

AUTHOR: unknown. Yet ultimately, of course, the author is the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)

HEBREWS

3 DISTINCT KINDS OF JEWS

1. Believers
2. Unbelievers who were intellectually convinced of the Gospel
3. Unbelievers who were attacked by the Gospel but hadn't reached w/ final conviction about Him.

OUTLINE

- I. Superiority of Christ
 - A. Greater than the Angels → 1-2
 - B. Greater than Moses → 3-4
 - C. Greater than the Old Testament Priesthood
 - D. The new covenant is better than the old
- II. Superiority of Faith → 10:9-13

CHRISTIANITY

supersedes all other religions and can never be surpassed.

we have to be careful with everything we hear. we must secure ourselves to the truth of the Gospel.

TRANSGRESSION

- ↳ step across the line
- ↳ overt sin of commission

VS.

DISOBEDIENCE

- ↳ shutting of one's ear to God's commands
- ↳ sin of omission

↳ Both are willful, serious, and require just judgment. James 1:22-25 obedience to God's command and not just merely listening to it.

↳ never NEGLECT salvation. It has been spoken, through the Lord, confirmed by those who heard.

↳ God also is testifying with them, both by signs & wonders and by various miracles & gifts of the Holy Spirit. → Acts 9:31-42; 14:1-20 John 20:29

Hebrews 2:8-9 God puts Jesus in charge of everything

↳ we have to remember Jesus' position & authority

Jesus is Lord → He is Lord of All and one day He will rule earth like He is doing in Heaven.

↳ Jesus humbled Himself for us. He doesn't need to suffer because He is God.

↳ Through His suffering and death, Jesus completed the necessary work for our salvation.

↳ Jesus died for us to live.

GREATER THAN MOSES

MOSES → greatest prophet in the scriptures
→ wrote the first 5 books of OT
→ prophet whom God given the law
→ led the Israelites from the Egyptian to the promised land

Jesus → led us out of sin's slavery
→ author of Hebrews is saying, why settle with Moses, when you can have Jesus, who appointed Moses?

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS → always humble our hearts to repent and ask for forgiveness.
→ Be careful to obey God's Word, and do not allow your heart to become hardened.

REST → this has several meanings

Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 4:4-9 → 7th Day of Creation

Deut 12:8-12; Psalm 95 → The promised land Canaan

Matt 12:28; → Peace with God now because of our relationship w/ Christ through Faith

Hebrews 4:8-11 → Our future eternal life with Christ

Superiority of Christ

GREATER THAN THE ANGELS

↳ Jesus Christ's position as the Son of God, a God Himself, has been sent out to everyone's knowledge in many portions and in many ways.

→ 39 OT books
→ visions, parables, symbols, etc.

↳ Jesus is not radiating / reflecting God's glory because He is God and radiates His own essential glory.

↳ Jesus is the perfect imprint, the exact representation of nature and essence of God in time & space (John 14:9; Col 1:15; 2:4)

↳ We must pay much close attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

↳ "you are my son" → Son of God; a title greater than the names and titles of the angels (Psalm 2:7)

Psalm 104:4 Angels are important, but still only servants under God.

Colossians 2:18; Jesus is not a superior Angel.

Rev. 19:1-10 Angels are not to be worshipped.

↳ Jesus is God and He alone deserves our worship.

Psalm 45:6 Christ's kingdom is forever

↳ Christ is our only security in a changing world

↳ whatever happens in this world, Christ remains forever unchangless. "He is the same"

Superiority of Christ

GREATER THAN MOSES (Continuation)

let us not have an unbelieving heart. If we persist in our unbelief, we may eventually fall deep into sin.

Ezekiel 36:22-27 God gave us new hearts, new desires, and new spirits

→ We must continue to stay in fellowship with other believers, be accountable, be aware of deceitfulness of sin, and encourage each other with love & concern.

Numbers 14:15 The Israelites failed to enter the promised land because of their disbelief to God that they can defeat the giants. They were sent to the wilderness for 40 years instead.

→ LACK of TRUST in God always prevents us from receiving His best.

