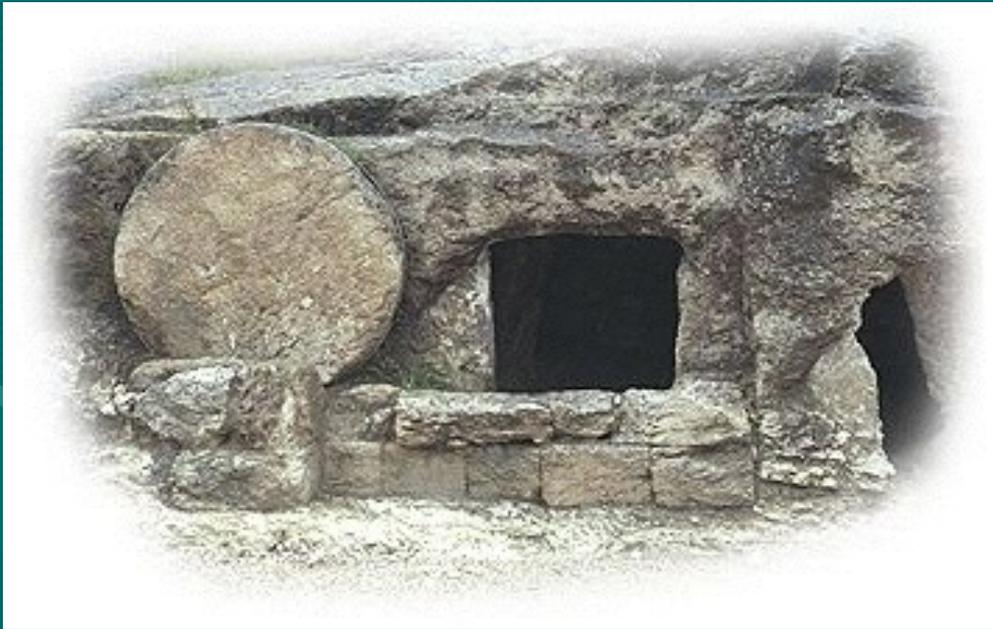


The Book of Hebrews

Living by Faith



**John Oakes,
Milwaukee, WI
October, 2016**

2016 International Christian Evidence Conference

HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY

York College
East 8th Street York, NE 68467

November 11—13

Mark Ziese Archeologist,
Foster Stanback, Robert Kurka, John Oakes &
more.

Apologetics Research Society

www.evidenceforchristianity.org

Contact: joakes01@san.rr.com



Introduction

- **Audience:** Second generation disciples who are tempted to lose heart in light of coming persecutions.
 - Remember those earlier days... Hebrews 10:32

Purpose: To give heart to Christians who have endured but are being tempted to waver in their faith so that they will be faithful to the end.

Outline: The Greatness of Jesus

- I Jesus is greater than all the prophets
- II Jesus is greater than the angels
- III Jesus is greater than Moses
- IV Jesus the great High Priest
- V The Priesthood of Melchizedek (and therefore of Jesus) is superior to the Priesthood of Aaron
- VI Jesus is greater than Abraham
- VII The New Covenant (in and through Jesus) is superior to the Old Covenant (through Moses)
- VIII The heavenly Tabernacle is greater than the earthly Tabernacle.
- IX The sacrifice of Jesus is of far greater worth than the OT sacrifices

Exhortations In Hebrews

- Exhortation #1 Pay attention Heb 2:1-18
- Exhortation #2 Make every effort to enter Heb 3:6-4:13
- Exhortation #3 Grow up. Become mature Heb 5:11-6:20
- Exhortation #4 Live by faith. Hebrews 10:19-12:29

- Prologue: Hebrews 1:1-4
- Jesus is greater than the prophets.
- In the past, God spoke through the prophets in various ways...
- God spoke through history, poetry and proverb
- God spoke through kings, patriarchs, poets, scribes, priests prophetesses and government administrators.
- But now he is speaking to us through his son.

Heb 1:2,3 The Greatness of God's Son

great, amazing, excellent, unique, overpowering, beautiful, impressive, beyond imagination, mind-blowing, jaw-dropping, spectacular,.....

