

## Hebrews -- PURPOSE AND THEME

The author wrote this epistle to prevent his readers from abandoning their faith in Christ ([He 2:1-4](#)). To encourage his Jewish brethren not to go back to the Old Law, he endeavored to show the superiority of Christ and His Covenant ([He 8:1-2,6](#)). A key word found throughout the epistle is "better":

- Christ is "better than the angels" - [He 1:4](#)
- We enjoy "the bringing in of a better hope" - [He 7:19](#)
- Jesus has become "the surety of a better covenant" - [He 7:22](#)
- He is also "the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises" - [He 8:6](#)
- The heavenly things benefit from "better sacrifices" - [He 9:23](#)

Indeed, the purpose of this epistle was to exhort his readers to remain faithful to the much better things they have in Christ ([He 13:22](#)). As for its theme, I suggest the following:

The Superiority Of Christ and The New Covenant

([Hebrews 1:1-14](#))

Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. **[Angels, visions, dreams, prophets] Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. [you have heard that is was said, but I say . .Matthew 5:21,27,38,43]**

### Matthew Chapter 5-7 - Sermon on the Mount -

#### Jesus turns everything upside down. 55 Times in Matthew "I say to you"

[Mat 5:21](#) **You have heard** that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not kill" —and, "Whoever shall kill shall be liable to the judgment."

Mat 5:22 **I'm telling you** that anyone who is so much as angry with a brother or sister is guilty of murder

Mat\_5:27 **You have heard** that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not commit adultery."

Mat 5:28 **But I say to you** that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

[Mat 5:38](#) **You have heard** that it was said, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

Mat 5:39 **But I say to you**, Do not resist evil. But whoever shall strike you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Mat\_5:43 **You have heard** that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

[Mat 5:44](#) **But I say to you**, Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you,

[Mat 5:45](#) **so that you may become sons of your Father in Heaven.** For He makes His sun to rise on *the* evil and on *the* good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words!. After he finished the sacrifice for sins **[The writer assumes the readers know about sacrifice from the Old Testament. God commands for our protection, God allows for our learning. God works with our mind-set where it is to change it to where it should be.]**, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God, far higher than any angel in rank and rule. Did God ever say to an

angel, "You're my Son; today I celebrate you"? Or, "I'm his Father, he's my Son"? **[Jesus is special!]** When he presents his honored Son to the world, he says, "All angels must worship him." Regarding angels he says, The messengers are winds, the servants are tongues of fire. But he says to the Son, You're God, and on the throne for good; your rule makes everything right. You love it when things are right; you hate it when things are wrong. That is why God, your God, poured fragrant oil on your head, Marking you out as king, far above your dear companions. **[Jesus The Christ, anointed One. Kings, priests, and prophets were anointed outwardly with oil to symbolize a more profound spiritual reality—that God's presence was with them and His favor was upon them. [1 John 2:20](#) But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.]**

On Sacrifice -- Hosea 6:6 "I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me. Isaiah 1:11 I am sick of your sacrifices. Don't bring me any more of them. I don't want your fat rams; I don't want to see the blood from your offerings . . .17 Learn to do good, to be fair, and to help the poor, the fatherless, and widows.

And again to the Son, You, Master, started it all, laid earth's foundations, then crafted the stars in the sky. Earth and sky will wear out, but not you; they become threadbare like an old coat; You'll fold them up like a worn-out cloak, and lay them away on the shelf. But you'll stay the same, year after year; you'll never fade, you'll never wear out. **[Jesus is the same yesterday, today, forever]** And did he ever say anything like this to an angel? Sit alongside me here on my throne Until I make your enemies a stool for your feet **[Psalm 110 predicts the victory of Jesus Christ over all His enemies and the glory He will receive. We need to understand the mindset of the Old Testament world. Today a footstool is used for relaxation, but at that time a footstool represented power. Archaeologists have discovered artwork from ancient Egypt that depicts Pharaoh sitting on his throne with his feet resting on his enemies, who are stacked one on top of the other. Assyrian wall reliefs show the king putting his feet on the head of a conquered enemy cowering in the dirt below him. Even the Israelites did this. After defeating five Amorite kings, Joshua "said to the army commanders who had come with him, 'Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.' So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks" ([Joshua 10:24](#)). The point of the footstool symbolism is clear: The enemy is vanquished, humiliated, and completely at the mercy of the victorious king. So the imagery of Jesus using his enemies as a footstool means that he won and his enemies are completely subjected to him.]**