→ His perfectly crafted plan for us.

→ We have to trust Christ's power. Never overshadow God's promises by trusting ourselves. Only Christ can see us through.

→ Out of all the disobedience and disbelief of Moses' people, God continues to offer us the opportunity to enter His "rest" by believing that Jesus, son of God, died for our sins.

TODAY is the best time to find PEACE with God. Tomorrow may be too late.

God's Words

→ not a collection of words from God
→ it is living, life-changing
→ dynamically works in us

→ God reveals who we are and what we are not.

→ penetrates the core of our moral and spiritual life and helps us discern what is right & wrong

→ Knowing God's Words requires decision.

→ listen to the word

→ allow to shape our lives

Hebrews 4:13 It is impossible to hide from God. He knows everything; what we see, what we do — what we think.

→ Even when we try to hide from Him, we just become unaware of His presence.

→ No secrets from God; hidden desires

* God knows me intimately and yet He loves me. I know myself and I wouldn't even love a sinful person like me. Understanding & unworthy.

HEBREWS

GREATER THAN THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTHOOD

→ Jesus is superior than any priests in the old Testament.

→ He is a high priest who knows & understands our weaknesses because He experienced a full range of temptations as a human and yet He remained sinless.

→ Other high priests can still fall into sin that's why they still need to offer sacrifice for them.

Psalms 2:7 and Psalms 110:4 shows Christ's divine appointment

→ "just as Aaron" God chose Aaron, and only his descendants could be high priests.

→ "in the order of Melchizedek" Melchizedek was a priest of Salem (now called Jerusalem). His story is found at Genesis 14; his position is explained in Hebrews 7

→ Jesus, even though He is God, He learned obedience through things He suffered.

Luke 22: 41-44 Jesus was in great agony and even prepared to face death



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

→ It is a call to mature in our spiritual journey

→ DISCERNMENT is an important skill to learn in order to mature. Discernment of God's words, discernment between right & wrong

→ we have to train our minds, senses, and our bodies.

→ you have been believers for so long and yet you still need someone to teach you again the basics.

→ We need to move beyond the basics to a more complete understanding of Faith.

→ "solid food" means deeper knowledge of God and the ability to digest it is evident in our spiritual growth.

→ Digesting God's words entails practicing it and then our capacity to understand also grows.

Hebrews 6:7-8 An unproductive Christian life falls under God's condemnation.

→ we are not saved based on deeds or conduct, but what we do is the evidence of our FAITH.

Superiority of Christ

① GREATER THAN THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTHOOD (Continuation)

Jesus > Melchizedek

- ① He doesn't need to fulfill any requirements in order to be a high priest.

→ **Psalm 110:4** Jesus' divine appointment even if He did not come from a priestly tribe of Aaron.

- ② His "priesthood" doesn't have a beginning and no ending because He continues to live.

- ③ He is Holy, blameless, unstained by sin
→ He was tempted and yet remained sinless.
→ Doesn't need to offer animal sacrifices in repetition for temporary forgiveness; Jesus sacrificed Himself for the permanent forgiveness to anyone who would believe.

- ④ Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ
→ by His blood, crucifixion, and resurrection
→ **Romans 3:20; 5:20** obeying the law doesn't save people; it indicates the sin.
→ **Galatians 3:24-25** the law served as a guide to us until the Savior came for us

New Testament > Old Testament

- ① We no longer rely on sacrifices, and priests to mediate for our forgiveness. The new covenant allows us to go directly to God through Christ.

Jesus continues to live & reign

- Unlike mortal priests, Jesus lives forever.
Romans 8:33-34; **Hebrews 2:17-18**; **4:15-16**; **9:24** talks about Christ's continuous presence in heaven with God assures us that our sins have been paid and forgiven.
Hebrews 7:27 He died once and for all...
→ **CHRIST IS THE FINAL SACRIFICE** for all of us.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 compares the new & old covenant

- If the first covenant was faultless, there would have no need for a second covenant to replace it.
- Under the new covenant, God's laws are already inside us.
→ No longer an external set of rules & principles
→ The Holy Spirit shall remind us of Christ's words; activates our conscience.

