



Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version (NKJV), copyright © by Thomas Nelson, 1984.

Copyright © 2022 by Joshua R. Embry

All rights reserved

Structural Analysis of Hebrews via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: 0
It is interesting to note that there is no customary greeting or address to any specific people or group within this letter. This epistle goes straight into content and subject matter. For that reason, the introduction has been marked as verse zero.
- II. God's revelation throughout different Dispensations 1:1-14
A. God has spoken in various times and ways through the fathers and prophets
B. Has in this latest dispensation spoken through His Son (Jesus Christ)
 1. Whom He has appointed heir of all things
 2. Through whom He has made the worlds
 3. Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person
 4. Upholding all things by the word of His power
 5. He Himself purged our sins
 6. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty (God) on high.
 i. Given authority 1:8-12
 7. Better than angels 1:4-14
 i. For to which of the angels have ever been called God's Son?
 ii. Angels have been told to worship Him
 iii. He has dominion over the angels
 iv. Angels are ministering spirits sent to those who will inherit salvation 1:14
The author speaks of Christ ushering in a new way of God communicating to man – namely through Jesus – God Himself. Not through another man and not through a messenger (angel). He also explains that Jesus was not simply an angel and defines what an angel is – a messenger and ministering spirit, not something to be worshiped and not something that has the same authority as God (or Christ). This section really establishes Christ's deity and Sonship of Christ.
- III. Jesus Reigns Supreme 2:1-12:2
A. In appearance He seemed lower so that He might take on the sin of the world 2:1-18
This was in appearance alone, Jesus never lost His true identity or honor in carrying out His purpose – He is, was, and always will be the Son of God, having all authority in heaven and earth.
B. He is our High Priest
 1. Greater than Moses 3:1
 2. We may enter His rest 4:1
 3. Christ the final and everlasting Priest 5:1
Christ is greater than any Jewish historical figure, greater than Moses, who the Law was handed down by on Mt. Sanai from God. Beyond being a slave to sin through the chains of the Law, Christ has freed believers from the constraint of the Law, giving them true rest. Believers are called to enter this rest, no longer running an endless race of trying to earn salvation and trying to please God with their sinful lives. More than this, instead of constant failures requiring endless sacrifices, Christ is able to be a lasting sacrifice and an eternal Priest, standing in the place of mediation and in place as an eternal sacrifice for believers for all time.
C. Mature in your understanding of Christ 6:1
 1. New covenant is hinted at here (no longer slaves to the old law)
 2. The lineage of Aaron made nothing perfect Ch 7
If the Law, or the priesthood that originated from Aaron could have saved, it would have already done so. A new, better priest was needed, Jesus Christ.
 3. Christ as High Priest sits at the right hand of God 8:1
 i. Mediator

Jesus is better than any man could ever be as Priest – He is eternal, He is blameless, and He seconds as the pure sacrifice.

ii. More detail of the New Covenant is shared

- 4. Christ takes the place of all offerings; His sacrifice covers all debts 10
- 5. New Offerings - Not for salvation, but acts of praise – good works and gathering together (Believers give offerings of praise and thankful service to God) 10:24-25
- 6. Live by faith 11-11:40
- 7. Jesus is the example to live by, follow Him, not OT law 12:1-2

IV. Christian Living 12:3

A. The Lord will Chasten (as a Father corrects a child he loves)

- 1. Expect the Lord's chastening for growth, it roots out the bad
- 2. Approach God with confidence in Christ (no longer fearful of wrath)
- 3. Continue in brotherly love (in joy) 13:1
- 4. Remember those suffering/prisoners (in prayer)
- 5. Various teachings provided

i. Marriage, conduct, rulers/believers who teach

- 6. Jesus is the same yesterday and today (you can be sure of His enduring nature)
- 7. Maintain sound doctrine (avoid false teaching or falling back on Jewish custom/law)
- 8. Our offerings are now that of praise and good works and sharing (not for salvation but joy and thankfulness) 13:15-16
- 9. Pray for leaders and others (church leadership/elders)

This section speaks to practical Christian living and encourages Christian growth, expecting correction from God, not as a form of punishment, but as growing pains as the Holy Spirit/God corrects and works inside the heart and life of the believer, the same as a father corrects a child to raise them up. No longer having to fear the wrath of God, due to faith and confidence in Christ, believers can approach God in a new family relationship, restored in a right relationship with Him. This right relationship should be a foundation for real joy, which should prompt a joyful relationship with other believers, continuing in brotherly love with one another. Practical teaching for marriage and respecting rulers – rather than arguing with pastors and elders is given. Confidence is Jesus' eternal nature (not losing His redemptive power) and a call to stick with what was taught and in prayer are given as a closing thought.

V. Conclusion 13:20-25

- A. Prayer to be complete in Christ
- B. Bear with the word of exhortation
- C. Timothy has been set free and may be coming
- D. Greet the elders
- E. Greetings from Italy (a hint at the location of authorship)
- F. Grace to all. Amen.

This author closes very near to how Paul would, which lends towards a Pauline authorship or at least someone who has been trained by him. It confirms the letter was instructive/corrective in nature and gives a hint to it's location (brothers from Italy). It also let's the readers know that Timothy is still alive, which helps with dating, and that he has been set free and is expected to be sent, meaning the author has the authority to sent Timothy (is a church elder/leader).