

OUTLINE OF THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS: THE HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST

1. Exordium (1:1-4)

2. A Name Superior to the Angels (1:5-2:18)

A. Christ, the First-Born. The Son's superiority to the angels (1:5-14)

B. A Great Salvation. ***Exhortation: Do not drift away from such a salvation*** (2:1-4)

C. Christ, Our Elder Brother. By suffering the Son brings many to salvation (2:5-18)

3. A Merciful and Faithful High Priest (3:1-5:10)

A. Jesus is greater than Moses (3:1-6)

B. A High Priest Worthy of Faith. ***Exhortation: Do not fall away like Israel in the wilderness*** (3:1-4:14)

C. A High Priest Abundant in Mercy (4:15-5:10)

4. High Priest of a New and Better Covenant (5:11-10:39)

A. ***Exhortation to Christian Maturity: Do not be immature in faith*** (5:11-6:12)

B. God's promises are confirmed by an oath; God's Oath to Abraham (6:13-20)

C. Jesus is the high priest in the order of Melchizedek (7:1-10:18)

D. The Priesthood of Melchizedek. Melchizedek symbolizes an eternal priesthood higher than the Levitical priesthood of the Old Covenant (7: 1-28)

E. The New Covenant Is Superior to the Old (8:1-9:28)

1. Christ ministers in the true, heavenly sanctuary which fulfills the promise of a New Covenant (8:1-13)

2. Christ as mediator of the New Covenant makes the sacrifices of the Old Covenant unnecessary (9:1-22)

F. Christ's sacrifice for sin takes place once for all in the heavenly sanctuary (9:23-10:18)

G. The Efficacy of Christ's Priesthood (10: 1-18)

H. ***Exhortation: Hold fast to your faith and good works; there is no sacrifice for the sin of turning away from Christ***
(10:19-39)

5. Faith and Endurance (11:1-12:13)

A. Heroes of faith grasp the reality of heavenly things; The Faithful of the Old Covenant (11:1-40)

B. Appeal for Endurance (12:1-13)

6. Walking the Straight Paths (12:14-13:18)

A. Holiness and Worship (12:14-28)

B. Charity, Chastity, and Contentment (13:1-6)

C. Submission to Leaders (13:7-19)

Exhortation: Persevere, remembering Christ's example and those who went before you (12:1-13:19)

7. Doxology and Conclusion (13:20-25)