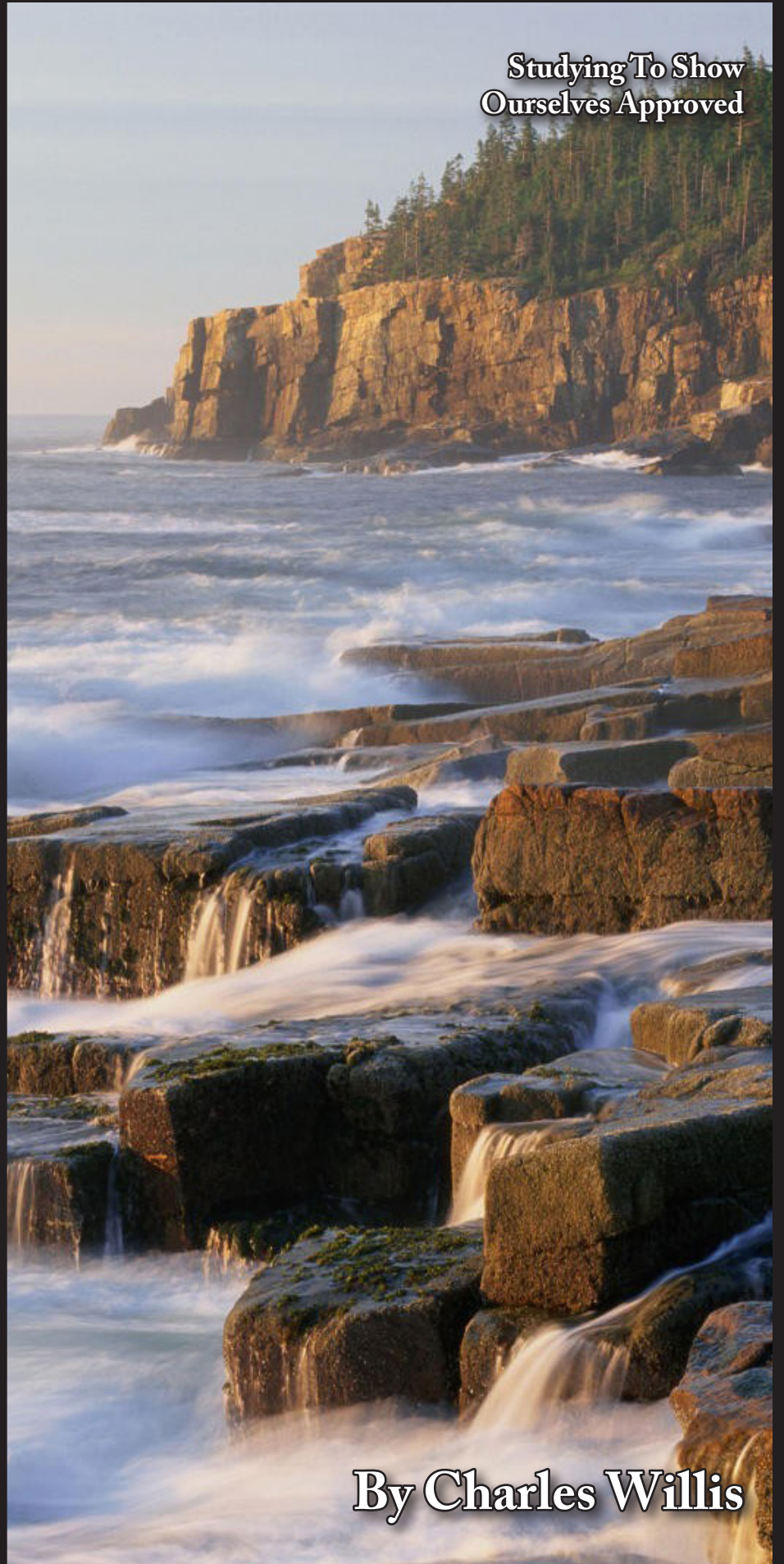


# Hebrews

Studying To Show  
Ourselves Approved



By Charles Willis



## INTRODUCTION

The book of Hebrews is somewhat unique in the New Testament in that we do not know who the author is. He does not name himself in the letter. We do know that he was a friend of Timothy (13:23) and was familiar with his readers (5:12; 6:9; 13:18-19, 23-24). His use of the Old Testament Law demands we consider him to have been of Jewish descent and most likely was a Jewish convert.

From as early as the close of the second century with Clement of Alexandria, many consider Paul to have been the author. The ideas presented are similar to the letters of Paul. The terms and phrases used are similar to what Paul used. Many of the avenues of logic are similar, but again we cannot be certain.

