

The background of the slide features a photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely from a classical or biblical site. The ruins consist of large, rectangular stone blocks stacked in walls and columns. The scene is set against a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent green rectangular overlay is positioned in the center of the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

Preparing to Teach Hebrews 2-3

Grace Chinese Christian Church of Skokie, IL

Greek Texts with Portions of Hebrews

Papyri	Name	Date	Contents for Hebrews
p46	Chester Beatty II	ca. AD 200	1:1-9:16; 9:18-10:20, 22-30; 10:32-13:25
p12	Amherst 3b	3rd century	1:1 alone
p13	Oxyrhyncus 657	3rd or 4th century	2:14-5:5; 10:8-22; 10:29-11:13; 11:28-12:17
p37	Oxyrhyncus 1078	4th century	9:12-19
Codices	Name	Date	Contents for Hebrews
ⲭ(01)	Sinaiticus	4th century	complete text
B (03)	Vaticanus	4th century	1:1-9:13
A (02)	Alexandrinus	5th century	Full text
C (04)	Ephraemi	5th century	2:4-7:26; 9:15-10:4; 12:16-13:25
D (06)	Claromontanus	6th century	1:1-13:20 in both Greek and Old Latin

Absalom B. Bruce – 1899

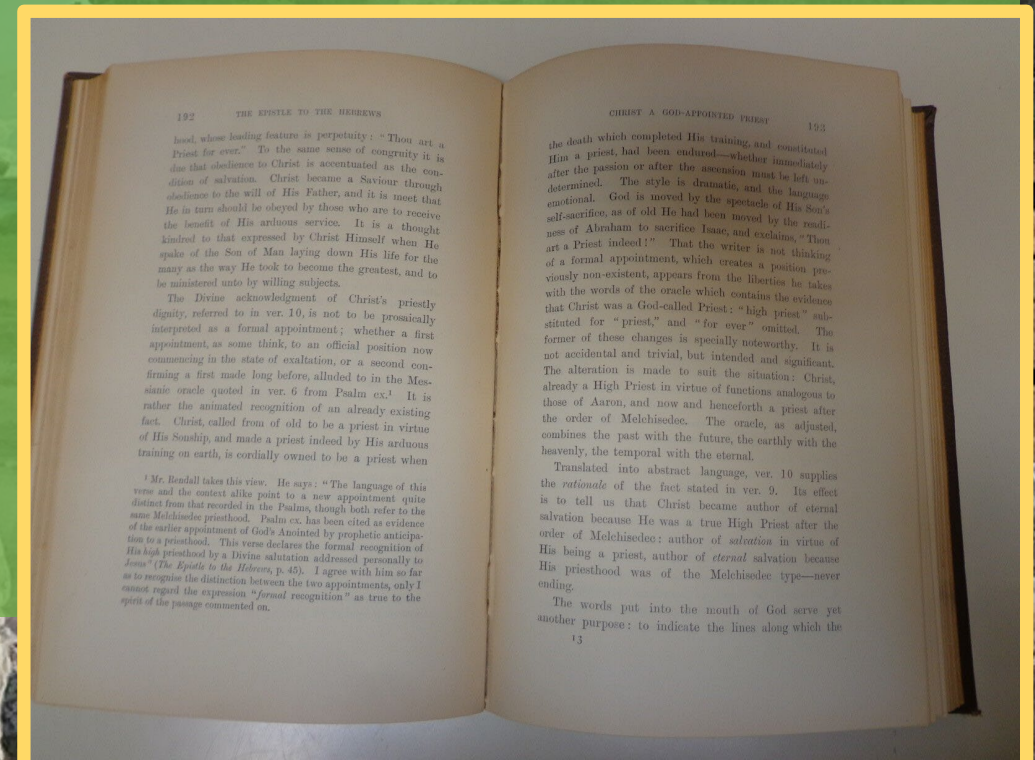
[Bruce, A. B. *The Epistle to the Hebrews: The First Apology for Christianity: An Exegetical Study* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899), p. xi.]

I. Christ and the Prophets (1:1-4)

II. Christ and the Angels (1:5-14, 2:1-4)

III. The Humiliation of Christ and Its Rationale (2:5-18)

IV. Christ and Moses (3:1-19)



[Bruce, F. F. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Epistle to the Hebrews* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1964), p. lxiii.]

