

# Hebrews

and

# James



*Gardendale church of Christ*

*2023*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<b>10/1</b>	<b>Intro</b>
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<b>James</b>	
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## *The Letter to the Hebrews*

### Introduction

#### **The Writer:**

- Unknown; thought by most to be the apostle Paul but such cannot be specified

#### **Key word:**

- **Better** – used 13 times in the letter.

#### **The recipients:**

- Generally thought to be written to Hebrew Christians living in or near Jerusalem

#### **Purpose of the book:**

- To convince those who were tending to revert to Judaism that everything about the gospel and Christianity is better than the Law of Moses and Judaism

#### **Possible reasons for this tendency to revert:**

1. It was the religion in which they were raised.
2. There was much about Judaism that was outwardly impressive: the elaborate temple, the priests with their robes, the ceremonies, and the feast days.
3. Christians were in the minority, often persecuted.
4. There would likely be pressure from family members who had not converted to Christianity, who would have a strong distaste for Christianity.

#### **Writing style:**

- The teaching so badly needed by the Hebrew Christians is intermingled with stern warnings: don't drift, don't neglect the great salvation, don't lose faith, don't fall short of the rest as the Israelites did in the wilderness, etc. As you read Hebrews, look for these warnings.

#### **Brief Outline:**

- I. Jesus, spokesman for the new, is better than the angels, spokesmen for the old (1:1-2:18)
- II. Jesus, the apostle of the new, is better than Moses, the apostle of the old (3:1-4:13)
- III. Jesus, the High Priest of the new, is better than the high priests of the old (4:14-7:28)
- IV. The new covenant is better than the old (8:1-10:18)
- V. Final exhortations (10:19-13:25)

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### **Lesson 1      Chapter 1-2:4**

1. How had God spoken to man in the past? (v.1)
2. How does God speak to man in these last days? (v.2)
3. How would you define the “last days” spoken of in verse 2?
4. List the attributes of Jesus that are mentioned in verses 3-4.
5. According to verses 5-6, why is Jesus better than the angels?
6. What promises are made to Jesus in verses 8-12? When were these promises first made?
7. Why must we give careful attention to the gospel message? (2:1-4)
8. Who are the “those who heard Him”? (v.3) How does the context apply to them?

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### **Lesson 2      Chapter 2:5-18**

1. To whom is the quotation from Psalm 8 being applied? (vs.6-8)
2. How does this apply to what is said about Jesus in verse 9?
3. List the things that Jesus went through and/or accomplished according to verse 9.
4. How was it that Jesus was made perfect through sufferings? (v.10)
5. What things are made known about Jesus and His disciples from verses 11-13?
6. How did Jesus become like His disciples, and what did this accomplish for them? (vs.14-15)
7. What do we learn about Jesus from verse 17? What false teaching does this refute?
8. What does it mean for Jesus to be our High Priest according to verses 17-18?

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### **Lesson 3      Chapter 3:1-4:13**

1. Why is Jesus called “the Apostle” in verse 1?
2. How do we explain the comparison of Moses and Jesus? (vs.2-6)
3. Who and in what example are Christians being warned not to follow? (vs.7-11)
4. What is the writer exhorting Christians to do in verses 12-15?
5. What progression is brought about in one’s life by unbelief? (vs.16-19)
6. What are the two rests that are spoken of in verses 1-7 of chapter 4?
7. Who is Joshua being compared to in verses 8-10?
8. What is the main point that the writer is making about the word of God in this context? (vs.11-13)

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### **Lesson 4      Chapter 4:14-5:11**

1. To what confession are Christians to hold fast? (v.14)
2. What does it mean that Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses? (v.15)
3. What confidence can we have because of Jesus' understanding? (v.16)
4. Explain how Jesus is qualified to be our High Priest. (5:1-6)
5. What did Jesus learn through His suffering? (vs.7-8)
6. What do Christians need to learn from their suffering? (v.9)
7. What was it that was hard to explain to the recipients of this letter? Why was it hard to explain to them? (vs.10-11)
8. Thought Question: Regarding the example of Jesus, what does suffering lead to?

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### **Lesson 5 Chapter 5:12-6:20**

1. What should the Hebrew Christians have been doing by the time of this writing? (v.12)
2. Thought Question: What application can we make to ourselves as Christians today?
3. What will happen if a Christian doesn't mature in his or her faith? (5:13-6:3)
4. According to verses 4-5, is it possible for a Christian to fall away from God?
5. What is it that makes repentance impossible for the fallen away of verses 4-6?
6. What two things are contrasted in verses 9-12 that determine progression or digression?
7. What can the steadfast Christian be assured of? (vs.13-18)
8. Where is the anchor of our soul located, and what should that mean to us? (vs.19-20)



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### **Lesson 6      Chapter 7**

