

Hebrews

Adult Bible Class

February 28, 2010 thru May 23, 2010

Lake Norman church of Christ

1. Lesson 1: Introduction

a. Outline of Hebrews

- i. Week One: Introduction
- ii. Week Two: Christ is superior to Angle's Chapter 1 and 2
- iii. Week Three: Christ is superior to Moses Chapter 3
- iv. Week Four: Christ's promised rest is superior to the rest offered thru Joshua to the Jews Chapter 4:1 – 13
- v. Week Five: Christ is a superior High Priest Chapter 4:14 – 5:10
- vi. Week Six: a warning to the hearer Chapter 5:11 – Chapter 6
- vii. Week Seven: Christ of the order of Melchisedek: Priest and King Chapter 7
- viii. Week Eight: Christ's covenant is greater than Moses' Chapter 8
- ix. Week Nine: Mosaic worship was a shadow of the True worship Chapter 9:1 - 14
- x. Week Ten: Christ's sacrifice is greater than the Mosaic sacrifices Chapter 9:15 thru Chapter 10:20
- xi. Week Eleven:
 1. Second warning to the hearer Chapter 10:21 - 31
 2. Personal words of encouragement Chapter 10:32 - 39
- xii. Week Twelve: Faith Chapter 11

xiii. Week Thirteen:

1. Encouragement Chapter 12
2. Divers Instructions Chapter 13

b. General Information

i. Immediate Recipients: Not specifically stated

1. Heavy reference to Old Testament indicates the audience was Jewish

ii. Penman: Not specifically stated

1. Historically attributed to Paul – probably not Paul.

- a. II Timothy 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a **teacher of the Gentiles.**
- b. Ga 2:7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of **preaching the gospel to the Gentiles,** just as Peter had been to the Jews.
- c. Ga 1:11 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.
- d. Compared to: Hebrews 2:3 – “This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.”

2. Author:

- a. Mention of Timothy Heb 13:23 – coworker with Timothy
- b. Had to be Jewish – heavy reference to Jewish laws and OT
- c. Not an eye witness of Jesus (Heb 2:3) – would rule out any Apostles

3. Was probably in Prison in Rome or with someone in Prison in Rome Heb 13:18 – 19

4. I think someone close to Peter
 - a. Not Peter – Hebrews 2:3 “spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”
 - b. John Mark
 - i. Prominent in early church at Jerusalem
 1. Ac 12:12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.
 - ii. Acquainted with the great early church leaders
 1. Peter
 - a. Ac 12:12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.
 - b. 1Pe 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.
 2. Joses – Barnabus (Son of Encouragement)
 - a. A Levite Act 4:36
 - b. Col 4:10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

- c. Ac 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.
- d. Ac 13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.
- e. Ac 15:37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them

3. Paul

- a. Phm 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.
- b. Col 4:10

4. Timothy

- a. 2Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

5. The fact he worked closely with these men is important because

- a. Can see influence in all in Hebrews
- b. Would make John Mark known to many in the Faith
- c. Was near beginning of Church

iii. John Mark was in Rome with Peter near his death 1 Peter 5:13

iv. Written from Italy Heb 13:24

- v. Mentions knowledge of Timothy Heb 13:23 – we know he and Timothy worked together before 2 Tim 4:11
- vi. Personally known by these Jewish Christians
 - 1. Heb 13:19 “that I may be restored to you sooner”
 - 2. John Mark lived in Jerusalem Acts 12:12

iii. Time period written:

- 1. Clements of Rome knows of the book of Hebrews – so before 95 AD
- 2. Before 70 AD
 - a. Hebrews 10:1-3 deals with Temple sacrifices, as if they are continuing at the time of writing
 - b. Temple is destroyed 70 AD
 - c. With Temple destroyed, would have been impossible to return to Jewish religion
 - d. If Temple destroyed, surely this would have been cited as proof of law having been replaced by a better covenant Heb 8:6-7
- 3. Probably before AD 66
 - a. Vespasian becomes Emperor in AD 69
 - b. First Jewish Revolt begins in Fall of 66
 - c. Vespasian arrives February AD 67 to begin the recapture of Judea.
 - d. By AD 68 Jerusalem was in upheaval
 - i. Jerusalem alone was left in Jewish hands
 - ii. In-fighting in leadership left many dead by zealots

- iii. Over 1 Million Jews perish in the revolt.
- iv. Surely this calamity would have been referenced in this letter, if it was written after AD 66

4. After AD 64

- a. A persecution is mentioned in Hebrews 10: 32-39
- b. Nero 64 – 68 AD – most likely under Nero is this written
- c. Domitian 81 – 96 AD – seems too late for this book
- d. Paul and Peter meet their death AD 67

5. I see this written

- a. By John Mark
- b. In Rome
- c. Just after the deaths of Paul and then Peter
- d. To Christians in Judea or Jewish Christians abroad
- e. To Encourage them
 - i. While a great persecution has arisen
 - ii. After all but one Apostle has been killed
 - iii. Judiazers were trying to convert them back
 - 1. Ga 6:12 Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.
 - 2. Ac 15:24 We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and

disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.

iv. Gnosticism was on the rise

1. Gnosis = Knowledge
2. Mystic religion
3. Believed in Good and Evil
 - a. God is good
 - b. Material things are evil
 - c. Therefore, Christ could not come in the flesh, or Christ was not truly God
4. 1Ti 6:20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.
5. 1 Jo 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

f. Would have been tempting to return to Judaism

- i. God is punishing Christians

- ii. There still remains Temple worship
- g. Shortly after this letter – God removes forever this temptation to return to Judaism.
 - i. Temple destroyed in AD 70
 - ii. With it, the Temple records, used to prove genealogies
 - iii. No pay to validate Priest or High Priest
 - 1. Although the High Priest has been a political appointment by Rome for past 60 years.
 - iv. No Temple
 - v. No Priest
 - vi. No worship!