

Introducing Hebrews

A sermon not a letter (13:22) ...

... preached to people who had suffered before (10:32-34) and will suffer again (12:4)

... who might be tempted to give up on Jesus (2:1; 3:12-14; 4:11; 10:22-25, 35; 12:1;)

Jesus is better

Hebrews 1:4 having become as much **superior** to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of **better** things—things that belong to salvation.

Hebrews 7:7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the **superior**.

Hebrews 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Hebrews 7:22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a **better** covenant.

Hebrews 8:6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is **better**, since it is enacted on **better** promises.

Hebrews 9:23 Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with **better** sacrifices than these.

Hebrews 10:34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a **better** possession and an abiding one.

Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they desire a **better** country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a **better** life.

Hebrews 11:40 since God had provided something **better** for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a **better** word than the blood of Abel.

Consider Jesus

A priest who knows the struggle

A priest who made a sacrifice

A priest who finished the race

“God has spoken to us by his Son”

Long ago, at many times
and in many ways
God spoke
to our fathers
by the prophets

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,
“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And,
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,

¹² like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

¹³ And to which of the angels has he ever said,
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of
those who are to inherit salvation?

Hebrews 1:1-2:5

Jesus is greater than angels

And the message we heard through Jesus is
greater than the revelation that came through
angels, i.e. the Old Testament (see Acts 7:38, 53;
Galatians 3:19)

It’s not that Jesus *replaces* the Old Testament because
2:6-9 quotes Psalm 8
3:7-15 quotes Psalm 95
7:15-22 quotes Psalm 110
10:5-10 quotes Psalm 40
10:15-18 quotes Jeremiah 31

Rather Jesus *completes* and *fulfils* the Old Testament

And so the stakes are higher now

Beware of drifting

Hebrews 12:12-29

Zion is greater than Sinai

And so the stakes are higher now

Beware of running out of steam

“Let us therefore strive to enter that rest”

God created the world in six days and rested on the 7th day

The Israelites sinned in the desert and so missed out on the Promised Land

King David wrote Psalm 95 to warn people in his day not to repeat the mistakes of an earlier generation.

DEATH & RESURRECTION & ASCENSION OF JESUS

The book of Hebrews is written to warn its readers not to fall away

Not everyone that starts the journey finishes it

- a) Arminian view
- b) Calvinist hypothetical view
- c) Reformed covenantal view

The negative role models

The positive role model

“For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from his”
(NASB, available on biblegateway.com)

The role of the church

The role of the word of God

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses”

What does it mean to say that Jesus has “in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 5:15)

- Jesus doesn't experience indwelling sin and the temptation that comes from that (cf. James 1:2-3, 13-15)
- But Jesus went through a worse trial at Gethsemane (Hebrews 5:7-8; cf. Matthew 26:36-46)

Application: “concupiscence”

What *Gentle and Lowly* doesn't get quite right (although it is kind of right)...

If Jesus can sympathise with our weakness, why does he scare us so much? (5:11 – 6:20)

- Remember this is a sermon not a letter (12:22)
- And so he preaches impatiently (5:11-14)

threateningly (6:1-8)

warmly (6:9-12)

reassuringly (6:13-20)

How do you respond to the sermon?

“How much more will the blood of Christ...”

Jesus is a better priest because he is forever (6:19 – 7:28)

Repetition Tool - www.digdeeper.tools

If you like repeating choruses...

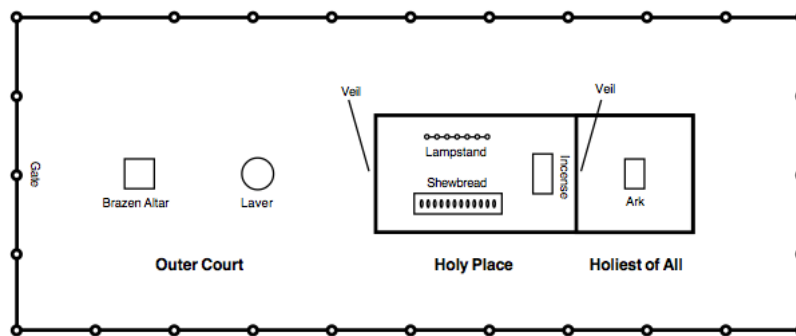
Jesus inaugurates a better covenant (8:6-13)

Linking Words Tool

The Wizard of Oz verse ...

Jesus offers better sacrifices (9:1-28)

Structure Tool



Old Testament Sacrifices	Jesus' sacrifice
Cleanses outside	
Repeated annually	
A handmade tent	

So draw near and keep going (10:19-25)