1. Who is Melchizedek, and where do we first learn of him?
2. How is it that Melchizedek is like the Son of God? (vs.1-3)
3. How do we know that Melchizedek is greater than Abraham? (vs.4-10)
4. What is stated in vs.11-13 that necessarily implies that there has been a change in the priesthood?
5. From verse 14, do we learn that God's silence is permissive or prohibitive?
6. How is Jesus a priest according to the order of Melchizedek? (vs.11, 21)
7. Contrast the Old and New Covenants from verses 18-19. Also, contrast the high priests of old with our High Priest today from verses 26-28.
8. Why is Jesus able to save to the uttermost? (v.26)

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### **Lesson 7      Chapter 8**

1. What did Jesus have to offer that was different from that of the high priests of old? (vs.3-4)
2. What does verse 5 tell us about the Law of Moses?
3. What does the principle that's applied to the Law of Moses also teach us about the Law of Christ? (v.5)
4. How is the new covenant that Jesus came to establish better than the old one? (v.6)
5. When did God first announce that he was going to establish a New Covenant? (vs.7-8)
6. How is the New Covenant and those of it different than the Old Covenant and those of it? (vs.10-12)
7. Why should what is said in verse 12 be so compelling for the Christian not to return to Judaism?
8. When did the Old Covenant begin to become obsolete? (v.13)

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### **Lesson 8      Chapter 9**

1. Why couldn't the articles of tabernacle worship be spoken of in detail in the 1<sup>st</sup> century?  
(vs.1-5)
2. What is the reference "Holiest of all" speaking in regard to? (v.8)
3. According to verse 10, when would this way be opened?
4. What is the time of reformation? (v.10)
5. What can the blood of Christ do in contrast to the blood of bulls and goats? (vs.11-14)
6. What does verse 15 say regarding Jesus and the faithful who came before Him?
7. When did the New Testament come into effect? (vs.16-22)
8. From verses 23-28, list why Jesus' sacrifice is better than those of old.

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### **Lesson 9      Chapter 10:1-18**

1. What can one conclude from the continual offering of animal sacrifices? (vs.1-2)
2. What could the blood of bulls and goats not do and why? (vs.3-4)
3. Who is spoken of in verses 5-7? Who fulfilled the prophecies therein?
4. What is the “that will” that we have been sanctified through? (v.10)
5. When considering the priests of old, what is different about Jesus? (vs.11-14)
6. What passage is being quoted in verses 16-17?
7. What powerful conclusion can now be drawn for those in Christ? (v.18)

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### **Lesson 10 Chapter 10:19-39**

1. What is the “Holiest” that Christians enter, and by what manner do we do so? (vs.19-20)
2. What is it that cleanses our hearts from an evil conscience? (v.22; c.f. 9:11-14)
3. What is the only biblical thing that the “washing of water” can be referring to? (v.22)
4. What can we learn from verses 24-25 about the importance of assembling with the saints?
5. What is the willful sin of verse 26?
6. In the same context, how would these Christians treat the blood of Jesus as a common thing? (v.29)
7. How had these Christians handled persecution in the past? (vs. 32-24)
8. What is the destruction that these Christians are being warned not to draw back to? (v.39)

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### **Lesson 11 Chapter 11:1-16**

1. How does the Holy Spirit define faith? (v.1)
2. Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God because it was offered by faith (v.4). What does "by faith" mean?
3. Regarding Enoch, what does verse 6 say is exemplified in this type of faith?
4. How did Noah prove that he had faith in God? (v.7)
5. What was the city that Abraham was waiting on by faith? (v.10)
6. How was it that Sarah was able to bear a child in her old age? (vs.11-12)
7. What do we learn about faith from the example of those who came before us? (vs.13-16)

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### **Lesson 12 Chapter 11:17-40**

1. Because of his faith, what was Abraham convinced that God was going to do after he offered Isaac? (vs.17-19)
2. How was it that Joseph professed his faith regarding the children of Israel? (vs.24-26)
3. How was it that Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater than the treasures of Egypt? (vs.24-26)
4. How was it that the walls of Jericho came down by faith? (v.30)
5. How was Rahab's faith exemplified? (v.30)
6. What do we learn about faith from each of these examples?
7. What is the promise that these of old did not receive? What does this mean for the Christian who lives by faith? (vs.39-40)

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### **Lesson 13    Chapter 12**

1. Who are the great cloud of witnesses that Christians are surrounded by, and what are they encouraging the readers to do? (v.1)
2. What do Christians need to finish the race of faith? (v.1)
3. What all do we learn about Jesus from verse 2?
4. Unlike Jesus, what had the Hebrew Christians yet to endure at the hands of their persecutors? (vs.3-4)
5. What is the chastening spoken of in this chapter, and what could the Christian know who is enduring it? (vs.7-11)
6. In what way are Christians exhorted not to be like Esau? (vs.12-17)
7. Contrast the two mountains in this chapter. What mountain have Christians come to today, and what exactly is it illustrative of? (vs.18-29)



