

# Hebrews Lesson 8

12 August 2024

## Introductory Material on Hebrews

Melchisedec – no genealogy (Heb. 7:1-3)

Hebrews – no human writer is identified

### Indications that Paul may have written Hebrews:

1. The order matches Paul's epistles: chapters 1-10 contain the doctrine of the superiority of Christ above the Old Testament law. Chapters 11-12 applies the doctrine. Chapter 13, personal greetings.
2. Hebrews 13:18-19 appears to indicate that the writer is in bonds, as Paul was.
3. Hebrews 13:23, Timothy is not in bonds. He is at liberty.

### Arguments used to prove Paul is not the author of Hebrews:

1. Paul's key phrases are "Christ Jesus" and "Our Lord Jesus Christ." These terms are only found twice in Hebrews (10:10 and 13:8).
2. Paul refers to Jesus as "Lord" over 600 times in his epistles. This occurs only twice in Hebrews (2:3, 7:14).
3. 2 Thess 3:17, Paul said he validates that he is the writer of an epistle by signing it himself to protect the people from counterfeits (2 Thess 2:2). Hebrews is not signed.
4. Hebrews 2:3, the writer heard the gospel from other men. Galatians 1:11-12 Paul received the gospel directly from the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Other comparisons that suggest Paul is the author of Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:4	<b>MATCHES</b>	Philippians 2:9.
Hebrews 2:2		Galatians 3:19
Hebrews 2:10		Romans 11:36
Hebrews 7:18		Romans 8:3
Hebrews 7:27		Ephesians 5:2
Hebrews 8:13		2 Corinthians 3:11
Hebrews 10:33		1 Corinthians 4:9
Hebrews 11:13		Ephesians 2:19
Hebrews 12:22		Galatians 4:25-26

### Similarities between Hebrews and Romans:

1. Grace is superior to Law.
2. Faith produces works.
3. Both epistles set the tone for the next 8 epistles which follow them (they are introductory to a section of books).

### Why is the title of the book "Hebrews" and not "Israelites" or "Jews?"

1. "**Hebrew**" comes from "Eber," the father of Abraham (Gen. 11:17), first used in Genesis 14:13. This term encompasses the entire **race**, every descendent from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  - a. "**Hebrew**" is only found 3 times in the New Testament (Acts 6:1, 2 Cor. 11:22, Php 3:5).
2. God changed Jacob's name to "**Israel**" in Genesis 32:28. Refers to a prince who has power with God.
  - a. When the people obey God, He calls them Israel. When they disobey, He calls them Jacob.
    - i. "Israel" refers to the nation's relationship with God.
3. "**Jew**" first shows up in 2 Kings 16:6 and 25:25. It is a derogatory title given to the captive Israelites. Their Babylonian captors did not want to refer to them as "a prince who has power with God."

- a. **“Jew”** refers to the two southern tribes, Israel and Judah, or “men of Judah.”
  - i. Paul identified as a Jew (Acts 21:39, 22:3).
  - ii. Jesus Christ was called the King of the Jews (Mat 27:11, 27:27, Jn 19:21, etc.).
- b. **“Jew”** hearkens back to the nation under Gentile control. It is used in Acts 16:1 and 24:24.

**Hebrews is the “Eternal” book:**

The word **“Eternal”** or similar words occur 14 times in Hebrews.

5:9 — eternal salvation

6:2 — eternal judgment

9:12 — eternal redemption

9:14 — the eternal Spirit

9:15 — eternal inheritance

13:20 — everlasting covenant

1:8, 5:6, 6:20, 7:17, 7:21, 7:24, 7:28 — “forever”

13:8 — eternal

We can be thankful to God for every blessing He sends us in this life on Earth, but He wants our thoughts to be focused on heavenly things and eternal things and looking forward to being with Christ in heaven.