
New Testament Books
After the Paul and the Book of Acts
(Hebrews, James, 1,2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, Jude, Revelation)

This Week:

Lesson: Introduction to Hebrews

Scripture: Hebrews

Written By: ??? (Paul, Barnabas, Mark, Luke, Apollos) See page 2.

When: A.D. 64-70 (Between Nero burning Rome and the destruction of the Temple)

Why Written: This is a theological work aimed at answering Jewish legalists by showing **Christ as fully satisfying and superseding the Law of Moses**, by virtue of being the real and final solution for sin, as opposed to the temporary and foreshadowing nature of the Law.

Next Week:

Homework Scripture Read: James

Lesson Text:

Hebrews 13:20-25 “I have written to you” – no other address, obviously sent to Jewish Christians who knew Timothy

Hebrews 10:11-25 The purpose/main point of the Book of Hebrews

PART I – Superior Authority of Christ

Hebrews 1:1-4 Authority of Christ superior to prophets and angels

Hebrews 3:1-6 Authority of Christ superior to Moses

PART II – Superior Work of Christ

Hebrews 4-7 Christ the superior high priest

Hebrews 8 Christ brings a superior covenant

Hebrews 9-10 Christ brings a superior sanctuary and is a superior sacrifice

PART III – Our Response of Faith

Hebrews 10-12 Christian Faith (12:1-2)

Hebrews 11 “Hall of Fame of Faith”

Hebrews 13 Christian love and salutations

Discussion:

- **Note** that Hebrews and Romans are very complementary studies.
- **Discuss** the central theme of substitutionary sacrifice for sin
- **Discuss** the central theme of righteousness by faith in Christ
- **Note** that salvation is by faith, and interaction is through love
- **Favorite Verses in Hebrews:** **4:12, 4:16, 9:22, 11, 12:6** (Proverbs 3:11-12)
- **Discuss** why Paul cannot be the author of Hebrews – see below.

Who Wrote the Book of Hebrews?

Importance of church tradition: The original recipients of Hebrews knew who the author was. See Hebrews 13:22-24.

Paul as Possible Author of Hebrews:

- Paul considered author by Eastern Orthodox Church
- Paul listed as author in all King James Bibles
- **3 Compelling reasons why not:**
 - Greek grammatical style of writing different from Paul's works
 - Hebrews 2:3 makes the author NOT someone who heard from Christ personally – an experience which Paul distinctly claims.
 - Lack of Paul's customary salutation in the first few verses, where he always specifically states his authorship – remember both the authority issues and the counterfeit epistle issues he had dealt with. He even states that his epistles will always bear his mark, II Thessalonians 2:2, 3:17.

Other Traditional/Probable Authors for Hebrews (Excluding Clement and Priscilla)

- **Barnabas**
 - **Pro** – Church tradition, was a Levite, extensive travels and ministry with Paul, extensive ministry with the disciples at Jerusalem before Paul, unknown active ministry after Acts Ch. 15.
 - **Con** – Wrote no other Scripture.
- **John Mark**
 - **Pro** – Wrote other Scripture, Gospel of Mark, formal Jewish education at Jerusalem, extensive travels and ministry with Paul including during Paul's last days
 - **Con** – No church traditions point to Mark
- **Luke**
 - **Pro** – Church tradition, wrote other Scripture, Luke and Acts, extensive travels and ministry with Paul including during Paul's last days, always anonymous in his writings, even to the point of recounting his own involvements only by using pronouns.
 - **Con** – Gentile, would not be an appropriate author to write to a Jewish audience regarding the superiority of Christ over the Law of Moses.
- **Apollos**
 - **Pro** – Described in Acts 18:24-28 as eloquent, “mighty in the Scriptures” and “demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.”
 - **Con** – No early church traditions, wrote no other Scripture.

In Conclusion, Paul can be safely eliminated as an author of the Book of Hebrews. As for the remainder, I believe that Barnabas is the strongest candidate. In the end all agree that the authorship of the Book of Hebrews cannot be resolved from Scripture.