

God Speaks  
Introduction to Hebrews  
January 8, 2013

- I. Introduction to the Study
  - A. Format
    - 1. Five days of questions each week
  
  - B. Types of Questions
    - 1. Regular questions
  
    - 2. Thought Provoker questions
  
    - 3. Challenge questions
  
    - 4. Memory verses
  
  - C. My Bible Study Approach
    - 1. What does it say?
  
    - 2. What does it mean?
  
    - 3. How can I apply it to my life?
  
- II. The Reputation of Hebrews
  - A. Difficult, Intimidating Book
    - 1. Some say the most difficult of the New Testament
  
- III. The Setting of Hebrews
  - A. The Recipients
    - 1. Likely mostly Jewish Christians
  
    - 2. Likely sent to believers in or near Rome

IV. The Purpose of Hebrews

A. Discouraged Believers

1. Persecution
2. Some drifting from faith

B. Written for Two Main Reasons

1. Scriptural Exposition
  - a. To show them from \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ than anyone or anything that came before
  - b. To bolster their \_\_\_\_\_ with the truth of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Exhortation
  - a. To encourage them to \_\_\_\_\_ in their faith
  - b. To \_\_\_\_\_ to God
  - c. To \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus
  - d. To keep \_\_\_\_\_ in mind
  - e. To \_\_\_\_\_ in a manner honoring to \_\_\_\_\_

V. Date of Writing

A. Narrowing it Down

1. They had been Christians for awhile
2. They had faced persecution at some point in the past
3. They had yet to suffer martyrdom
4. Leads to a possible dating of early to mid 60's

VI. What is It?

A. Entitled "The Letter to the Hebrews"

1. Enigmatic
2. Sermon
3. "Word of Exhortation"

VII. Author

A. What We Know

1. No introduction to the letter

2. Dynamic preach
3. Encyclopedic knowledge of the Old Testament
4. Highly educated
5. Committed and concerned pastor

B. So...Who is the Author?

1. Guesses
  - a. Paul
  - b. Luke
  - c. Barnabas
  - d. Apollos
  - e. Some other author whose name is lost
2. Bottom line

VIII. The Structure of Hebrews

A. Two Types of Literature: Exposition and Exhortation

1. Exposition – the expounding on or \_\_\_\_\_ or scriptural truth
2. Exhortation - \_\_\_\_\_ intended to motivate a positive \_\_\_\_\_

B. Exposition

1. Scriptural explanation of the work and person of Jesus Christ

C. Exhortation

1. A multitude of exhortations intended to motivate the listeners to persevere in commitment of Jesus Christ

D. Tapestry

1. Weaving of theology and encouragement

2. Very much like a sermon

IX. Conclusion: The Importance of Hebrews

A. Ancient Text

1. Very relevant for today

B. Apologetic (An argument in favor of something)

1. Hebrews is a powerful apologetic for understanding the deep truths of our faith
2. Our rich and reliable faith
3. Drifting away
4. The case of Rob Bell
5. Why doctrine matters