Isn't it obvious that all angels are sent to help out with those lined up to receive salvation?

**[Heb 1:14 Are they not, all, spirits, doing public service,—for ministry, sent forth, for the sake of them who are about to inherit salvation? Literal translation]**

(Heb 2:1-18)

It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. If the old message delivered by the angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, **[every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward. (By God or consequences of our choices?)]** do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation? First of all, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him. All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as he saw fit. God didn't put angels in charge of this business of salvation that we're dealing with here. It says in Scripture, What is man and woman that you bother with them; why take a second look their way? You made them not quite as high as angels, bright with Eden's dawn light; Then you put **them** in charge of your entire handcrafted world. When God put them in charge of everything, nothing was excluded. But we don't see it yet, don't see everything under human

jurisdiction. What we do see is Jesus, made "not quite as high as angels," and then, through the experience of death, crowned so much higher than any angel, with a glory "bright with Eden's dawn light." In that death, by God's grace, he fully experienced death in every person's place.

It makes good sense that the God who got everything started and keeps everything going now completes the work by making the **Salvation Pioneer[Jesus] perfect through suffering** as he leads all these people to glory.

Hebrews 5:9 gives the answer:

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him, the source of eternal salvation. Here being "made perfect" means "learning obedience" through suffering. This does not mean that he was once disobedient and then became obedient. It means that Jesus moved from untested obedience into suffering and then through suffering into tested and proven obedience. And this proving himself obedient through suffering was his "being perfected." He didn't need to prove it to God but to all of us who would follow Him. Now the writer says (in Hebrews 2:10) that it was fitting for Christ to attain this proven perfection through sufferings. Why? Because Christ is leading many sons to glory and so he must succeed where we failed. We have all suffered and failed to be perfected by it. Instead we murmur and complain and get angry at God and his providence. In this way we will never attain the glory of God. Psalm 8 will never be true for us. Someone must come and rescue us and lead us to glory. And if Christ is going to lead us to glory, then he must succeed in sufferings where we failed. And that he did. He was perfected in them. He always obeyed when tested, even when tested with the most horrible sufferings. So he is a fitting Captain and Forerunner and Leader to glory. And the salvation he accomplished is the greater for this fittingness. Through TRUST in Jesus we receive the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit we receive the power to be obedient – just like Jesus. The more we trust the more [power we receive. The more power we receive the more obedience we receive until we become the likeness of Jesus – our ultimate goal. So, shouldn't we, who now trust in Jesus, do the same as He did, demonstrate obedience for others so they can become like Him? This is why it says in -- (James 1:2-4) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. -- Adapted from John Piper "Our Captain Made Perfect Through Sufferings"

Since the One who saves and those who are saved have a common origin, Jesus doesn't hesitate to treat them as family, saying, I'll tell my good friends, my brothers and sisters, all I know about you; I'll join them in worship and praise to you. Again, he puts himself in the same family circle when he says, Even I live by placing my trust in God. And yet again, I'm here with the children God gave me. Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

