

Handout for

**Jesus is Better:
An Overview of Hebrews
BIBLE OVERVIEW**



EQUIP

Webpage: <https://english.gracebaptistchurch.sg/equip>

I. Background

What kind of writing is Hebrews?

- A “word of exhortation” (13:22), a sermon-letter

Who wrote it?

- Anonymous: no mention of author
 - “*Who actually wrote the epistle, only God knows*” (Origen, 254 AD)
- Probably not an apostle (2:3)
- Friend of Timothy (12:23)
- Faithful, godly pastor who knew and loved his congregation deeply
- Had deep knowledge of the OT: typological, redemptive-historical interpretation of the Scriptures

Who was it written for?

- Possibly Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome (13:24)

Why was it written?

- Spiritual peril:
 - Passive dangers: distracted, sluggish, dull of hearing, weary, fainthearted, discouraged
 - Active dangers: unbelief, apostasy, persisting in sin, absence from church
 - External pressure: suffering, persecution
- Tempted to return to comfort of Old Covenant religion
- Warn and exhort Christians to persevere in Christ through trials and temptations
- How does Hebrews warn and exhort?
 - Biblically and theologically rich exposition to show superiority of the person and work of Christ
 - Applies this to encourage and admonish believers to press on and not give up

II. Outline

1. Jesus is superior to the angels (1:1-2:18)
2. Jesus is superior to the Mosaic law (3:1-10:18)
3. Therefore, persevere in faith and endurance (10:19-12:29)
4. Therefore, live faithfully as God’s people (13:1-25)

Big Idea:

Because Jesus is better, we should persevere and hold fast to the great salvation that Christ has accomplished.

III. Overview

Exposition

- Summary of the Son's supremacy (1:1-4)
 - God's final, climatic Word
 - Seven glorious attributes
 - Heir of all things
 - Created the world
 - Radiance of the glory of God
 - Exact imprint of his nature
 - Upholds the universe
 - Made purification for sins
 - Sat down at God's right hand

- Jesus is better:
 1. Than the angels
 - Fully God (1:5-14)
 - Royal Son
 - Eternal Creator
 - Fully man (2:9, 14-16)
 - Substitute and representative: bringing many sons to glory (2:10-11)

 2. Than Moses
 - Builder greater than the house; Son greater than servant (3:1-6)

 3. Than the OT priests
 - Our merciful and faithful high priest (2:17-18)
 - After the order of Melchizedek (6:20; 7:6-10, 15-17, 20-21)
 - Permanent and pure priesthood (7:23-27)
 - Serves a better sanctuary: the true one, not an earthly copy (8:5; 9:11-12, 23-24)
 - Offers a better sacrifice
 - Cleanses from sin and establishes the new covenant (9:14-15, 23)
 - Once-for-all, effective sacrifice of a willing and obedient offering (10:1-18)

- Therefore, the covenant he establishes is better (7:22)
 - Forgiveness of sin (10:15-18)
 - Better promises (8:6-7)
 - Better hope (6:18-19; 7:19; 10:34; 11:16, 35)
 - Better rest (4:9)
 - Better kingdom (12:22-24, 28)

Warning

- Don't drift away and neglect such a great salvation (2:1-4)
- Don't harden our hearts and fail to enter God's rest (3:7-4:13)
- Don't be dull of hearing and sluggish. Beware of forsaking Christ (5:11-6:12)
- Don't go on sinning deliberately (10:26-31)

