

<p>A</p>	<p><u>The Key Teachings of Hebrews</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews’ descriptions and explanations of Christ’s suffering are among the most creative in NT. The book transforms the images used in Exodus, including crossing the Red Sea, freedom from slavery, the sacrificial lamb, and so on, into the Day of Atonement for the Jews. During this annual festival, the High Priest enters the Temple and sprinkles the blood from bulls and goats to atone the sins of the Israelites. Similarly, the authors of NT describe Jesus as the Messiah – King (like David / Solomon), the Saviour and Law-giver (like Moses), and the origin of humanity (like Adam). However, the author of Hebrews portrays Jesus as the High Priest (like Aaron) whose sacrifice and offerings redeem humanity from sins. • Due to the uncertainties of its authorship, Hebrews is one of the last NT books to be accepted as part of the NT canon. • The themes of priesthood, tabernacle, sacrifices in the sanctuary, and the blood of the covenant are thoroughly examined in Hebrews such that it allows Christians to understand the meaning of Christ’s redemption and how one should live according to the Christian faith. 	<p>CCSS</p> <p>CCSS pp 15 & 25</p> <p>CCSS p 15 NJBC 66:69</p> <p>CCSS p 15</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Is Paul the Author?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Letter to the Hebrews reads more like a homily than a letter. It is, in fact, a theological treatise on the priesthood of Jesus Christ. The work is called a “word of exhortation”, a designation that is also given to a synagogue sermon in Acts 13:15. The letter probably targeted “Hellenists” who lived in Rome or Palestine, rather than Jews who speak Hebrews. • The Church regarded only “apostolic” writings – those written by an apostle or a close associate of an apostle – as canonical. The Western Church did not initially accept the letter as the work of Paul while the Eastern Church held opposing views. Origen saw similarities between Hebrews and Paul’s writing in thought, expression, and theology; however, the Greek writing was much more elegant than Paul’s. Therefore, some believed that Paul’s disciples wrote it. Later, St. Jerome and St. Augustine agreed with the views of the Eastern Church that Hebrews was related to Paul. It was finally included in the canon in the 4th Century. 	<p>NJBC 66:69, 60:5 Heb 13:22 Acts 13:15</p> <p>CCSS pp 20-23</p>

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Bible Sharing Program 2016-2017
Hebrews #1: Overview and Characteristics of Hebrews**

<p>C</p>	<p><u>Theme: Priesthood of Christ</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews is the only piece in NT that deeply dwells into Christ’s priesthood and envisions Him the high priest of heaven. • The Priesthood of Christ – “You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” This Melchizedekian priesthood of Christ is in every way superior to the priesthood of Aaron and his descendants established under Moses. He is the high priest foretold and anticipated in Psalm 110. • The “tent” – set up not by man but by the Lord; a minister in the sanctuary. • Sacrificial offering – “not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood”; He gives himself up as offering. He is the priest as well as the sacrificial offering. • A sacrifice, once for all – His sacrifice perfectly fulfills God’s requirement, therefore, He does not “offer himself repeatedly”, a sacrifice “once for all”. • The incarnated priest – “he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people”. • We, too, share Christ’s priesthood – “we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”. Our life in its entirety; including our sufferings, have become “a sacrifice of praise to God, ... such sacrifices are pleasing to God”. 	<p>CCSS pp 25-27 CSB p 414 Heb 4:14-15</p> <p>Heb 8:1-2</p> <p>Heb 9:25, 10:10</p> <p>Heb 2:17</p> <p>Heb 10:22, 13:15-16 Rm 12:1, 2Tim 4:6 CCC 1546</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Other Themes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of typology to explain the mystery of OT can only be fully revealed in Christ. The meaning and hope revealed in NT far exceeds that of OT’s, including law and temple; Moses’ leadership and glory (Heb 3:1-6); tent (9:11); the blood of goats and bulls (9:13) and the blood of Abel (12:24); redemption (6:9); a better covenant (8:6); a better hope (7:19). • Similar to the Israelites, wandered in the wilderness, who are the church of God, we are the New Israel; God’s pilgrim church on earth. We must strive to run a good race to arrive at “Mount Zion ... the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb 12:22), and enter into “that rest” of God (Heb 4:11). 	<p>CSB p 414 CCSS pp 27-28</p> <p>Ref. Heb 3, 4, 12-13 LG 9 CCSS pp 28-29</p>
<p>E</p>	<p><u>The Structure of Hebrews</u></p>	<p>SN1</p>

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Special Notes:

The Structure of Hebrews

Lesson	Date	Theme	Scripture
1	09/22/17	Themes and Characteristics of Hebrews	
2	10/27/17	Revelation of OT/NT; Jesus' Superiority to Angels	1:1-2:18
3	11/24/17	Jesus, the Faithful High Priest	3:1 – 4: 13
4	12/15/17	Jesus, the Merciful High Priest; Advance to maturity in understanding	4:14 – 6:12
5	01/26/18	Melchizedek is far Beyond Abraham and Levi	6:13 – 7:28
6	02/22/18 *	OT Sacrifices are only a Shadow of the Heavenly Realities	8:1-13
7	03/22/18 *	Christ's Once for All Sacrifice	9:1-28
8	04/27/18	Christ's Sacrifice Cleanses Our Sins; a Call to Persevere	10:1-39
9	05/25/18	The Importance of Faith and Perseverance	11:1 – 12:13
10	06/22/18	Walking the Straight Path of Charity, Chastity, and Contentment	12:14 – 13:25

* Thursday due to Lent