- He will inherit everything (Col 1:15, Romans 8:17)
 - Our inheritance is through his inheritance.
- The universe was made through (and for) Him. (John 1:3)
- He is the radiance of the glory of God. (John 8:12)
 - *Apaugasma* = effulgence, shining forth
- He is the image of God (John 1:18)
 - *Character* = wax seal, exact representation. God revealed himself.
- He sustains all things
 - beginning (Creator) middle (Sustainer) end (Inheritor) of all.
- He provided purification for sin
- He mediates for us at God's right hand

Jesus is Greater Than the Angels

The angels brought the message.

Jesus IS the message



2:1-18 Exhortation #1 Pay careful attention!

- “pay attention” = *prosechein* = to fix, moor a ship.
- “drift away” = *pararrein* = to slip away, as with the tides, by careless inattention.
- violation = *parabasis* = outright rebellion
- disobedience = *parakoe* = careless hearing or unwillingness to hear
- The point: If the Jews had to pay attention to a Law delivered by angels, and if they faced capital punishment for not listening, how much more ought we to pay attention to Jesus, and how much more great a punishment if we do not.
- **LISTEN UP!!!**

2:10-18 The importance of Jesus' humanity and his suffering.

- *Archegos* Jesus is author, founder, pioneer, source, origin; the one who goes first both to make and to point the way for us.
- *Teleios* Jesus is the perfecter, the completer. He is the one who points the way, but he is also the one who completes the journey toward perfection. He is our perfecter through suffering.
- In becoming human, Jesus forged a way for us into the presence of God.
- The Point: Jesus is both the initiator and the completer of our salvation. Everything depends on Jesus, not us.

Jesus is Greater than Moses

Moses gave the law. Jesus IS the law.

Moses gave them bread. Jesus IS bread

Moses gave them water. Jesus sends the water that springs up for eternal life.

Hebrews 3:1-6 Jesus is Greater than Moses

Moses a household servant (v.5) Jesus owns the house (v. 6)

Moses faithful in God's house Jesus faithful over God's house

Moses received the Law Jesus **IS** the Law

Moses gave them bread Jesus **IS** the bread

Moses gave them water. Jesus gives us the water that springs up for eternal life.

Parallels Between Moses and Jesus

Moses	Jesus
Pharaoh tried to kill him	Herod tried to kill him
Called by God to leave Egypt	Carried out of Egypt
Forty years in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry	Forty days in the wilderness to prepare for his ministry
Left his position with the king of Egypt to dwell with the Jews	Left the right hand of the Father to live with the Jews
Led Israel out of slavery in Egypt	Leads Spiritual Israel out of sin
Aaron prepared the way	John the Baptist prepared the way
Baptized Israel in the Red Sea in order to free them	Commands baptism in water for freedom from sin
Gave manna in the wilderness (sort of)	Gives spiritual bread to all who hunger
Gave water to the people in the desert	Gives spiritual water: the Holy Spirit
Spoke to God on Mt. Sinai	Spoke to God on Mt. Hermon

Exhortation #2

- Do not harden your hearts. (Hebrews 3:8)
- Do not turn away. (Hebrews 3:12)
- Do not let your bodies fall in the desert. (Hebrews 3:17)
- Do not fall short. (Hebrews 4:1)
- **Make every effort to enter** (do not rest). (Hebrews 4:11)

Exhortation #3

- **Grow up!**
- Move on to maturity.
- Mature in life and doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16)
- Do not be *nothros* (slow-moving in mind, torpid, witlessly forgetful, dull of hearing)
- Are you on a diet of milk?
- Grow up both in the knowledge (v. 12) and the practice (v. 14) of holiness.

IV Jesus the Great High Priest

- Like a High priest:
 - Can relate to us (Heb 4:15)
 - Makes intercession before God for us (Heb 4:16)
 - Offer gifts (fragrant offerings) and sacrifices (sin, guilt offering) (Heb 5:1)
 - Selected by God from men (Heb 5:1,4-5)
 - Represents man to God (Heb 5:1)
- Greater than any High Priest
 - Serves in the Heavenly Tabernacle, not the earthly one. (Heb 4:14)
 - Tempted, yet was without sin. (Heb 4:15)
 - Did not need to offer sacrifices for his own sin. (Heb 5:3)
 - A priest forever (Heb 5:6)
 - A priest from the order of Melchizedek (Heb 5:6)
 - Brings us into the real inner sanctuary. (Heb 4:16)

Chapter 8 & 9 From Shadow to Reality

Hebrews 10:1

- We have already seen that the Aaronic priesthood was a foreshadow of Jesus' priesthood.

