

Hebrews 1-5, Quick Review

This book was written to Jews who had believed in Christ as the Messiah or to Jews who were considering doing so. There is strong emphasis in this book of the cost of following after Jesus and that it would require moving beyond the elementary teachings of their Jewish traditions into a deeper walk with God through Jesus Christ. Many in the writer's audience were still on the fence not sure if they were going to move forward or return to the old traditions of their fathers. May we learn from their experience. See [Hebrews Introduction](#)

Chapter 1

The writer of Hebrews begins by exerting the supreme revelation and authority of Jesus the Christ (Messiah, Savior) (1:3, emphasis added). Who Jesus is as revealed by God is the foundational truth of all other teaching within this letter to the Hebrews.

Chapter 2

"We must give full attention to what we have been told [revelation], so we won't drift away," (2:1 CEV, emphasis added). The writer warns that the receiver of the revelation of Christ must hold onto the revelation soberly and diligently. In verse 2 there is strong warning of punishment for those who reject Christ. Jesus also gave instruction regarding holding onto the teaching: To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching [revelation], you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32 NIV, emphasis added). This is a conditional statement connecting holding firm with freedom.

"God did the right thing when he made Jesus perfect through suffering, as Jesus led many of God's children to be saved and share in his glory" (2:10 CEV). "Now that Jesus has suffered and was tempted, he can help anyone else who is tempted" (2:18, CEV).

Chapter 3

God's people are chosen by God to be a holy people. Jesus the faithful Apostle and High Priest of God (3:1) deserves more honor than Moses (3:3). The writer states to his audience, "Christ is the son in charge of Gods people. And we are those people, if we keep on being brave and don't lose hope" (3:6 CEV, emphasis added). Once again we see a conditional statement with exhortation to persevere in Christ.

The writer follows with a quote from Scripture with a promise of rest for those who don't reject Gods truth (revelation) through unbelief and disobedience. He further encouraged his readers to encourage one another to persevere each day until Christ returns (3:13). He goes on to say, "Lets hold tightly to our faith until the end" (3:14 CEV, emphasis added). There is another warning not to

disobey or rebel like their ancestors thus risking not entering into God's promise of rest (3:18-19).

Chapter 4

The writer of Hebrews reminds his readers that the promise of rest is still in effect, encouraging them to take care that they not miss out. He states, "We have heard the message, just as they did. But they failed to believe what they heard, and the message did not do them any good. Only people who have faith will enter the place of rest (4:2-3 CEV, emphasis added). See [Exegesis Hebrews 4:2](#)

"We should do our best to enter that place of rest, so that none of us will disobey and miss going there as they (the Jews during the exodus from Egypt) did" (4:11 CEV, emphasis added).

God's WORD – discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart (4:12) God sees us all as we really are (4:13)

Let us hold fast to our confession that Jesus is the Christ (4:14). See [Exegesis Hebrews 4:14-16](#) .

Chapter 5

Jesus was chosen by God to be The Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (5:4-6). This priestly order superseded the Levitical priesthood and the law.

Jesus asked for help facing his suffering and death—God listened to his prayer—Jesus submitted to Gods will in order to bring salvation to all who believe (5:7-8).

Jesus was made perfect (complete, mature) through suffering (overcame the flesh completely to the point of death) (5:9).

The writer admonishes his readers to move beyond the elementary teachings of their traditions to the deeper teachings of God through Jesus Christ (5:12).

The writer admonishes his readers to move on toward maturity not only learning right from wrong but also practicing righteousness (doing right).

Two key concepts of these 5 chapters

1. The revelation of Christ
2. Holding firmly to the truth of the revelation of Christ

What's your next step?

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