

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Hebrews

Author: unknown. Origen (185-254) said, “Only God knows.” Probably someone in Italy? (13:24)

Audience: Hebrews (but unclear which group of Hebrews)

Time: probably between 50 (Acts 16:1-3 and Heb. 13:23) – 70 AD (Heb. 8:4, 9:6, 13:10)

Genre: a. Sermon (Heb. 13:22. Compare with Acts. 13:15-41)
b. Letter (The beginning is not like other letters but the ending)

Structure A (Narrative of Jesus)

The True God and The True Human: Jesus Christ (1:1-3:1)

The True High Priest: Jesus Christ (3:2-7:28)

The True Mediator of The New Covenant: Jesus Christ (8:1-10:18)

Exhortation (10:19-13:25)

Structure B (Rhetorical Pattern)

Introduction on Jesus (1:1-2:4)

Main Point: Jesus Christ’s Glory and Honor through Suffering (2:5-9)

Argument I (2:10-6:20)

As Jesus was glorified through suffering, you should go through suffering. (2:10-5:10)

Warning and Encouraging (5:11-6:20)

Argument II (7:1-10:39)

Jesus’ suffering is the sacrifice offering to make you come to God. (7:1-10:25)

Warning and Encouraging (10:26-39)

Argument III (11:1-12:27)

God people will be glorified by faith and patience even in the suffering. (11:1-12:24)

Warning and Encouraging (12:25-27)

Closing (12:28-13:25)

3. Let us read Ch. 1

- a. Verse 3 says that Jesus is the imprint of God's very being. The Greek word, *charaktēr*, is translated as "imprint" in English, and the lexical meaning is a. the instrument used for engraving or carving, b. the mark stamped upon that instrument or wrought out on it. Regarding those definitions, how would you understand Jesus as the imprint of God's very being?
- b. Verse 4 proclaims that Jesus is superior to angels. What does it imply?
- c. Does the repetition of ideas and words in verses 1-4 help you understand Hebrews better? Take a look at Ecclesiastes 3 and see how similar style of writing is used.
- d. From verses 5 -13, there are citations from the Old Testament. What does each of those imply?
- e. Which of those citations strike you most in understanding Jesus' relationship with God?
- f. What do you think of the way the author of Hebrews uses the Hebrew bible to prove his points? What value is it to us today? Can you understand who Jesus really is without relating him to the Old Testament ideas and prophecies?

4. Closing Prayer