Actually Judah

- Half Brother of Jesus
  - o Personal Dates are Unknown
  - o Post-Resurrection Convert
  - o Traveling Evangelist
- Epistle
  - o Written in Haste to Answer Corrupt Teachers in a Local Church
    - Preaching Christ Alongside Sinful Living
    - Abusing Spiritual Freedom
  - o Written Instead of a More Comprehensive Work
  - o Quotes from OT & Non-Canonical Sources
- Non-Canonical References
  - o The Book of Enoch
  - o The Testament (Assumption) of Moses
- Canonical References
  - o The Book of Zechariah
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter

Parallels of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter	Jude
1:5	3
1:12	5
2:1	4
2:4	6
2:6	4
2:10-11	8-9
2:12	10
2:13-17	11-13
3:2-3	17-18
3:14	24
3:18	25

