

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Theme: God's Self-revelation and Redemption Consummated in Jesus.

- I. God speaks His final word in His Son (Chs. 1-2).
  - A. Continuous with that in the prophets but completed in Jesus (1:1-3).
  - B. In Jesus who is superior to the angels (1:4-14).
  - C. The word spoken in the Son is more to be heeded (2:1-4).
  - D. Man's true destiny is realized only in Jesus (2:5-18).
    1. All creation was to have been subjected to man, but that seems not to be actually the case (2:5-8).
    2. Jesus, by the humiliation of the Cross, wins His glory and that, too, for all who share with Him (2:9-18).
  
- II. Jesus superior to Moses (Chapter 3).
  - A. As builder is superior to the house (3:1-4).
  - B. As son is superior to the servant (3:5).
  - C. WARNING: Israel's unbelief as God dealt with them in Moses brought wrath; how much more so unbelief as God deals with them in His Son (3:6-19).
  
- III. The Rest offered in Jesus is reality of that foreshadowed in work of Joshua (Chapter 4).
  - A. God has certainly provided a rest, and it may be entered only by faith (4:1-7).
  - B. That rest was only foreshadowed in Joshua but realized in Jesus (4:8-11).
  - C. WARNING: God's judgment cannot be evaded; He cannot be deceived but can be approached at throne of grace (4:12-16).
  
- IV. Jesus the real High Priest foreshadowed by Melchizedek (Chs. 5-7).
  - A. Qualified by sympathy and divine appointment (5:1-10).
  - B. Pause in argument to seek a better response (5:11-6:20).
    1. Their failure to grow (5:11-14).
    2. Useless to lay again foundations ( in teaching) for those who will not accept validity of their own experience or respond to evidences already submitted (6:1-8).
    3. Confidence that they will trust God's promise and oath (two immutable things) (6:9-20).
  - C. Melchizedek identified: without predecessor or successor, superior to Levi (7:1-10).
  - D. The Levitical (Aaronic) priesthood gives way to that of Jesus (7:11-28). No end gained in Levitical priesthood (v. 11) but salvation to the uttermost gained in Jesus (v. 25). Repetition of Levitical sacrifices indicates inefficacy as contrasted with the efficacy of the one sacrifice of Jesus. The Law, which is a part of the Levitical system, passes with the system (v. 12). The law of Jesus is that of an indissoluble life (v. 16).

- V. Summary: Superiority and finality of Jesus as High Priest (8:1-10:18).
  - A. Ministers in the real sanctuary (8:1-2).
  - B. Offers the real sacrifice (8:3-5).
  - C. Mediator of a better covenant based on better promises (8:6-18).
  - D. The real atonement in Jesus replaces the copies belonging to the first covenant (Ch. 9).
  - E. Finality of Christ's one sacrifice (10:1-18).
  
- VI. Exhortations to faith and courageous living (10:19-13:17).
  - A. Exhortation to true faith (10:19-25).
  - B. WARNING: If the sacrifice offered in Jesus is rejected there is no other (10:26-31).
  - C. Encouraged by former constancy (10:32-39).
  - D. Past triumphs of faith. These had faith that reality is not found in visible but in higher world beyond that of the senses. The one reality behind all things is God (Ch. 11).
  - E. Past triumphs should inspire courageous living (12:1-13).
  - F. The separate life enjoined (12:14-17).
  - G. CLIMACTIC EXHORTATION: Contrasts inaccessible Mt. Sinai with accessible Mt. Zion. In Jesus God has drawn nigh us, and in Jesus we may draw nigh to God (12:18-29).
  - H. Social and religious duties (13:1-4).
  - I. Final plea to be loyal to Jesus whatever the cost (13:5-17).

Conclusion: Salutation and benediction (13:18-25).