

I. Background

- A. Purpose: In the earliest manuscripts of the letter, it is entitled, “To the Hebrews.” The rationale for this designation is the implied readership of the letter. The emphasis on Jewish law and tradition suggests that the audience were Jewish Christians who had converted. The letter urges them to hold on to the faith and not return to their old ways because what they have embraced in Christ is better than what they left behind within Judaism. Persecution seems to have coaxed them to abandon Jesus, but the writer compels them to hold on.
- B. Date: Most scholars conclude this letter was written in the 60s but there is no specific evidence that requires this date. It could have been written anytime after the establishment of the Christian community.
- C. Authorship: The earliest papyri include this epistle with the Pauline letters. And many Christians conclude it was written by Paul. But this is unlikely as Paul typically autographs his letters. Due to its polished, Atticized style of Greek, many have concluded the writer could have been Apollos, Aquila, or even Priscilla.
- D. Bible Study Focus: Of the myriad topics we could emphasize in this magisterial work, we will focus on how it presses us to move forward. This epistle helps us to stay reminded of what God has called us as community to do, launch out into the deep. We will launch out, move forward, and not go back. Better is always ahead.

II. Lesson: Jesus and the Angels Pt. 1 (Heb 1:1-4)

- A. How God Speaks Now (1:1-2a)
 - 1. God spoke through the _____ in dreams and visions (see Num 12:8) but now he speaks to all the world through his _____.
 - 2. Question: Do we understand Jesus to be the only way we can get closer to God?
- B. The Supremacy of the Son of God (vv. 2b-3)
 - 1. The _____ of Jesus: He is heir of all things.
 - 2. The _____ of Jesus: Jesus, in the flesh, contained all of God’s presence he is God as person.
 - 3. The _____ of Jesus: His word sustains all of creation. All the world rests on him and him. That is why the cleansing of sin, the corruption of his world, became his responsibility.
 - 4. The _____ of Jesus: He is seated at the right hand of God the Father.
- C. Jesus Surpasses the Angels (v. 4)
 - 1. It appears that people were comparing Jesus to other intermediary _____ like angels. Angels have either come as God (Exod 3:1-4) or representing God (Exod 23:20-23). But angels are never worshipped (Rev 19:10). Angels can mediate _____ but Jesus is God.
 - 2. Question: Do we consider the ways of Jesus as the ways of the God who surpasses all?