I. The Reality of Christianity (1:1-2:18)

- 1. God's Final Revelation in His Son (1:1-4)**
- 2. Christ Better Than Angels (1:5-14)**
- 3. First Admonition: The Gospel and the Law (2:1-4)**
- 4. The Humiliation and the Glory of the Son of Man (2:5-9)**
- 5. The Son of Man: Savior and High Priest of His People (2:10-18)**

II. The True Home of the People of God (3:1-4:13)

- 1. Jesus Greater Than Moses (3:1-6)**
- 2. Second Admonition: The Rejection of Jesus More Serious Than the Rejection of Moses (3:7-19)**
- 3. The True Rest of God May be Forfeited (4:1-10)**
- 4. Exhortation to Attain God's Rest (4:11-13)**

The **E**pistle
to the
Hebrews

F. F. BRUCE

[DeSilva, David A. *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle “to the Hebrews”* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2000), p. 71.]

1:1-2:18 First Appeal to Heed Properly the Word of God in the Son

1:1-4 Thesis: God’s final and complete Word has been spoken in His Son, who has even greater honor than the angels

1:5-14 Confirmation of Final Element of Thesis: (Jesus is greater than the angels).

2:1-4 Inferential conclusion based on “lesser to greater” argument presented in the form of an exhortation

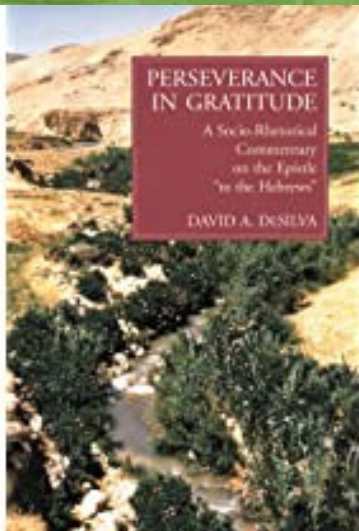
2:5-18 Argument in support of the exhortation: Attachment to Jesus is a path to a share in His honor as well as the path to gratitude for past benefits and his ongoing meditation

[DeSilva, David A. *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews"* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2000), p. 71.]

3:1-4:13 Second Appeal to Honor God's Word Through Trust and Perseverance

3:1-6 Jesus as Son over God's House, has greater honor than Moses, the servant in God's House.

3:7-13 Do not imitate those who rejected God's patronage under the servant Moses, for we would find ourselves similarly under God's judgment; rather, let us strive to enter the rest that remains open to us.



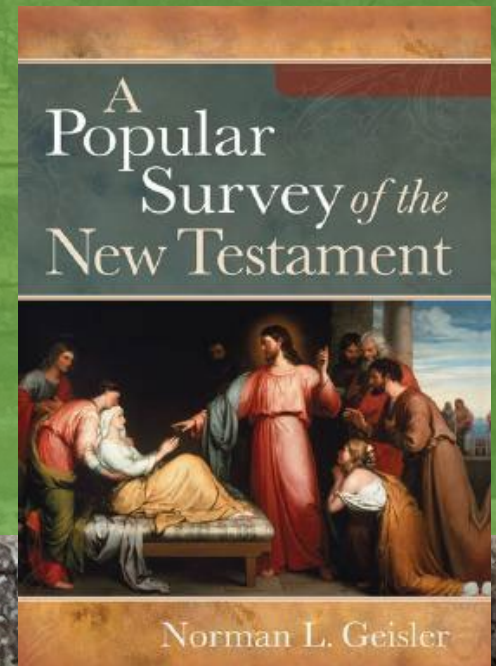
[Geisler, Norman L. *A Popular Survey of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), p. 256.]

I. Doctrinal—Christ is Better than Anything Else (Chapters 1-10)

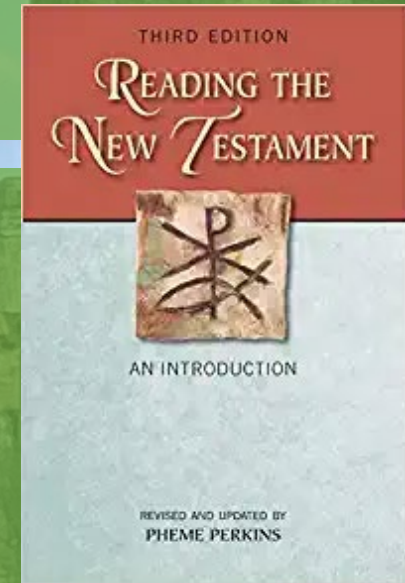
A. Prophets (1:1-3)

B. Angels (1:4-2:18) with peril of drifting (2:1-4)

C. Moses (3:1-19) with peril of doubting (3:7-19)



Perkins, Pheme. *Reading the New Testament: An Introduction: Third Edition* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2012), p. 250.]



