

# *Hebrews, A Book of Better Things*

## *The Big Picture*

### **Introduction:**

The book of Hebrews is a letter written by Paul to his brethren sometime before the destruction of their beloved city and temple. The Jews had been given the Sanctuary and its services for more than one reason.

1) To counteract the lies of Satan to Eve in the garden regarding the character of God, the nature of sin, and the immutability of the law. The law being holy, just, and good, had no need to be changed, it was founded forever. The law was based on love, and love is selfless. It is the sinner who needs to be changed. Through the sacrificial services, God revealed the natural consequences of transgression of the law which leads to death. God, well knowing the inevitable consequences of sin, attempted to advise them of its fatal destruction. The sanctuary service was to reveal Him as the only One who could save them from those consequences.

2) To reveal to them the everlasting gospel, the plan of salvation, the steps of Christ's ministry to restore face to face communion with their Creator. Sin had separated humanity from God, but He had a plan whereby man could be restored to righteousness and again enjoy the blessed communion and live eternally in His presence.

3) To prepare them to accept Christ the Messiah when He should come. None of these purposes of God were fulfilled. Israel saw practicing the types, shadows, rituals, ceremonies and sacrifices as works meriting salvation. They worshipped the sanctuary instead of the God of the sanctuary. Their preconceived ideas led them to reject Christ, having misinterpreted the prophecies of the first and second comings of Christ. Their preconceived ideas driven by the desires of their hearts prevented them from accepting Christ. They preferred a Messiah who would destroy their enemies and free them from the Roman yoke.

Paul recognized that the reason the majority of Israel had rejected Christ was due to their misunderstanding of the two dispensations, the old covenant types and shadows and the new covenant in which Christ's life, death and resurrection had fulfilled those types and shadows. The letter to the Hebrews was his attempt to help them understand the contrasts between the two ministrations so that they could as a nation repent and thwart the predicted destruction of their city and temple. Many were convinced, but the prophesied desolation did come in 70 A.D..

Not only did Christ's desire to counteract Satan's misrepresentation of God by giving them the sanctuary and its services, but He created us for His pleasure fully intending that the communion between us and Himself would be eternal.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The first remedy from the separation from God that sin brings was to instruct them to build a dwelling place for Himself that He might draw near to them.

Exodus 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

The everlasting gospel as typified within the sanctuary and its services, when rightly understood, would reveal just how face to face communion could be restored.

Psalms 77:13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

Not only would communion with our Creator be restored, but so would our first dominion.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

When the giving of the sanctuary and its services failed to accomplish God's purpose, God sent His Son to reveal His character and their plan to save man from sin.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

When Israel rejected God's Son, hope was not lost. God would have another body, His church, who would reveal His character and the plan of salvation.

Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Those that love His appearing will recognize and fulfill the purpose of the gospel (2Timothy 4:8).

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

### *Hebrews a Book of Better Things:*

Found among the many subjects and lessons the book of Hebrews teaches is the idea of "better" things. Below is a list of those "better" things.

- Better than angels
- Better things of you
- Better hope
- Better testament
- Better covenant
- Better promises
- Better sacrifices
- Better & enduring substance
- Better country
- Better resurrection
- Better thing for us
- Better things than Abel

Let's take a brief look at those "better" things. We will be looking deeper into them in our upcoming studies in the book of Hebrews. The purpose of this study is to introduce the subjects we will dealing into.

#### **Better than angels:**

Hebrews 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

#### **Better things of you:**

Hebrews 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

**Better hope:**

Hebrews 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

**Better testament:**

Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

**Better covenant:**

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

**Better sacrifices:**

Hebrews 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

**Better and enduring substance:**

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

**Better country:**

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.

**Better resurrection:**

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

**Better thing for us:**

Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

**Better things than Abel:**

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

**More "better" things:**

Besides actually using the word "better," Hebrews refers to more things that are "better" such as the following.

- Better inheritance
- Better earth and heaven
- Better priesthood
- Better High Priest

- Better law than that of a carnal commandment
- Better ministry
- Better mediator
- Better Sanctuary
- Better blood
- Better place for the law to be written
- Better chastening
- Better repentance
- Better mount
- Better city

Let's take a brief look at those other "better" things. We will be looking deeper into them in our upcoming studies in the book of Hebrews.

**Better inheritance:**

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds;

**Better earth and heaven:**

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11) They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12) And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

**Better priesthood:**

Hebrews 7:24 But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

**Better High Priest:**

Hebrews 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

**Better law than that of a carnal commandment:**

Hebrews 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17) For He testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**Better ministry:**

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

**Better mediator:**

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

**Better Sanctuary:**

Hebrews 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

**Better blood:**

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

**Better place for the law to be written:**

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

**Better chastening:**

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

**Better repentance:**

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.

Hebrews 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he [Esau] would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

#### **Better mount:**

Hebrews 12:18 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

#### **Better city:**

Hebrews 11:10 For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

#### **Hebrews is a book of contrasts:**

- The contrast between Christ and the Father
- The contrast between Christ and the angels
- The contrast between Christ and man
- The contrast between Christ and the earthly priesthood
- The contrast between Christ and the earthly priests
- The contrast between Christ's promises and Israel's
- The contrast between Christ's blood and the blood of bulls and goats
- The contrast between Christ's mediation and Moses's

Let's take a brief look at those contrasts. We will be looking deeper into them in our upcoming studies in the book of Hebrews.

#### **The contrast between Christ and the Father:**

Hebrews 1:2 [God] Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; 3) Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**The contrast between Christ and the angels:**

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:16 For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.

**The contrast between Christ and man:**

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

**The contrast between Christ and the earthly priesthood:**

Hebrews 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Hebrews 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Hebrews 9:7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

Hebrews 9:25 Nor yet that He [Christ] should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

**The contrast between Christ and the earthly priests:**

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

**The contrast between Christ's promises and Israel's:**

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. 8) For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

### **The contrast between Christ's blood and the blood of bulls and goats:**

Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

### **The contrast between Christ's mediation and Moses's:**

Hebrews 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2) Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3) For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4) For every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God. 5) And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6) But Christ as a Son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause He is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.