

Hebrews Chapter 1

Was Paul the likely author of Hebrews? Jehovah's Witnesses say yes. Note the style. No introduction of the author and no customary opening blessings, which was how Paul opened all of his epistles to both churches and individuals. Whoever was the author, this letter was addressed to believing Jews, possibly in Rome or Italy, because greetings are sent to friends there, Hebrews 13:24.

V1. The book kicks off as it means to go on. It's the only book in the Bible that begins with the name, God, though Genesis comes close (4th word). Which parable most closely describes verse 1? (Matthew 21:33-36). In that parable it was God that walked, in actual fact, it was man that walked, when Adam rebelled.

Prior to the prophets, God did talk directly to Bible heroes but that stopped after Caleb in Judges chapter 1. Thereafter God spoke to the Judges via angels. Who would be the first prophet that God spoke through? (Samuel). There were a couple of exceptions where God spoke directly and not via a prophet, 1 Samuel 23:4 & 1 Kings 9:1-9. Thereafter God only spoke via prophets.

Why could God only talk to people via a prophet chosen by Him? Is it that the Holy Spirit was the only means that God can communicate directly with a person, so He would fill that prophet with His Spirit who would then deliver His message? Unlikely. Perhaps God wanted to distance Himself from the people, in preparation for when His Son, Jesus came down to Earth; giving Him greater authority in the eyes of men.

V2. Then God sent His Son, Jesus and so He was able to speak much more fluently through Him. Note, Jesus gets a title, heir of all things, meaning not everything belongs to Jesus now, but one day it will. 1 Corinthians 15:27-28.

The rest of this chapter sheds a different light on the stereotype / Hollywood image we have of Jesus, a man with dark, shoulder length hair, walking around, healing people and giving wonderful sermons and teaching. That was Jesus when he was on earth. Jesus now is still a man, but also a heavenly being, but not just that. Revelation 19:11-13.

V3. A description of Jesus. John 14:8-9 and John 17:1-6. How do these compare with verse 3?

V4. So is it saying that at some stage in the past, Jesus overtook angels in some sort of hierarchy / pecking order? No, Paul says that "The entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ." Colossian 2:9.

V5. Read Psalm 2:1-7. Verses 1-3 a prophesy of John 19:15. Verses 4-6, God's derision at the futility of rebellion, and then verse 6, God introduces His son to the Jews, the first direct mention of God's son.

2 Samuel 7:13-16, a blended prophecy of Solomon and Jesus. The writer focuses on V14.

V6. Quote from Psalm 89:23-29, the writer focuses on V27. Exodus 13:2 says that the first born is precious to God. But the writer here abandons quoted scripture and launches into prophesy, Revelation 5:11-12.

V7 110-5. Psalm 104:4. A further description of the majesty and power of Jesus. Jesus

created angels Colossians 1:16.

V8-9. A quote from Psalm 45:6-7. One of the few verses in the The Old Testament (v 9-11) describes the bride of Christ, Revelation 21:2. I wonder what the psalmist thought he was writing about? Who are Jesus's companions? Paul calls us joint heirs, Romans 8:17 and a bride, Ephesians 5:22-23 but here we're simply 'companions' of Jesus, John 15:15. The relationship between Christ and His church is multifaceted, in that you're more than any one of those, in fact you're all of them! That's the depth of Jesus's love for you, and more. Notice, Jesus is even happier than we are. [9] Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You (Jesus) With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

V10-12. Read Psalm 102:24-27, Hebrews writer is attributing creation to Jesus, more than God but the passage he quotes starts off with "Oh my God,". What do you make of that? Was creation a joint effort between God and Jesus? If so, Jesus took the lead role.

V13. Read the whole of Psalm 110. Jesus quotes this same passage to the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-46, but in a different context. Jesus makes the point that you don't normally call a descendant Lord, but here David does just that. Daniel 2:21, God raises up kings but in this psalm Jesus judges them. What does he mean by execute? Is this like Henry VIII style execution?

V14. Who are 'they' and what ministering do they do? The clue is in the previous verse.