Prologue: God has spoken through His Son (1:1-4)

The Son's superiority to the angels (1:5-14)

Exhortation: Do not drift away from such a salvation (2:1-4)

By suffering, the Son brings many to salvation (2:5-18)

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

Exhortation: Do not fall away like Israel in the wilderness (3:7-4:13)

God Speaks!

Schnelle, Udo. *Theology of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009), p. 633.

“The basis of the theological thought of Hebrews (in the sense of ‘theology proper’) is God’s speaking, that God is the God who speaks:...”

“A theology of the word is the guideline that begins with the prologue of 1:1-4 and proceeds throughout the entire writing,” seen especially in 1:5, 13; 2:1-4; 4:2, 12; 5:5, 12; 11:3; 12:25; 13:7. In Hebrews, God’s word is an effective event, an eternal, creating, judging, and saving word.”

Illustrated from LXX quotations [80x and 22x “God speaking”]

Related Ideas in Chapters 1 and 2

Exhortation: What we (6x) DO about it!

Chapter 1	Key Idea		Related Idea
v. 1	God spoke many ways via prophets	→	v. 1 We must heed what we've heard
v. 2	God spoke by His Son, heir of all		v. 2 Even the angels' message valid
v. 3	Jesus' full authority and purification of our sins	→	v. 3 We mustn't neglect such a great salvation
v. 4	superior to the angels	→	v. 4 God spoke by Holy Spirit, too
v. 5	Angels not called "My Son"	→	v. 5 Not to the angels God subjected the world to come
vv. 6-12	Old Testament Quotations		vv. 6-8 Old Testament Quotations

A night sky filled with stars, featuring a prominent cluster of bright blue stars in the upper center. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible, with lights from buildings and streets illuminating the landscape. The text "I keep on seeing Your heavens..." is overlaid on a green rectangular background in the middle of the image.

I keep on seeing Your heavens...



Not Even a Full Effort



Why Bother?



God

humans?

false gods

humans?

angels

humans?

all creatures

all creation

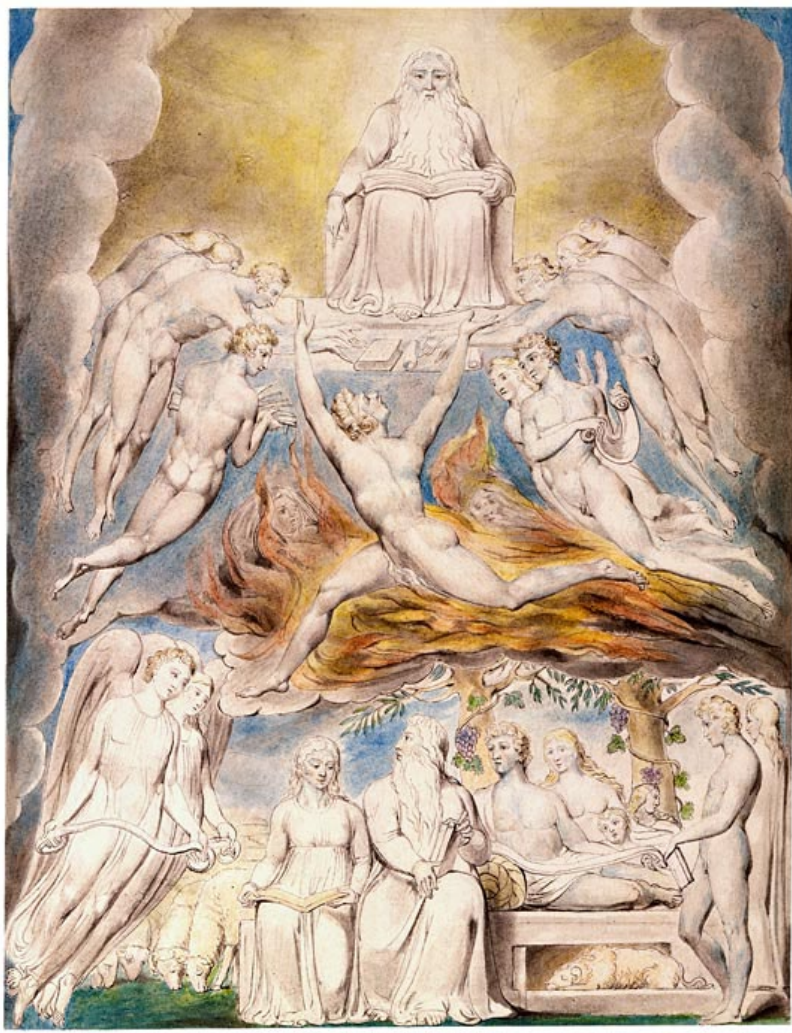
BUT...

