

Outline of the Book of Hebrews

The book of Hebrews is a rich theological work that emphasizes the superiority of Christ and His new covenant over the old covenant. It offers deep insights into Christ's priesthood, sacrifice, and the perseverance of faith. Below is an exhaustive outline of Hebrews, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction: God's Final Word in His Son (1:1-4)

- A. God's Revelation Through His Son (1:1-2)
 - 1. In the past, God spoke through the prophets (1:1)
 - 2. In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son (1:2a)
- B. The Supremacy of the Son (1:2b-4)
 - 1. Heir of all things and Creator of the world (1:2b)
 - 2. Radiance of God's glory and exact representation of His being (1:3a)
 - 3. Sustainer of all things and provider of purification for sins (1:3b)
 - 4. Seated at the right hand of Majesty in heaven (1:3c-4)

II. The Superiority of Christ to Angels (1:5-2:18)

- A. Christ's Superiority Declared by Scripture (1:5-14)
 - 1. Christ's relationship to God the Father (1:5)
 - 2. Worship by angels and eternal reign (1:6-7)
 - 3. Christ's eternal throne and righteousness (1:8-9)
 - 4. Creator and unchanging nature (1:10-12)
 - 5. Exalted position above angels (1:13-14)
- B. Warning Against Neglecting Salvation (2:1-4)
 - 1. Importance of paying attention to the message (2:1)
 - 2. Danger of drifting away (2:2-3a)
 - 3. Confirmation of the message by God's signs and gifts (2:3b-4)
- C. Jesus Made Fully Human (2:5-18)
 - 1. The world to come subject to Christ, not angels (2:5-9)
 - 2. Jesus bringing many sons and daughters to glory (2:10-13)
 - 3. Jesus' defeat of the devil and deliverance of humanity (2:14-15)
 - 4. Jesus as a merciful and faithful high priest (2:16-18)

III. Jesus Greater Than Moses (3:1-4:13)

- A. Jesus, the Faithful Son Over God's House (3:1-6)
 - 1. Comparison of Jesus to Moses (3:1-2)
 - 2. Jesus worthy of greater honor than Moses (3:3-4)
 - 3. Christ as a son over God's house (3:5-6)
- B. Warning Against Unbelief (3:7-19)
 - 1. Example of Israel's unbelief in the wilderness (3:7-11)
 - 2. Exhortation to encourage one another daily (3:12-15)

3. Consequences of Israel's disobedience (3:16-19)
- C. The Promise of Rest (4:1-13)
 1. The promise of entering God's rest still stands (4:1-2)
 2. The rest for the people of God (4:3-10)
 3. Exhortation to strive to enter that rest (4:11-13)

IV. Jesus, the Great High Priest (4:14-7:28)

- A. Jesus, the Compassionate High Priest (4:14-16)
 1. Hold firmly to the faith we profess (4:14)
 2. Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses (4:15)
 3. Approach the throne of grace with confidence (4:16)
- B. Qualifications of a High Priest (5:1-10)
 1. High priest chosen from among men (5:1-4)
 2. Jesus appointed by God as high priest in the order of Melchizedek (5:5-10)
- C. Warning Against Falling Away (5:11-6:12)
 1. The need to mature in understanding (5:11-14)
 2. Moving beyond elementary teachings (6:1-3)
 3. Warning against falling away and the impossibility of being brought back to repentance (6:4-8)
 4. Encouragement and assurance of better things (6:9-12)
- D. The Certainty of God's Promise (6:13-20)
 1. God's promise to Abraham and His unchangeable purpose (6:13-18)
 2. Hope as an anchor for the soul (6:19-20)
- E. The Priesthood of Melchizedek (7:1-28)
 1. Melchizedek's unique priesthood (7:1-10)
 2. Jesus' superior and eternal priesthood (7:11-19)
 3. Jesus, the perfect high priest who meets our need (7:20-28)

V. The Superiority of the New Covenant (8:1-10:18)

- A. Jesus, the High Priest of a New Covenant (8:1-13)
 1. Jesus' ministry in the heavenly sanctuary (8:1-5)
 2. The new covenant's superior promises (8:6-13)
- B. The Earthly and Heavenly Sanctuaries (9:1-10)
 1. Description of the earthly tabernacle (9:1-5)
 2. Limitations of the earthly tabernacle and its regulations (9:6-10)
- C. The Blood of Christ (9:11-28)
 1. Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary (9:11-14)
 2. The mediator of a new covenant (9:15-22)
 3. The once-for-all sacrifice of Christ (9:23-28)
- D. Christ's Sacrifice Once for All (10:1-18)
 1. The insufficiency of the law and animal sacrifices (10:1-4)
 2. The sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice (10:5-10)
 3. The perfection achieved through Christ's sacrifice (10:11-18)

