

HEBREWS TEACHING OUTLINE

By Steve Marshman

Author: unknown

Date: unknown. Many think it was written prior to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD

Recipients: Probably a house church in Rome with a Jewish background.

Four main sections:

1. God reveals the **Son** – the pastor’s foundation. (1:1-4:13)
2. Christ’s **high priesthood** – the **main theme**. (4:14-10:18)
3. Exhortation to **persevere** in the faith - **the goal** of the sermon. (10:19-12:29)
4. Final exhortation instructions for life. (Ch 13)

Key concepts in the book: better sacrifice, better high priest, better covenant

Ps 110:1-4 is referred to often.

The **wilderness generation** (c.f. Num.) is a regular example of faithless disobedience.

Five warning passages:

macro-units (2:1–4; 3:7– 4:13; 5:11–6:12; 10:19–39; 12:14–29) or more intensely as **micro-units** (2:1–4; 4:12–13; 6:4–8; 10:26–31; 12:25–29).

THE TEXT:

I. THE SON

1:1,2 In the past God spoke through the prophets and now he speaks through his son.

Summary of 1:1-4; The Son is the fulfillment of God’s OT revelation. Verses 2 and 3 contain seven things about Jesus.

1:3,13 Jesus sits at the right hand of God (c.f. Ps. 110:1)

1:5-12 Jesus is greater than the angels

2:1-4 **Warning #1** don’t drift, don’t ignore so great a salvation

2:9 Jesus was made lower than the angels while incarnate

2:10 Jesus, the pioneer of salvation, made perfect through suffering death

2:17 Jesus made human to become a merciful and faithful **high priest**

Summary: Ch 1-2 is the opening or introduction to the sermon

- Now that Jesus is announced to be our merciful and faithful **high priest**, we are primed for the rest of the sermon.

3:1 Therefore, fix your thoughts on Jesus.

3:3 Jesus is greater than Moses.

3:6,14 hold firmly to our conviction and hope

- The wilderness generation failed
- They were not able to enter God's rest (3:11,18) because of their unbelief and disobedience

The Wilderness Generation motif: Heb 3:7-19 (*note: the background for Heb 3:7-19 is Num 13:1-14:45, the rebellion of the wilderness generation at Kadesh-Barnea*)

4:1,9 The promised rest still stands for the faithful.

4:3 We who have believed enter that rest

4:12-13 **Warning #2** God sees everything, and we must give an account

II. JESUS THE HIGH PRIEST

4:14-16 This is one of the **most important passages of the book**. It's the transition that concludes the previous section and introduces **the great center section (4:14-10:18)**

4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest, hold firmly to the faith

4:16 **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**

5:1 Every other high priest was selected from the people

5:8 Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered

5:9 Jesus is the source of salvation

5:10 Jesus is designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek

6:1 Therefore, move from elementary teaching toward maturity.

6:4-8 **Warning #3** Do not reject Jesus

6:9 you have not rejected Jesus

6:11 be diligent to finish well

7:1-10 the superiority of the order of **Melchizedek**.

7:11 Levitical priests in the order of Aaron are insufficient

7:22 Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant

7:24 Jesus is high priest forever

7:25 “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

7:27 Jesus’ sacrifice is once for all

CH 8-10:18 There are **three movements (8:1-13, 9:1-22, 9:23-10:18)** each containing **themes of sanctuary, sacrifice, and covenant in that order**. Christ’s self-sacrifice is at the center of each of the three movements.

Movement I. Sanctuary – 8:1-2

Sacrifice – 8:3-6

Covenant – 8:7-13

Movement II. Sanctuary – 9:1-10

Sacrifice – 9:11-15

Covenant – 9:16-22

Movement III. Sanctuary – 9:23-24

Sacrifice – 9:25-10:14 (the longest section of the three movements)

Covenant – 10:15-18

8:1 Jesus, our high priest, sat down at the right hand of God.

8:2 Jesus serves in the **sanctuary**, the true tabernacle

8:3 Every high priest offers a **sacrifice**

8:7 God found fault with the people of the first **covenant**.

9:1 The first covenant had an earthly **sanctuary**.

9:12 Christ entered the Most Holy Place “by his own blood”, the perfect **sacrifice**

9:18 A **covenant** is put into effect by death (blood).

9:24 Christ entered the heavenly **sanctuary**

9:26 He appeared once for all by the **sacrifice** of himself

- 10:9 He set aside the first covenant to establish the second.

- 10:10 We have been made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once for all

10:16 The Holy Spirit discloses the **new covenant**.

III. EXHORTATION TO PERSEVERE

10:19-25 *If all this is true about Jesus, then how should we live?*

10:19 Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus ...

10:22 “Let us **draw near** to God” is synonymous to entering the presence of God.

10:23 “Let us hold **unswervingly** to the hope”

10:24 “Let us **consider** how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

10:26-31 **Warning #4** possibly the harshest in the book – don’t keep on sinning!

10:36 “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

10:39 “But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

11:1 Definition of faith: faith is more *objective* than *subjective*.

HCSB: Now faith is the **reality** of what is hoped for, the **proof** of what is not seen.

KJ/NKJ: Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Note: NIV uses more subjective “confidence” and “assurance.

11:13 the people in the “hall of faith” only saw the promises from a distance

11:16 they were longing for a better country, a heavenly one

11:39 God had planned something better for **us** so that only **together with us** would they be made perfect

12:1 Let us **run with perseverance**

12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus

12:3 Consider Jesus who endured opposition

12:7 Endure hardship as discipline

12:14 “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

12:18-24 Compares and contrasts two mountains Mt. Sinai (Old Covenant) vs. Mt. Zion (New Covenant).

12:22 “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.”

12:25-29 **Warning #5** Don’t refuse God!

12:28-29 “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.””

IV. FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

13:1 Keep on loving one another

13:7 Remember your leaders

13:15 Through Jesus, “let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise”

13:16 Don’t forget to do good and share with others.

13:20-21 **Benediction** to conclude the sermon.

13:22-25 Ending that turns the sermon into a letter (epistle).