Another early view proposed by Tertullian was that Barnabus was the author. An early third century author, Origen, mentioned that some believed it was a work written by Luke and that others believed it was by Clement of Rome. In modern times others have been suggested. For example, Martin Luther proposed that it was written by Apollos. Peter, Stephen, Silas, Priscilla and Aquila, Aristion and even Jude have had their advocates. It is best to conclude that only God knows.

The readers of the book most certainly were Jewish Christians. The book is believed to have been written around A.D. 65. The purpose of the book is best seen in 13:22 “I appeal to you, brethren, bear the word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly”. These saints had at first gladly accepted the loss of all things, but the years were wearing on them. Their first enthusiasm had died out. Hope was fading from view. Some were neglecting the public assembly (10:25) and there were signs not only of slipping but of complete and irrevocable apostasy (6:1-6; 10:26-31). He appeals to them to be worthy of their past.

There are several important words found in the book. In regards to the old covenant is seen “daily” (7:27; 10:11), “repeatedly” (9:25; 10:11), “shadow” (8:5; 10:1), “copy” (8:6; 9:23), “first” (8:7; 9:1, 6, 8; 10:9), “earthly” (9:1) and “made with hands” (9:11, 24). The new covenant is described with different terms like “once” (6:4; 9:7, 26-28; 10:2; 12:26-27) and “once for all” (7:27; 9:12; 10:10), “true” (8:2; 9:4; 10:22) and “heart” (3:8; 4:7; 8:10; 10:16; 13:9). Two terms are especially important as themes throughout the book that demonstrate how the new covenant excels above the old: they are “better” and “eternal”.

The comparison of the two religions and the two covenants is the burden of the Epistle and covers the bulk of it (1:1-10:18). The remainder of the book consists of encouragements to faithfulness and warnings against apostasy (10:19-13:25).

Condensed from “Jesus Christ Today” by Neil R. Lightfoot, pages 19-50.

By Charles Willis  
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## Hebrews Chapter 1

1. Name some of the many ways in which God spoke to the prophets (v.1).
2. When are the “last days” (v.2)? (give scriptural proofs)
3. What does it mean that God has “spoken to us in His Son” (v.2)?
4. What does verse 3 reveal to us about Jesus?
5. Who did God say would worship Jesus (v.6)? Why?
6. What is the scepter of Jesus’ kingdom (v.8)?
7. From verses 5-13 make a list of the Old Testament passages that are quoted. Why is this important?
8. What is the significance of being told to “sit at my right hand” (v.13)?
9. How are angels described (v.14)? Are they at work today?

## Hebrews Chapter 2

1. What is the “reason” for which we pay closer attention to what we have heard (v.1)?
  
2. What is said about the message of angels (v.2)?
  
3. How are “drifting” (v.1) and “neglect” (v.3) related?
  
4. How was “salvation” made known to man (v.3-4)?
  
5. Are verses 5-8 referring to Jesus or something else? If something else, what?
  
6. From verse 10 tell who is being spoke of:
  - A. “It was fitting for Him”
  
  - B. “in bringing many sons to glory”
  
  - C. “to perfect the author”
  
7. Why is “the author of salvation” not ashamed to call us “brethren” (v.11)?
  
8. How was the devil rendered powerless (v.14)? Please explain.
  
9. How are we freed from the fear of death (v.15)?
  
10. Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a man (v.16-18)?

## Hebrews Chapter 3

1. How is Jesus the “apostle” of our confession (v.1)?
2. How was Moses faithful to Him who appointed him (v.2)?
3. Why has Jesus been counted worthy of more glory than Moses (v.3-4)?
4. What comparison is made between Moses and Jesus (v.5-6)?
5. What was the day “when they provoked” God (v.7-11, 16-17)? What point are we supposed to get from this history lesson?
6. How does verse 12 refute popular religious doctrine in the world?
7. How is that our hearts are hardened (v.13)?
8. Why were some of the Israelites unable to enter God’s “peace” (v.19)?

## Hebrews Chapter 4

1. How can we “come short” of God’s rest (v.1)?
2. What was the good news “they heard” that “did not profit them” (v.2)?
3. From verses 3-11 what is the “rest” being discussed?
4. We are instructed to not follow the same example of disobedience (v.11). We are to be “diligent to enter that rest” (v.11). How do we enter it?
5. From verse 12, describe how the word of God is:
  - A. Living
  - B. Active
  - C. Sharper than a two-edged sword
6. How does verse 13 fit the context of some not entering God’s rest?
7. What is the confession we are told to “hold fast” (v.14)?
8. Why can we draw near to the throne of God with confidence (v.15-16)?
9. When is the time of need (v.16)? What do we receive?