Translation	Genesis 6:2, 4	Job 1:6, 2:1	Psalm 8:5	Hebrews 2:7
American Standard Version	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"God"	"angels"
Christian Standard Bible	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"God"	"angels"
Common English Bible	"divine beings"	"divine beings"	"than divine"	"angels"
Complete Jewish Bible	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"angels"	"angels"
Contemporary English Version	"supernatural beings"	"angels"	"you yourself"	"angels"
English Standard Version	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"heavenly beings"	"angels"
God's Word translation	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"yourself"	"angels"
Good News Translation	"heavenly beings"	"heavenly beings"	"yourself"	"angels"
King James Version	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"angels"	"angels"
New American Standard Bible (rev.)	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"God"	"angels"
New English Bible	"sons of the gods"	"members of court of heaven"	"a god"	"angels"
New International Version	"sons of God"	"angels"	"angels"	"angels"
New Revised Standard Version (up.)	"sons of God"	"heavenly beings"	"God"	"angels"
Revised Standard Version	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"God"	"angels"
Young's Literal Version	"sons of God"	"sons of God"	"Godhead"	"messengers"

“sons of God” references



More “sons of God” references



- ❖ “When the Most High parcelled out the nations, when he dispersed all mankind, he laid down the boundaries of every people according to the number of the sons of God [sons of humanity MT]; but the LORD’s share was his own people. Deuteronomy 32:28 LXX

Problem with “Feeling Little”

- Feeling overwhelmed
- Feeling insecure
- Feeling reckless



Problem with “Feeling Big”

- Feeling sovereign
- Feeling self-righteous
- Psychological idolatry



The Clues in Verses 8-9

1. **Humanity was given control (v. 8)**
2. **But humanity doesn't yet have control (v. 8b)**
3. **But Jesus (lower than angels) faced the same conditions (v. 9a)**
4. **Jesus was willing to suffer death (v. 9c)**
5. **So, Jesus received glory and honor (v. 9b)**
6. **Giving humanity potential victory over death (v. 9d)**

In Context of Hebrews!

Son Superior to Angels (1:5-14)

Made Lower Than Angels (2:5-9)

Lower to Suffer (2:10-18)

Envelope Structure (2:10-17)

“For it was appropriate for Him...” (v. 10) “made perfect...” (v. 10)

“He sanctifies and declares ‘brothers’...” (vv. 11-12)

“...perfect through suffering...” (v. 10)

“He experienced the same nature to destroy the devil and the fear of death, what angels couldn’t do...” (v. 14-16)

“He was obligated...” (v. 17) “He might become...” (v. 17)

“...made like His brothers...” (v. 17)

“His suffering enables helping others...” (v. 18)

The Theological Question (2:10)

How Can Jesus be “Made Perfect?” “Become?”

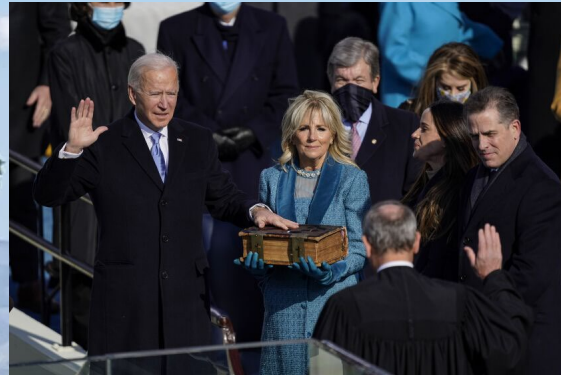
1. What does the Bible say about Jesus in 2 Corinthians 5:21?
2. What does the Bible say about Jesus in 1 Peter 2:22?
3. 1 Peter 3:18?
4. 1 John 3:3?
 - 1a. “without sin”
 - 2a. “committed no sin”
 - 3a. “the righteous one”
 - 4a. “pure”

