

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Introduction – Chapter 7

Author

Is the authorship of the letter to the Hebrews easily ascertained?

Date

Was the Jewish temple still standing when the letter was written? What three factors would substantiate this point?

Destination and Purpose

What can we know about the readers of the letter?

Themes and Characteristics

How are the themes of the priesthood of Christ and covenant theology developed in the letter?

Read 1:1-4 What is the difference between God's revelation to the prophets of old and the revelation proclaimed by Jesus the Son of God? (Note 1:1–4)

What is the meaning of the phrase “heir of all things”? (Note 1:2)

Read 1:5-6 **Word Study** – First-born What is the meaning of the term first-born?

How does Chapter 2 contrast with Chapter 1? (Note 2:1-18)

Read 2:5-9 Who is the earth subjected to? (Note 2:5)

Read 2:10-18 Is Jesus a High Priest? (Note 2:17)

Read 3:1-6 How does Jesus in his glory compare with that of the angels and Moses? (Note 3:3)

Read 3:7-11 What critical decision do the readers of Hebrews face? (Note 3:7-11)

Read 4:1-11 What is the theological explanation of the term “rest”? (Note 4:1-11)

Read 4:14-5:4 What is the function of a priest? What is the difference between Jesus priesthood and that of the Aaronic priesthood? (Note 5:1-4)

What happens on the Day of Atonement? (Note 5:3)

What is the meaning of the following verses?

So also, Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"

as he says also in another place,

"Thou art a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek."

(Note 5:5-6)

Read 5:7-8 What is meant by the phrase "although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered"? (Note 5:8)

Read 6:13-20 What is the significance of God swearing by himself? (Note 6:13)

What is the significance of the promise made to Abraham being upgraded to a covenant oath? (Note 6:14)

Read 7:1-3 How does the priesthood of Melchizedek contrast with that of the priesthood and Aaron as it relates to requirements for priestly ministry? (Note 7:3)

Read 7:4-10 Why does Melchizedek outrank Abraham? (Note 7:4–10)

Read 7:11-19 Why was the priesthood of Aaron deficient? (Note 7: 11–19)

What is meant by the passage “for when there is a change in the priesthood, there is a necessarily a change in the law as well.” (Note 7:12)

What is the oath of perpetual priesthood? (Note 7:17)

Read 7:20-22 Is the Aaronic priesthood perpetual? (Note 7:21) (Note 7:22)

Read 7:23-25 Does Jesus make intercession for us? (Note 7:25)

Read 7:26-28 What is the difference between the High priest offering on the Day of Atonement and the offering made by Jesus? (Note 7:27)