HEBREWS

By Jesus' Blood Alone...

- our consciences cleansed
- we are freed from death's sting & can freely live to serve God.
- we are free from sin's power
- we are justified with God; He died so that we live.
- God has forgiven our past, present & future sins.
Hebrews 9:26 Christ died on the cross, (Past sin) He sacrificed Himself once for all.
Hebrews 9:24 Holy Spirit was given to us to help (Present sin) us deal with present sins.
Hebrews 9:28 Christ promises to return & (Future) raise us to eternal life in a world where sin will be banished. **→ Psalm 40:6-8**
- God desires an obedient & right heart, not empty compliance to the sacrifice system. **→ Hosea 7**
- It is by coming to Him in faith to be forgiven, and following Him in loving obedience.
Hebrews 10:17 God will no longer remember our past sins. Because we are now cleansed. Christ forgives completely; no need to confess your past sins.
- Following & obeying Christ should lead to a transformed life (Repentance)

Superiority of Faith

① A CALL TO PERSEVERE

- A new and living way with Christ
- Significant privileges with our new life:
 1. Personal access to God through Christ and can draw near to Him without any elaborate system (**Heb 10:22**)
 2. Grow in faith, overcome doubts and questions, and deepen our relationship with God (**Heb 10:23**)
 3. Enjoy encouragement from one another (**Hebrews 10:24**)
 4. Worship Together (**Heb 10:25**)
- Never neglect Christian meetings. **→ motivate encourage ↓ ↓ help strengthen share the Faith**
→ especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

Romans 5:3-5

- Jesus will come & put an end to all pain

Superiority of Faith

HEBREWS

TRIMPHS OF FAITH

- NEVER abandon your faith in times of persecution
- Show endurance that faith is real.
- Romans 8:12-15; Gal 3:10-13 Faith means resting in what Christ has done in the past and trusting Him for what He'll do for us in the present and the future.
- Assurance and conviction can describe faith on God's character on God's promises
- John 20:24-31 Believing by faith and not by sight.
- Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.
- You know there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.
- It is impossible to please God without faith.
- The people of faith died without receiving all that God had promised yet they never lost their vision of Heaven.
- We need to take courage from those heroes of faith who lived and died without seeing the fruit of their faith on earth and yet continued to believe.
- In reality, we live in a world filled with suffering, even for believers. But God is in control.

Cost of following Christ ^{moment by moment}

FAITHFULNESS

is a constant

encouragement to us. We do not struggle alone. Christian life requires hardwork. It requires us to give up anything that can hinder between our relationship with God.

→ FLEE

- Run patiently, to struggle against sin with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Fix our eyes to Jesus.

we cannot do it by ourselves

↑ difficulties ↑ persecution ↑ discouragement

continue running

the race

because we are alive

Jesus never gave up on me. Who am I to give up on my faith?

Endure.

- no discipline is enjoyable. Be strong!
- We respond to this differently:
 - acceptance with resignation
 - acceptance with self-pity
 - angry & resentful
 - accepting gratefully

Listen.

- be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the one who is speaking.
- We must not live with the survival of our own mind.
- Be responsible as others may follow.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

Love and contentment

- Keep loving others as brothers & sisters
- don't forget the strangers, those in prison, those being mistreated
- Give honor in marriage and remain faithful
- Do not love money. God will never abandon us. He will never fail us.
- Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Give Thanks.

- we are receiving a kingdom that is unshakable!
- Mount Sinai is where people come because they are terrified of God.
- Mount Zion is where people are joyful.
- Jesus happened and God welcomes us through Christ.

Matthew 7:24-29

- Build your life on Christ and His unshakable kingdom
- COMPLETE ASSURANCE & CONFIDENCE

- Jesus is the SAME yesterday, today, and tomorrow!
- Our strength comes from God
- Obeys your spiritual leaders.

Matthew 6:19-21

- The world is not our permanent home.
- Store your treasures in Heaven.

by faith alone