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### **Lesson 14    Chapter 13**

1. Brotherly love is always important, but why would it have been even more so at the time of this writing? (vs.1-3)
2. Why was it important to include an exhortation on marriage in this context? (v.4)
3. Who are the “those who rule over you” in verse 7, and why is it important to remember them? (vs.7-9)
4. How is the sacrifice of Jesus being compared to the Old Covenant sacrifices, and what is it saying about our response to it? (vs.10-14)
5. With what sacrifices is God well pleased? What would these be? (vs.15-16)
6. Who are the “those who rule over you” in verse 17? Why is it important to submit to them? (v.17)
7. In closing, what appeal did the writer make in exhorting these brethren one last time? (vs.20-22)

## *The Letter of James*

### Introduction

#### **The Writer:**

- Most likely James, the brother of Jesus. (**Matt. 13:55**)
- He, after the resurrection, became a disciple and leader of the church in Jerusalem. (**1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19; 2:9**)

#### **Key phrase:**

- **Faith and works** – speaks exactly to what must be accomplished to solve the problems referred to in this letter.

#### **The recipients:**

- “**The twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**” (**1:1**). Such is generally thought to be speaking of Jewish Christians, but it seems more probable, based upon context, to be speaking of spiritual Israel as a whole. (**Rom. 11:26**)

#### **The purpose of the letter:**

- To admonish and exhort Christians, in a very practical way, to treat one another as equal with a spiritual attitude and outlook.

#### **Writing style:**

- The writer uses a system of warnings and encouragements as he transitions to different subjects within the context. Also, the recurring theme approach is used for the sake of emphasis. Practical teaching makes this letter very applicable.

#### **Brief Outline:**

- I.** Overcoming Trials With Wisdom from the Word – Chapter 1
- II.** Faith Proven in Works, Not Just Words – Chapter 2
- III.** Words: Great Influencers of Our Works – Chapter 3
- IV.** Attitude, Outlook, and Outcome – Chapter 4
- V.** Repent, Persevere, and Restore – Chapter 5

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### **Lesson 16 Chapter 1**

1. Who are the twelve tribes that this letter is addressed? (v.1)
2. Why should we count it a joy when trials come upon us? (vs.3-4)
3. What do we need when going through trials, and how do we need to ask for it? (vs.5-8)
4. Why do we explain verses 9-11 in this context?
5. What is the temptation that is spoken of in this chapter, and when we fall victim to it, who is not responsible?
6. What are we to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath in regards to? (vs.18-19)
7. What will being a doer of the word accomplish for us? (vs.21-26)?
8. Who are the orphans and widows in this context? (v.27)

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### **Lesson 17    Chapter 2**

1. What was a main issue among the brethren receiving this letter? (vs.1-4)
2. What do we learn from this chapter that helps us with verses 9-11 in chapter 1? (vs.5-7)
3. What is another name for the royal law that James has already used? Why is it a royal law? (vs.8, 12)
4. How many times does one have to break the law to become a transgressor of it? (vs.9-13)
5. What is to be learned from the illustration of verses 14-17?
6. What can be said of demons that cannot be said of so people in the world? (v.19)
7. What do the examples of Abraham and Rahab prove? (vs.21-25)

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### **Lesson 18    Chapter 3**

1. Why will teachers receive a stricter judgment? (v.1)
2. How is the word *perfect* being used verse 2?
3. What are the illustrations of verses 3 and 4 teaching us about our words?
4. What reoccurring thought do we see James bringing up again? (vs.8-12)
5. In what way does verse 13 connect us back to verse 1 and the entire context of this chapter so far?
6. How do the aspects of earthly wisdom apply to the recipients of this letter? (vs.14-16)
7. How would the application of heavenly wisdom help with the ongoing problems among these brethren? (vs.17-18)

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### **Lesson 19 Chapter 4**

1. What is further clarified for us regarding the recipients of this letter? (vs.1-3)
2. In what way are these Christians adulterous and why? (v.4)
3. In what way is the reference to Proverbs 3:34 being used in this context? (v.6)
4. What things do you see in verses 7-10 that are key to resisting Satan and drawing near to God?
5. Is the Holy Spirit condemning making judgments in verses 11-12? Explain your answer.
6. What is the main point of verses 13-16?
7. How can one commit the sin of verse 17? (Give an example that will fit our context)

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### **Lesson 20    Chapter 5**

1. How do verses 3-4 tie directly back to 4:13-17?
2. Who are the laborers who have been defrauded?
3. Have the rich literally been committing murder? Explain your answer.
4. Who is being addressed in verses 7-9, and what are they being encouraged to do?
5. What examples are they given about the righteous having to suffer and the results of it? (vs.10-12)
6. What all does James have to say about prayer? (vs.13-18)
7. What will restoring erring brethren accomplish? (vs.19-20)