Therefore;

- The First Covenant was a foreshadow of the New Covenant (ch 8).
- The Jewish Tabernacle was a foreshadow of the Heavenly Tabernacle (Hebrews 9:1-11).
- Old Covenant sacrifices were a foreshadow of New Covenant sacrifice: The blood of Jesus. (Hebrews 9:12-10:18)

Coming Into the Presence of God

- The Jewish men could only come up to the gate.
- The Levites could only come into the courtyard.
- The Priests could enter the Holy Place.
- The High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies one day a year, for just a few minutes, after sprinkling blood all over the Holy Place and into the Holy of Holies for his own sin.
- Us: Hebrews 10:19

A Better Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things with better sacrifices than these

The lesser sacrifice (bulls, goats, ashes of heifer)	The better sacrifice (Jesus)
Outward (appearance)	Inward (spiritual)
Temporary (repeated many times)	Eternal (only done once)
Ceremonial	Real
Not voluntary	Voluntary
Mechanical	Spontaneous
Unaware	Rational, aware

Hebrews 11 Heroes of the Faith

The key to perseverance is faith

Heb 11:1 Faith is being certain of what we do not see.
It requires that we deny our senses.

Heb 11:3 What is seen was not made from the visible

Heb 11:6 Faith... must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Why were these men and women commended by God?

- They refused what the world calls greatness and staked everything on God.
- They chose what is unseen rather than what is seen.

Lesson: In many ways, our worst enemy is success and prosperity. What the world seeks is what will destroy everything that is important.

Example: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Daniel Ch. 3 What could they see?????

By Faith....

- By faith Abel gave a better sacrifice.
- By faith Enoch pleased God.
- By faith Noah built the ark, condemned the world and saved his family

By Faith....

- By faith Abraham left everything behind....
- By faith Abraham became the father of many nations.
- By faith Abraham offered up his one and only son.

Chrysostom on Abraham

“The things of God seemed to fight against the things of God and faith fought with faith and the commandment fought with the promise”

Yet... Abraham obeyed the command.

Heb 11:19 He Reasoned

We Need to Follow Abraham...

- Out of Ur
- To Mt. Moriah



Those of whom the world was not worthy

- Hebrews 11:13 Still living by faith (not by sight) when they died.
- *xenoi* foreigners, aliens, strangers, refugees in this world.
- *parepidemos* sojourners, temporary residents, green card holders, people who do not put down roots.
- Lived by faith despite never seeing the promise fulfilled.
- Therefore, God is not ashamed to call them his.

Diognetus (2nd Century Apologist)

- The Christians dwell in cities of Greeks and barbarians as the lot of each is cast, and follow the native customs in dress and food and other arrangements of life, yet the constitution of their own citizenship, which they set forth, contradicts expectation. They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners. They bear their share in all things as citizens and endure hardships as strangers. To them, every country is a fatherland, and to them, every fatherland a foreign country. They live on earth, but their home is in heaven. They love all men and are persecuted by all. Their strangeness is not strange clothes or lack of technology. It is their embrace of an ethic the world considers nonsense.

By Faith...

- By faith Moses gave up worldly success and fortune.
- By faith Moses saved Israel.
- By faith the walls of Jericho fell.
- By faith ordinary people did great things for God.

More Men and Women of Faith

- Shut the mouths of lions: Daniel.
- Quenched the fury of the flames: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- Escaped the edge of the sword: Elijah
- Women received back their dead: Elijah (1 Kings 17:17) and Elisha (2 Kings 4:8)
- Stoned: Zechariah (2 Chron 24:20-22)
- Sawn in two: Isaiah (Jewish legend)
- Put to death by the sword: (1 and 2 Maccabees)

- None of them received what was promised in their lifetimes. None!!!



Let us, like Abraham, Live By Faith

www.evidenceforchristianity.org