Hebrews	Reference	Type
<p><b>Heb 1:5</b> For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?</p>	<p>Psalm 2:7; 2Sam 7:14; 1Chr 17:13</p>	<p>quotation; allusion; allusion</p>
<p><b>Heb 1:6</b> And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."7</p>	<p>Deut 32:43 (LXX) Psalm 97:7</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 1:7</b> And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."</p>	<p>Psalm 104:4</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 1:8</b> But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. <b>Heb 1:9</b> "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS.</p>	<p>Psalm 45:6-7</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 1:10</b> And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; <b>Heb 1:11</b> THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, <b>Heb 1:12</b> AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."</p>	<p>Psalm 102:25-27</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 1:13</b> But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?</p>	<p>Psalm 110:1</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 2:6</b> But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? <b>Heb 2:7</b> "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; <b>Heb 2:8</b> YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.</p>	<p>Psalm 8:4-6</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 2:12</b> saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."</p>	<p>Psalm 22:22</p>	<p>quotation</p>
<p><b>Heb 2:13</b> And again, "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again, "BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME."</p>	<p>Isaiah 8:17-18</p>	<p>quotation</p>

## Hebrew Chapters 3 and 4

**(Hebrews 2:1-18)** It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. If the old message delivered by the angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation?

*[What is salvation? Are you saved? How do you know? Can you lose your salvation?]*

*From Jeremy Myers*

"The most misunderstood word in the Bible is also one of the biblical words we use the most. What word is that? The word "saved." And not just the word *saved*, but the other words in the same word family, such as *save*, *salvation*, and *savior*. *Getting Saved is Not About Going to Heaven*,

*Most often, when Christians use the word "saved" we think about the following concepts: getting forgiveness of sins, escaping hell, going to heaven when we die receiving eternal life. What does the word "Saved" mean? It means "deliverance." To be saved means to be delivered - deliverance, preservation, safety. So the next time you are reading the Bible and come across the word "saved," stop and think about it. Substitute in the word "deliver" or "deliverance" and then look into the context to see what sort of deliverance is in view. Ask yourself, "Delivered from what?" and let the context answer this question for you. Doing this little exercise will really help clarify what the Bible actually teaches about how to receive eternal life and the role of good works in our life as Christians."*

1. Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is to deliver or protect. The word carries the idea of victory, health, or preservation. Sometimes, the Bible uses the words *saved* or *salvation* to refer to temporal, physical deliverance. Like from the storm on the boat.

2. More often, the definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be "the deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin that is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus." Salvation is available in Jesus alone ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#)) and is dependent on God alone for provision and assurance. The word *salvation* concerns an *eternal, spiritual deliverance from God's wrath* that is, from God's judgment of sin.

How do I know I'm saved?

From Paul Washer - Always believing and trusting in Jesus.

From John MacArthur - four things to know you are saved.

What do you love? You love God. You love Jesus. You love the people of God and want to be with them. You want to be in the church you want to be a part of a worshiping group so love is the first evidence of a transformed heart.

Humility - a sense in which you are aware of your sinfulness and need for God.

Obedience - not perfect obedience but it's a longing in your heart.

Trials - what can your faith survive?

Is salvation #1 or #2 or both?

Some thoughts.

John 3:16.

John 3:16 God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal(everlasting) life. eternal → aonian → age during, age abiding

The Greek word meaning eternal is *aidios*. It appears twice. Romans 1:20 (God's eternal power) & Jude 6 (fallen angels punishment) *aonian* is used 73 times.

(John 3:17-21) God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. Those who believe in him won't be condemned. But those who don't believe are already condemned(separated) because they don't believe in God's only Son. This is why people are condemned: The light came into the world. Yet, people loved the dark rather than the light because their actions were evil. People who do what is wrong hate the light and don't come to the light. They don't want their actions to be exposed. But people who do what is true come to the light so that the things they do for God may be clearly seen.

We are "saved," protected, delivered from trials in this world by trusting in Jesus. Spiritual maturity is a progression from belief, to faith, to trust. Belief is that a chair was made to sit on. Faith recognizes that a chair is designed to support the person who sits on it, and trust demonstrates the faith by actually sitting in the chair. Belief is that Jesus is God incarnate. Faith is that Jesus came here to "save" us. Trust is to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, Can you answer "yes" to the two commandments? Would you call on you to help expand the Kingdom? You are saved from this wicked generation **for God**.

