

HEBREWS

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

ONLY GOD KNOWS WHO THE AUTHOR IS OR WHERE THOSE WHO RECEIVED THE LETTER WERE. It is known that they were second generation Jewish Christians who obviously lacked the “Mary Magdalene type” of enthusiasm. Notice the author’s frustration with their lack of Christian maturity. (**Hebrews 5:11-6:3, fn 5:12, 13, fn 5:14, fn 6:3, Hebrews 2:1-3, fn 2:1-3**) *How could you grow in maturity in the Lord?*

HEBREWS TEACHES YOU THAT JESUS CHRIST IS GOD’S FINAL REVELATION. God is now speaking in His Son. From the beginning of the letter, these key verses also teach you that Jesus is the Creator, the very God who created all things, and that He is superior to the angels who are created beings. (**Hebrews 1:1-4, fn 1:1, 2, fn 1:2, fn 1:3[1st], fn 1:4ff**)

THE BIG MESSAGE OF HEBREWS IS THAT YOU PLEASE GOD BY LIVING BY FAITH. From the beginning of our Christian life we are challenged to enter into God’s rest by faith. This is made possible by the “living and active” Word of God, which continues to invite us to go before His throne of grace. (**Hebrews 11:6, fn 11:6[1st], Hebrews 4:11, fn 4:11, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:15, fn 4:16**) *What will it take for you to enter into God’s rest?*

HEBREWS IS COMFORTING! Hebrews teaches that we can (and we must) draw near to God. This would have been impossible for the ordinary Jew to do under the Old Covenant; but now this is possible because we have a better covenant with a better hope, a better High Priest, and a better sacrifice. (**Hebrews 7:19, fn 7:19, Hebrews 10:21, 22, fn 10:21, 22, Hebrews 8:13, fn 8:13, Hebrews 7:23, 24, fn 7:22-24, Hebrews 7:27, fn 7:27, Hebrews 10:19-22, fn 10:21, 22**) *How is drawing near to God comforting?*

HEBREWS SHOWS THAT AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT SAINT IS POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH AN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT SAVIOR WHO GIVES A PERFECT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. Therefore, for you, the believer, your sins are forgiven and forgotten; and you are made perfect by the absolutely perfect sacrifice, which Jesus Christ made once for all time. (**Hebrews 10:14-17, fn 10:14, fn 10:17, Hebrews 10:1-4, fn 10:3, fn 10:4**) *What makes you, a believer, perfect?*

FINALLY, LIVING BY FAITH AS THE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS, even though you may not suffer as they did, enables you to respond to Jesus’ call to Christian maturity. (**Hebrews 12:1, fn 12:1[1st], Hebrews 13:20-25, fn 13:24, 25**) *How could you grow in Christian maturity?*

According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?