VI. A Call to Persevere in Faith (10:19-12:29)

- A. A New and Living Way (10:19-25)
 - 1. Confidence to enter the Most Holy Place (10:19-22)
 - 2. Hold unswervingly to the hope we profess (10:23)
 - 3. Spur one another on toward love and good deeds (10:24-25)
- B. Warning Against Deliberate Sin (10:26-31)
 - 1. No sacrifice for sins left for those who reject the truth (10:26-27)
 - 2. The severity of rejecting the Son of God (10:28-31)
- C. Encouragement to Persevere (10:32-39)
 - 1. Recall the former days of endurance (10:32-34)
 - 2. Do not throw away your confidence (10:35-36)
 - 3. Live by faith, not by shrinking back (10:37-39)
- D. Faith in Action (11:1-40)
 - 1. Definition and commendation of faith (11:1-2)
 - 2. Examples of faith from Abel to the prophets (11:3-38)
 - 3. The culmination of faith in Christ (11:39-40)
- E. The Example of Jesus (12:1-3)
 - 1. Run with perseverance the race marked out for us (12:1)
 - 2. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (12:2)
 - 3. Consider Jesus to avoid growing weary and losing heart (12:3)
- F. God's Discipline (12:4-13)
 - 1. Endure hardship as discipline (12:4-7)
 - 2. God disciplines us for our good (12:8-11)
 - 3. Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees (12:12-13)
- G. Warning and Encouragement (12:14-29)
 - 1. Pursue peace and holiness (12:14)
 - 2. Avoid falling short of God's grace (12:15-17)
 - 3. The unshakable kingdom (12:18-29)

VII. Concluding Exhortations and Benediction (13:1-25)

- A. Exhortations on Christian Living (13:1-17)
 - 1. Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters (13:1)
 - 2. Show hospitality to strangers (13:2)
 - 3. Remember those in prison and mistreated (13:3)
 - 4. Honor marriage and keep it pure (13:4)
 - 5. Avoid the love of money and be content (13:5-6)
 - 6. Remember your leaders (13:7-8)
 - 7. Do not be carried away by strange teachings (13:9-10)
 - 8. Go to Jesus outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore (13:11-14)
 - 9. Continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God (13:15-16)
 - 10. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority (13:17)
- B. Request for Prayer and Final Greetings (13:18-25)
 - 1. Request for prayer (13:18-19)

2. Benediction (13:20-21)
3. Final exhortation and greetings (13:22-24)
4. Grace be with you all (13:25)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in Hebrews

1. Neglecting Salvation (2:1-4):

Danger: Drifting away from the message of salvation through neglect.

Application: Pay careful attention to the message of salvation and the gospel.

2. Unbelief and Disobedience (3:7-19; 4:1-13):

Danger: Hardening hearts and failing to enter God's rest due to unbelief and disobedience.

Application: Encourage one another daily and strive to enter God's rest through faith and obedience.

3. Immaturity in Understanding (Hebrews 5:11-14):

Danger: Failing to grow in spiritual maturity and understanding.

Application: Move beyond elementary teachings and strive for maturity in faith.

4. Falling Away (Hebrews 6:4-8):

Danger: Falling away after having received the knowledge of the truth, making it impossible to be brought back to repentance.

Application: Hold firmly to faith and the hope set before us.

5. Deliberate Sin (Hebrews 10:26-31):

Danger: Deliberate sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, leading to severe judgment.

Application: Continue in faith and avoid willful sin.

6. Growing Weary and Losing Heart (Hebrews 12:3):

Danger: Becoming weary and losing heart in the face of hardship.

Application: Consider Jesus' endurance and stay strong in the faith.

7. Rejecting God's Grace (Hebrews 12:15-17):

Danger: Missing the grace of God and allowing bitterness to take root.

Application: See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and pursue peace and holiness.

8. Refusing God's Voice (Hebrews 12:25):

Danger: Refusing to listen to God's voice, resulting in judgment.

Application: Do not refuse God's voice but respond with reverence and obedience.

Well-known Passages from Hebrews

[Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV] For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

[Hebrews 10:19-25 ESV] Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[Hebrews 11:1-3 ESV] Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

[Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

[Hebrews 13:5-8 ESV] Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Conclusion for Hebrews

By understanding these dangers and applying the exhortations found in Hebrews, believers can safeguard their faith and remain steadfast in their walk with Christ.