

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

The Book of Hebrews was written to early Jewish Christians, most likely in the latter half of the first century. The author, whose identity remains uncertain, masterfully weaves together the promises of the Old Testament with their fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ. This epistle upholds the supremacy of Christ, emphasizing His role as the ultimate High Priest and the perfect mediator of the new covenant.

The recipients of Hebrews were believers navigating the tension between their Jewish heritage and the radical freedom of the Gospel. A theme we have seen throughout our studies of the New Testament. Facing pressures to return to the rituals and sacrifices of the Mosaic Law, they were reminded through this letter that Christ's once-for-all sacrifice is sufficient for their salvation. The work of salvation is finished in Christ Jesus. Nothing more is necessary. The message of Hebrews is a bold declaration of this faith: Christ is greater than the angels, Moses, and even the high priests of Israel. As the text tells us, He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature, the one who sustains all things by His powerful word.

The repeated use of the phrase "by faith" in the Book of Hebrews underscores the central place faith plays throughout the entire biblical story. Faith is the gift through which believers receive the promises of God. Faith underscores that salvation and righteousness are not achieved by human effort but are granted by God through His Word, echoing the theme of dependence on God's grace rather than reliance on works.

Hebrews addresses central themes such as the sufficiency of Christ's atonement, the superiority of the new covenant, and the enduring hope anchored in the promises of God. Its vivid imagery of the heavenly sanctuary and the call to persevere in faith speak directly to every generation of believers who face trials and uncertainties.

The journey through Hebrews is an invitation to explore the depths of God's grace, to marvel at the glory of Christ, and to live boldly in the freedom of faith. It is my hope that this study will encourage and equip you to proclaim the living Word with joy, hope, and that unwavering confidence in the promises of God that are ours in Jesus Christ.