## Hebrews Chapter 5

1. How was an Old Testament High Priest selected (v.1-5)?
2. What were the duties and attitudes of the High Priest (v.1-5)?
3. How is Jesus suited to be our High Priest (v.6-10)?
4. How is He after the order of Melchizedek (v.6 & 10)?
5. How did Christ “learn obedience” (v.8)?
6. To whom is Christ the source of salvation (v.9)? What false doctrines does this refute?
7. How does one become “dull of hearing” (v.11)?
8. What is the difference in the milk and the meat of the word (v.12-14)?
9. How are the mature described? What do these things mean (v.14)?

## Hebrews Chapter 6

1. How does one “press on” to maturity (v.1)?
2. What things are described as “elementary teaching” (v.1-3)? Describe each of these in light of current false doctrines. What of these things need to be taught?
3. Why is it “impossible to renew them again to repentance” (v.6)? Is this teaching the impossibility of salvation? God will not save them?
4. From verses 7-9, please explain the example.
5. What makes a Christian “sluggish” in his service (v.11-12)?
6. What attributes are we to imitate (v.12)?
7. What Old Testament text is being referenced in verses 13-14?
8. Why is God’s oath trustworthy and believable (v.17-20)?
9. How do we take hold of the hope set before us (v.18)?
10. Explain the imagery of our hope as being an anchor of the soul (v.19-20).

## Hebrews Chapter 7

1. Compare the rule of Melchizedek to Christ. How was Christ like Melchizedek (v.1-3)?
  
2. Explain verse 7 describing who is the “lesser” and “greater”.
  
3. What is meant in verse 8 that “he lives on”?
  
4. A comparison of the “order” of priesthoods is made (v.11-17).
  - A. Can perfection come through the Levitical priesthood?
  
  - B. If the priesthood has changed what else MUST change?
  
  - C. Why could Jesus not have been a priest under the Old Law?
  
  - D. What “requirement” has made Jesus a priest after the order of Melchizedek?
  
5. Why was the Law changed (v.18-19)?
  
6. What “oath” is referenced in regard to Jesus’ priesthood (v.20-22)?
  
7. The word “better” is used twice regarding what (v.18-22)? How are these better?
  
8. Why is Jesus’ priesthood forever (v.23-25)?
  
9. What is Christ now doing for the faithful (v.25)? Please expand and explain.
  
10. How is our High Priest described (v.26-28)?
  
11. What is “the word of oath” (v.28)?

## Hebrews Chapter 8

1. What has been the main point of Hebrews chapters 1-7?
2. Where does our High Priest minister (v.2)?
3. What does He offer (v.3)?
4. How was the priesthood a “copy and shadow of the heavenly things” (v.5)?
5. What is meant by making things “according to the pattern” (v.5)?
6. What things are again spoken of as being superior (v.6)?
7. Where in scripture did prophecy say He would effect a “new covenant” (v.8)?
8. Why did God “not care” for Israel (v.9)?
9. What significant changes would be established in this new covenant (v.8-12)?
10. How is the first covenant obsolete (v.13)?

## Hebrews Chapter 9

1. From verse 1, make a case in favor of “regulations of divine worship” under the New Covenant.
2. What was kept in the Ark of the Covenant? Where was it placed in the tabernacle?
3. Who was allowed to enter “the second” or inner tabernacle? What happened on such occasions?
4. Explain verse 8 and the beginning of verse 9.
5. How long were the regulations of the Old Law imposed (v.10)?
6. What is the “greater and more perfect tabernacle” Christ entered through (v.11ff)?
7. What is the significance of “once for all” in verse 12 (also verse 26)?
8. What differences in the “cleansing” are compared between the two covenants (v.13-14)?
9. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a new covenant (v.15). What was His death for, according to verse 15?
10. What would we call the “covenant” from verses 16-17?
11. What was the purpose of Moses sprinkling blood on the people (v.19-22)?
12. The main point of the chapter begins in verse 23. What is that main point?
13. How do verses 27-28 refute modern thinking about the “end times”?