Eternal salvation and God's hand of protection, here

"I have been saved, I am being saved, I will be saved."

Eternal salvation - ultimate reconciliation - Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:22

God gives us choice and if we rebel against God, He will remove His hand of protection while we rebel. e.g. Israel. If we repent and turn back to God and trust in Jesus He will be there. e.g. Israel.

**Can a Christian lose salvation?** First, the term *Christian* must be defined. A "Christian" is not a person who has said a prayer or walked down an aisle or been raised in a Christian family. While each of these things can be a part of the Christian experience, they are not what makes a Christian. A Christian is a person who has fully trusts(on-going, in all things) in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and therefore possesses the Holy Spirit ([John 3:16](#); [Acts 16:31](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)).

All have been saved. Romans 5:8 But God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Not all are being saved. *Being saved* is known as progressive sanctification. It is God conforming us to the image of Christ ([Romans 8:29](#)), making us more like Him. It is the Holy Spirit increasingly empowering us to be victorious ([Romans 8:13](#)), with less sin ([Galatians 5:19-21](#)) and more fruit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

All will be saved. (Php 2:9-11) Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So the real question is "how do I know I'm a Christian?" Answer - Look at the fruit. Galatians 5:22]

(Hebrews 3:1-19) So, my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do. Moses was also faithful, but Jesus gets far more honor. A builder is more valuable than a building any day. Every house has a builder, but the Builder behind them all is God. Moses did a good job in God's house, but it was all servant work, getting things ready for what was to come. Christ as Son is in charge of the house. Now, if we can only keep a firm grip on this bold confidence, we're the house! That's why the Holy Spirit says, Today, please listen; don't turn a deaf ear as in "the bitter uprising," that time of wilderness testing! Even though they watched me at work for forty years, your ancestors refused to let me do it my way; over and over they tried my patience. And I was provoked, oh, so provoked! I said, "They'll never keep their minds on God; they refuse to walk down my road." Exasperated, I vowed, "They'll never get where they're going, never be able to sit down and rest." So watch your step, friends. Make sure there's no evil unbelief lying around that will trip you up and throw you off course, diverting you from the living God. For as long as it's still God's Today, keep each other on your toes so sin doesn't slow down your reflexes. If we can only keep our grip on the sure thing we started out with, we're in this with Christ for the long haul. These words keep ringing in our ears: Today, please listen; don't turn a deaf ear as in the bitter uprising. For who were the people who turned a deaf ear? Weren't they the very ones Moses led out of Egypt? And who was God provoked with for forty years? Wasn't it those who turned a deaf ear and ended up corpses in the wilderness? And when he swore that they'd never get where they were going, wasn't he talking to the ones who turned a deaf ear? They never got there because they never listened, never believed.

(Hebrews 4:1-16) For as long, then, as that promise of resting in him pulls us on to God's goal for us, we need to be careful that we're not disqualified. We received the same promises as those people in the wilderness, but the promises didn't do them a bit of good because they didn't receive the promises with faith. If we believe, though, we'll experience that state of resting. But not if we don't have faith. Remember that God said, Exasperated, I vowed, "They'll never get where they're going, never be able to sit down and rest." God made that vow, even though he'd finished his part before the foundation of the world. Somewhere it's written, "God rested the seventh day, having completed his work," but in this other text he says, "They'll never be able to sit down and rest." So this promise has not yet been fulfilled. Those earlier ones never did get to the place of rest because they were disobedient. God keeps renewing the promise and setting the date as today, just as he did in David's psalm, centuries later than the original invitation: Today, please listen, don't turn a deaf ear . . . And so this is still a live promise. It wasn't canceled at the time of Joshua; otherwise, God wouldn't keep renewing the appointment for "today." The promise of "arrival" and "rest" is still there for God's people. God himself is at rest. And at the end of the journey we'll surely rest with God. So let's keep at it and eventually arrive at the place of rest, not drop out through some sort of disobedience. God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what. Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