ΤΕΛΕΙΩ

Originator/Hero/Guardian of Our Salvation (v. 10) **“Originator/Hero/Champion of our faith” (12:2)**



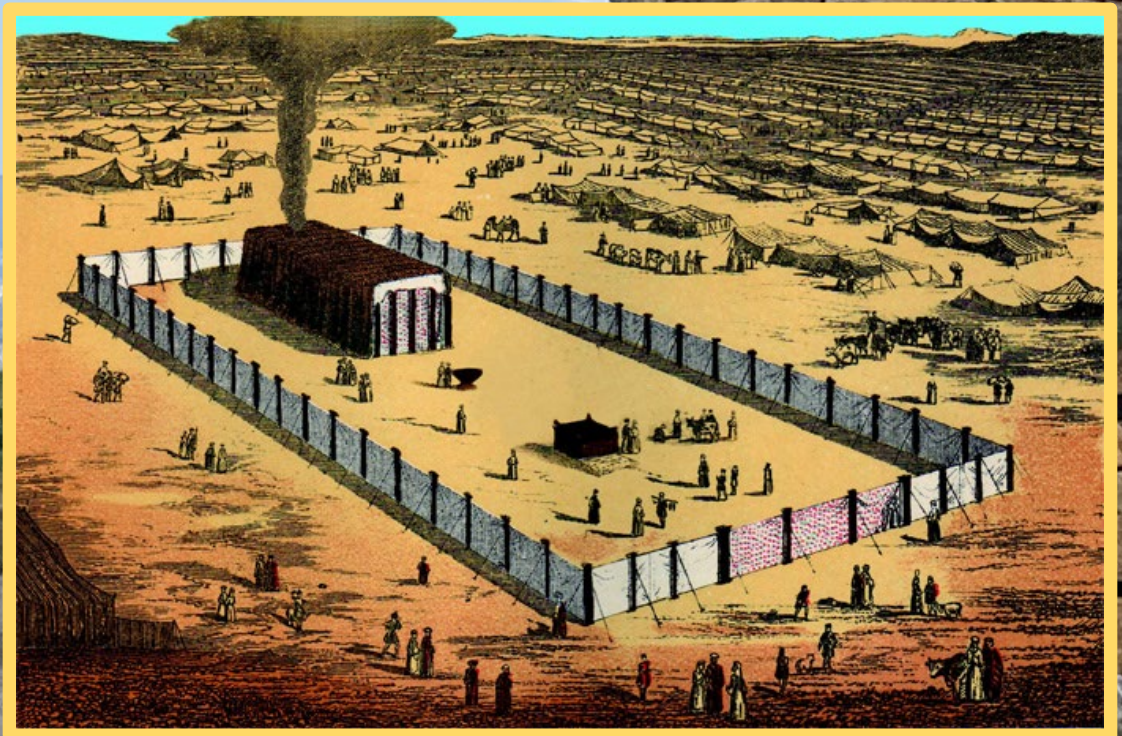
Partners in a Heavenly Calling, Concentrate on Apostle/High Priest of Our Confession



- Partners = people who want the same thing without competing for them (Aristotle)
- Calling beyond the mundane
- Concentrate ties to the idea of faithfulness as we focus on Jesus
- Apostle means SENT
- High Priest = mediator, pontifex, bridge-builder

Faithful in His House

- Moses was faithful
- Numbers 12:7
- As opposed to Num. 20:12,
2 Cor. 3:7
- House is metaphor for church
1 Peter 4:17, 1 Timothy 3:15
- “We are God’s house when as a
church we hold fast our
confidence in God.”
Charles A. Trentham



Another Partial Psalm—Psalm 95

- The first half of the Psalm is not quoted here – Why?
- The second half of the Psalm IS quoted here – Why?
- Why do churches tend to use only the first half?
- What happened at Meribah?
- How many complaints from the Hebrews can you recall from the wilderness?
- Notice how Hebrews goes from this quotation to admonition
- Exhort (v. 13) each other so we don't lose out on the rest
- Why 40 years?
- What is the “rest?”