

Introduction

To open the study into this magnificent book we will be considering at first what will be called the A, B, C, and D's of the book. This is an investigation into the **Author**, seeing who the **Beneficiaries** of the book might be while learning what the **Chief Concept** is that is being



shared, then finally, the **Date** to which we can ascertain to the origination of the book. Hebrews is one of the most fascinating doctrinal and deep theological books in the Bible. It definitely is a Christ-centered book.

The Author- There is no other book in the Bible that stands as much debate about its authorship than this New Testament book of Hebrews. We cannot be sure with absolute certainty who the author of this book is. Many books of the Bible have authorship questions but none as much as the book of Hebrews. There is no real indication within the text of the book itself to whom the author is. It is fairly clear that the writer was at

least of Jewish decent. It is also a very safe conclusion that the author was extremely well versed and educated in the Old Testament writings. General reading of this book would clearly indicate this. This book uses numerous quotes from the Old Testament passages. At least thirty-five quotes and thirty-four allusions from the Old Testament are apparent in this book. It has also be commented that there are 13 different times that a name or topic from the Old Testament is mentioned without any specific context being given.

Many assume that this incredible text belongs to the hand of the apostle Paul. Some state with absolute confidence that this book's author is the apostle, Paul. Some of the English translations



of the Bible even title the book, "The Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews." Others have suggested people such as Timothy, Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, or Luke. Tertullian from Carthage (c. 200

A.D.) suggests that Barnabas was the author. Martin Luther (1500's) suggests Apollos to be

the author, being that he was “eloquent,” “mighty in the Scriptures,” “fervent in the spirit” and “instructed in the way of the Lord.” John Calvin (1500’s) believes Luke was its author. Personally, I believe due to the overwhelming knowledge and essence of the Old Testament writings that it was someone who was a Jew. However, there are some disputes with passages like **Hebrews 2:3-4** (3) **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, (4) God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.** Some say that this suggests that perhaps it was not written by an apostle at all. I prefer the words of writer of the book “Our Man in Heaven” by Edward Fudge as he states it, whether we ever really know for sure who penned this great work we do know it was authored through the Holy Spirit by the Lord Himself, no matter what instrument He used. The first century Church believed that it was Paul that wrote this book. The traditional view of authorship has been given to Paul by Church Fathers, theologians, and writers such as Origen, Eusebius, Jerome, Pantaeenus, and Augustine. Even though these are the “traditional” views we cannot hold on to

something just because it is tradition. However, with that many reliable sources having the same view it does give creditability to the authorship of the apostle Paul.

The Beneficiaries- The Jewish Christians of the day. The Jewish Christians that were contemplating returning to the Hebrew Law. This would have been those that we born as



traditional Jews and then became obedient to Christ and became Christians. It was because of various tension and burdens they would be persuaded or tempted to go back to living the Law and the life of Judaism. Some have suggested that it was specifically intended for Jews living within the city of Rome. Some also think that is may be in reference to those Jews who had lived in Rome but now were living elsewhere because of being expelled during the reign of Claudius. **Hebrews 13:24 Greet all of**

your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Some suggest that this means that the book was written from Rome. Again, the traditionally accepted point of view is that this book was written to Jews in Jerusalem. Thus it would make its writings for Hebrews Christians living within Jerusalem.

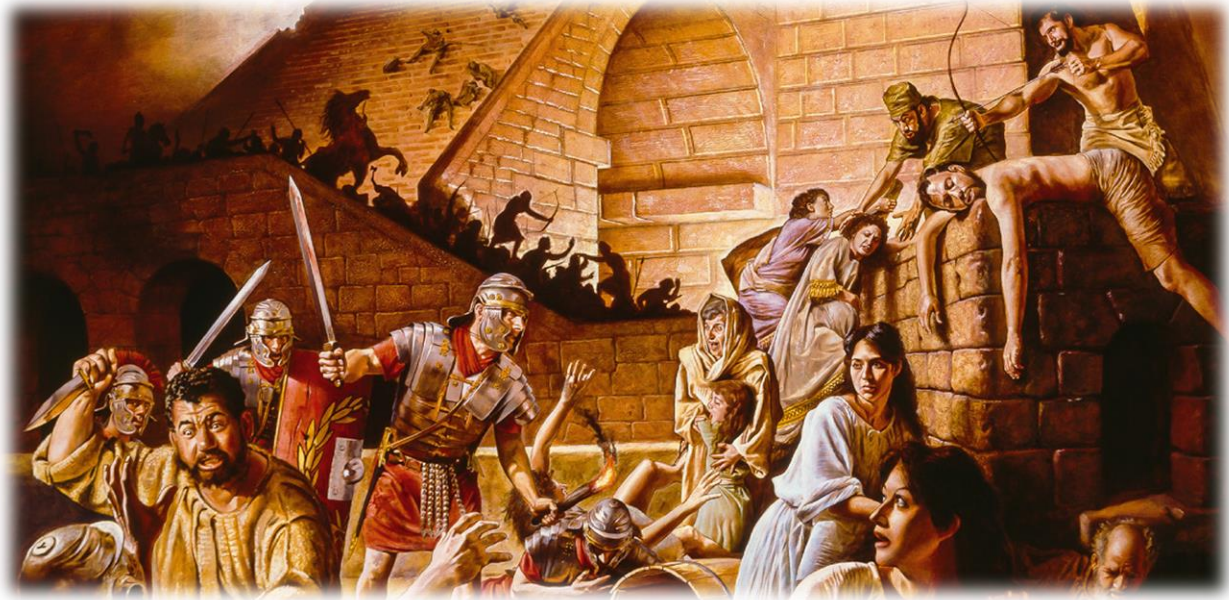
Through the years many have engaged in efforts to destroy the Biblical validity of Hebrews. There are three tests the early church used to determine if a book was inspired or not, by Authorship, Orthodoxy, and Acceptance. The authorship question; was it written by an Apostle or close associate of an Apostle? While the orthodoxy question; was the doctrine in the book consistent with other accepted works? Finally, the acceptance question; was it generally accepted by most people as inspired and authoritative.

The Chief Concept- Most commonly, the entire idea of the book of Hebrews is based on the concept or the word “better.” The word “better” is used 13 times in the book. We are told that Christ is better than the prophets. Christ is better than the angels. Christ is better than Moses. Christ is better than the Levitical Priesthood. That the new covenant is better than the Old. The point of focus is that the Church is better than the Law.



Today, we are most likely not to be tempted or persuaded to quit Christianity to follow and embrace the Old Testament Law. However, many are tempted and persuaded to quit Christianity to go back and return to the world. It is good for readers today to be reminded that Jesus is better.

The Date- The date of this is book has been traditionally accepted to be written approximately between 65 and 68 A.D. We know that it had to be written before 96 A.D. because Clement of Rome alludes to this writing in a letter that he had sent to the Church at Corinth. To add to that we also suggest that it was penned before



the date of 70 A.D., simply because it nowhere mentions the siege, fall, and destruction of Herod's Temple or the city of Jerusalem. Also, the book mentions the duties of the priest, the Jewish order of the Levitical service of the Old Testament, not the distorted institutions of the first century after Christ. One thing is for certain something was happening that caused the Jewish Christian to stand perplexed, agitated, and almost distracted, as they seemed to feel the ground parting beneath their feet. Not knowing whether to throw themselves back into which

they had left or cling to what they were now a part of. No matter the time in this world's history be sure it is most appropriate to cling to Christ.