



## Hebrews Week 1: Overview

**Why study this book:** This book can help you as you face obstacles, temptations and frustrations on your journey as a Christian. The author encourages the Hebrews to never quit, while acknowledging the pitfall and perils we go through.

**Author:** Unknown – Scholars have debated over Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Apollos, Luke, Philip, Priscilla, Aquila, and Clement of Rome. However, the vocabulary, style and literary characteristics do not match clearly any of these people. We do know that it was someone who heard Jesus' message from others (2:3). This rules out anyone claiming to have been in contact or heard directly from God.

**Date:** Around AD 67-69, right when Timothy was released from jail and persecution was getting severe.

**Main point:** The letter is written in conjunction with the book of Leviticus due to all the Levitical priesthood references. This also explains the reason for the central message being "God's provision for the perfect priest and sacrifice in Christ." Also, the community of Hebrews was facing the possibility of intensified persecution (10:32-39; 12:4). Because of the persecution, the community was throwing away any identification with Christ, almost to the point of giving Him the same power as an angel.

**Who:** This Epistle doesn't identify if the recipients are Hebrews (Jews) or Gentiles. But, because of all the references of history and religion about the Hebrews, the title has been given. The letter seems to be geared towards those who are still on "milk," instead of solid food, even though they weren't new Christians (5:12).

**Bonus information:** The author refers to his letter as a "word of exhortation" (13:22). These exhortations were written in order to stir the readers into action. They are given in the form of six warnings:

1. Warning against drifting from "the things we have heard" (2:1-4)
2. Warning against disbelieving the "voice" of God (3:7-14)
3. Warning against degenerating from "the elementary principles of Christ" (5:11-6:20)
4. Warning against despising "the knowledge of the truth" (10:26-39)
5. Warning against devaluing "the grace of God" (12:15-17)
6. Warning against departing from Him "who speaks" (12:25-29)