

The Significance of the Book of Hebrews to My Life and Ministry

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1. The purpose of Hebrews. The book of Hebrews is written to a Jewish audience that is considering a return to adherence to the Mosaic law to escape persecution by fellow Jews. He encourages the reader to hold fast to Christ as a great high priest and Son of God. He outlines the superiority of Christ to angels (1:4), prophets (3:3, 4:8, 6:13), creation (1:2) as well as Levitical sacrifices (5:1) and priests (3:1, 4:15, 5:1, 7:27, 8:5, 9:7, 9:25). He is the mediator of a new covenant (9:15) that is fully guaranteed by His own blood. (scripture references from personal notes, summary from Talk thru the Bible by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa)

2. How Hebrews fits into the overall message or argument of the whole Bible.

Old Testament	Selected Passages	New Testament
Psalms 110:1; Ps 97:7	Heb 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2 Jesus as superior to angels and at the right hand of God	Eph 1:21; Mark 16:19;
	Heb 3:3 Jesus as superior to Moses (and prophets)	
Ps 95:11; Num 14:23; Deut 1:34	Heb 4:8; Heb 3:11 The disobedient unable to enter God's rest.	Rom 11:30-32
Ps 110:4; Gen 14:18-20	Heb 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1, 10-11, 15, 17 Jesus a high priest on the order of Melchizedek	Rom 8:34
Is 9:6-7; Dan 7:13	Heb 1:2; 9:11 Jesus as superior to creation	Col 1:15; 2 Pet 3:4; Rom 8:39; Rev 5:13
Lev 5	Heb 7:27, 8:3, 9:6-23, 10:1-11 Jesus superior to the sacrifice	Rom 8:3; Gal 3:21; 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Pet 2:22
Lev 16:2; Num 18:2-6	Heb 3:1, 4:15, 5:1, 7:23, 27-28, 8:5, 9:7, 9:25 Jesus superior to the Levitical priesthood	Rom 8:34
Gen 17:7, 19, Ex 6:4; Judges 2:1; 2 Sam 23:5; 2 Chron 21:7; Ps 89:3, 28, 34, Ps 105:8, 10, Ps 111:9; Jer 31:31-40; 50:5; Ez 16:60-62; 37:26	Heb 7:22, 8:7-9; 9:6, 25, 9:1-15, 10:4, 11, 12:24, 13:20 Jesus superior to the old covenant	Mt 26:28, Mk 14:24, 1 Cor 11:25, 2 or 3:14,

KNOWING/MEMORY

1. Jesus culminates the unique and timely unfolding of God's plan from the beginning in bringing salvation to the world. (John 9:29; 16:13; Hebrews 3:5; Acts 2:30)
2. Jesus is superior to all elements of the Old Covenant with permanent and immediate access to God and the Throne of Grace. (Heb 4:16; Ps 8:6; 110:1; 1 Cor 8:27; Matt 11:27; Eph 1:22; Rev 5:11-14)
3. God does not require perfection, but seeks faith to bring Him honor and glory. The long list of prophets and faithful servants of God show imperfect people making God honoring choices based on faith. (Gen 15:6; Heb 11:6, 16; 2 Tim 4:18; James 2:21-24; John 6:29; 1 John 3:23; 1 Thes 1:3)
4. As members of the brethren, we are called to serve others. All service to others is service to God. (Heb 13:2; Rom 12:1, 21; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27; John 12:26; Gal 5:13; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

DOING/ACTION

1. As part of the grandparenting course in development, I will weave in at least two elements of Hebrews wisdom to support visual and age appropriate explanation/definition of a Christian worldview. Three examples include:
 - a. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature. (Heb 1:3)
 - b. The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edge sword (Heb 4:12)
 - c. For God will be merciful for our bad behavior and will remember our sins no more (Heb 8:12)
2. As part of the grandparenting course in development, I will develop a grandparent exercise with my daughter on developing a tabernacle replica that can be made by household material. We will then make this craft with my grandson and explain the story of God coming and living among his people. This will include us referencing Exodus 25:8-9 and then the detailed instructions for building the tabernacle. This lesson will include how Jesus came and made God's dwelling permanent. (Heb 8:5-6; 9:1-12)

BEING/PERSONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Hebrews is one of my favorite books and it grows richer with each reading and study. Even though I have studied the book in the past, I still am amazed by its richness. One of the things that has so touched me is Hebrews 11:13-16 that discusses the faithful saints from the past that never got to see God's full promise (Heb 1:3):

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. 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.

I love the message of those who came before that show God's unfolding plan. The book of Hebrews lays the details out in a way that pulls the OT forward, makes it applicable to Christians today and demonstrates God's detailed promise for the future and all eternity (Phil 3:20). I will commit to memorizing Heb 11:13-16 and Phil 3:20 to retain the message of God's eternal and heavenly plan for believers.