## Hebrews Chapter 10

1. How was the “law” a shadow of the good things to come? (review some of the argumentation from previous chapters)
2. What result could not be achieved through the Old Law (v.1-4)?
3. What point is made in verses 9-10?
4. If sacrifice under the Old Law could “never take away sins” (v.11), what was the purpose of offering them?
5. Again, what is the significance of “one...for all” (v.12)?
6. What has Christ done for the sanctified (v.14)?
7. What conclusion is reached in verse 18?
8. Why do we have confidence to enter “the holy place”? Where is “the holy place” (v.19)?
9. What is the “new and living way” (v.20)?
10. Explain the symbolism of verse 22 by using “sprinkled” and “washed”.

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11. Because He who promised is faithful, we should not allow our faith to \_\_\_\_\_ (v.23).  
IN THE CONTEXT of verses 23-25, how does our faith do this?
12. IN CONTEXT, what is the “willful sin” of verse 26?
13. How is it that there “no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (v.26) if Christ died once for all (v.12)?
14. What language is used in verse 29 to describe willful sin?
15. What good works of righteousness had the Hebrews done in the past (v.32-34)?
16. How do we throw away our confidence (v.35)?
17. What is the will of God for which we need endurance (v.36-38)?
18. IN CONTEXT, how do we “shrink back” (v.39)?

## Hebrews Chapter 11

1. How is faith described?
  
2. What is the theme of this chapter (v.2)?
  
3. To what “modern argument” does verse 3 point?
  
4. Why was Abel righteous (v.4)? How does he still speak?
  
5. Faith is necessary to please God. What specifics are given (v.6)?
  
6. How was Noah an “heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (v.7)?
  
7. What was Abraham looking for (v.10, 13-16)?
  
8. How are each of these presented as examples “by faith”:
  - A. Abraham (v.17-19)
  
  - B. Isaac (v.20)
  
  - C. Jacob (v.21)
  
  - D. Joseph (v.22)
  
  - E. Moses (v.23-29)

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9. From verses 30-38 make an argument in favor of “faith and works” being God’s plan of salvation.

10. Compare and contrast the faith of these mentioned (v.30-38) with our faith today.

11. How did these gain the approval of God (v.39)?

12. How is what we have described (v.40)?

13. How is it they would not be made perfect apart from us (v.40)?

## Hebrews Chapter 12

1. Who comprises the “great cloud of witnesses surrounding us” (v.1)?
2. What is the difference (if any) between an “encumbrance” and “the sin” that entangles us (v.1)?
3. If we fail to lay these things aside, what will we be unable to do (v.1)?
4. In running the race, what are we to focus on (v.2)?
5. How is Jesus the “author and perfecter of faith” (v.2)?
6. What will be the result in our life if we fix our eyes on Jesus (v.3)?
7. How much are we supposed to resist against sin (v.4)?
8. How does the discussion of discipline fit the context of the preceding verses (v. 5-11)?
9. Trace the use and implications of the word “endure” in this chapter paying special attention to verses 1, 2, 3 and 7.
10. Why does God discipline us (v.10-11)?
11. Verse 12 begins with a “therefore”. How does the preceding teaching about discipline apply to verses 12-13?
12. Verse 14-17 contain a very strong message. Create a brief outline with applications about relationships with brethren.

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13. Verse 18-24 contains a contrast of two mountains. List the contrasts:

Mt. Sinai

Mt. Zion

14. Explain the description: the “church of the firstborn” (v.23).

15. According to verse 25, who is “speaking” (v.25)?

16. Verses 27-28 return to the theme of comparing the two covenants. What point is made in this reading?

17. What attitudes must exist in our heart for our service to be acceptable (v.28)?

## Hebrews Chapter 13

1. By the choice of wording in verse one, how much must we work at loving each other?
  
2. How do we apply verse 2 to our lives today when there is so much evil in the world? What attitude should we have about strangers?
  
3. What obligations are placed upon Christians in verse 3?
  
4. Is marriage held in honor in our society (v.4)?
  - A. Why is the marriage bed “undefiled”?
  
  - B. Who will God judge?
  
5. Do American Christians have any problem with attitudes about money (v.5-6)? What should our attitudes be?
  
6. Whose faith are we to imitate and why (v.7)?
  
7. Make as many points as you can from verse 8 that demonstrate the fallacy of religious thinking today.
  
8. What application is made in verse 9 in relation to verse 8?

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9. Is verse 10 describing literal eating or figurative? Explain in context of verses 9-13.

10. "Here we do not have a lasting city" (v.14). Is this an indication that the church is not permanent?

11. What instruction is given in regard to prayer (v.15)?

12. What things are described as sacrifices in the New Covenant (v.15-16)?

13. Who are the "leaders" in verse 17?

A. Must we always obey them?

B. What would be "unprofitable" for us?

14. What does it mean to "bear with this word of exhortation" (v.22)?