

Hebrews (4)

Hebrews 1 to 5

I like things simple. In my old age, relating one thing with another which is related to another which is based on still another, gets to be confusing. That is somewhat the problem with these first four/five chapters. So I keep looking for a simple way to understand them but of course I'm not Jewish so the culture aspect is missing. But I will try again.

I think the major purpose in these early chapters, esp chapter 1, is to promote Jesus to the highest level in heaven and in our lives. He is the Creator, the King in the Kingdom, the God on the throne, the only One to be worshipped, the righteous Ruler of everything, the most acceptable and precious sacrifice able to be a substitute for everyone vs2:14, the One who has complete understanding of every issue that is present in my life, the One who can provide any answer necessary vs2:18, and can give the best rest possible.

And as we look back across the many years of the past, we will see the fathers and the prophets and priests and great teachers like Moses that communicated with God directly and through the Angels. We must keep these in mind but not let them take our attention away from the prime subject.

Since this book was written just a few years before the destruction of Jerusalem, it could have been a challenge to the Jewish people to accept Jesus as their Messiah. There could have been some resistance to this even after all the proof given in these chapters.

But we do need to remember that there was a result to every vs2:3 neglect of a commandment or a vs2:1 drifting from a moral principle. Since that happened in the past, it should teach us to look closely to what is presented about Jesus.

At the time of this book's writing, the testimony of the Lord was widely know, vs2:4 the ministry of the believers had been confirmed by the signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit, therefore there was much to reinforce the faith of the believers.

So the challenge we have at 4:10 is to stop all manual labor to acquire salvation and rest on our faith.

Then in chapter 4:12 we are encouraged to acquire and hold tightly to the Word of God because it can help us understand ourselves and God's desires. Vs4:15 This Word reveals that Jesus can fully comprehend us, Jesus has compassion for us vs5:2.

This is illustrated by the use of the position of the priest. From history we know the priest had a very precious ministry especially the part of representing us before God. Their intercession for us was the source of hope and confidence that grace and mercy would follow.

But the finally completion of all of this was the prayers that our Priest Jesus prayed on the mountains, in the desert, and in solitude for us. And continues today.

Vs 5:9 And by being perfected in this way, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Here is the culmination of what we must hold tight to. We have eternal life. We will live after all of this is finished. There is a very special Father and Savior waiting to hug us in a very special sense of love.