Review of Chapters 1 – 4

Theme of book - Jesus Christ is greater - no true religion without Him - therefore endure.

Long, complex exposition based on Hebrew Bible with 5 parenthetical exhortations

Heb. 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels

as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Heb. 1:5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again,
"I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son"?

Heb. 1:6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Heb. 1:7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

Heb. 1:8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

Heb. 1:10 And,

"You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

- they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,
- 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

Heb. 1:13 And to which of the angels has

he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Heb. 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Heb. 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Heb. 2:5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. **6** It has been testified somewhere,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?

7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned him with glory and honor,

8 putting everything in subjection under his feet."

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by

the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying,

"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

Heb. 2:13 And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Behold, I and the children God has given me."

Heb. 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,
2 who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all

God's house. **3** For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. **4** (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) **5** Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, **6** but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- **Heb. 3:7** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,
- 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
 - on the day of testing in the wilderness,
- 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.
- 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
 - and said, 'They always go astray in their

heart;

they have not known my ways.'

11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

Heb. 3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14

For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. 15 As it is said,

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Heb. 3:16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with

those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Heb. 4:1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

"As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'"

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. **4** For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this

way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." **5** And again in this passage he said,

"They shall not enter my rest."

Heb. 4:6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Heb. 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Heb. 4:11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Heb. 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens [the most holy place], Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

This is the third time the apostle mentions Christ as high priest without explaining what he means. This must have been very puzzling to the Hebrews. They know they already have a high priest and they know the high priest must be descended from Aaron. Christ was descended from Judah! Paul now begins to expound on the concept of Christ as High Priest.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are [the Hebrews are now beginning to see why Christ had to be a man and not a supernatural being], yet without sin.

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G3985 πειράζω peirazō 38x to make proof or trial of, put to the proof, whether with good or mischievous intent, Mt. 16:1; 22:35; absol. to attempt, Acts 16:7; 24:6; in NT to tempt, Mt. 4:1; to

try, **subject to trial**, 1 Cor. 10:13 → attempt; tempt; test; try.

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16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Lev. 9:22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. 24 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Lev. 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" And Aaron held his peace.

Heb. 5:1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. 3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but

only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

Ex. 28:1 "Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. 2 And you shall make holy garments for **Aaron** your brother, for glory and for beauty. 3 You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood. 4 These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for **Aaron** your brother and his sons to serve me as priests. 5 They shall receive gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

Num. 16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. 2 And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. 3 They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

28 And Moses said, "Hereby you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, and that it has not been of my own accord. 29 If these men die as all men die, or if they are visited by the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me. 30 But if the

LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD."

Num. 16:31 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. 32 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. 33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. 34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up!" 35 And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.

Num. 16:41 But on the next day all the

congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD." **42** And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared. **43** And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, **44** and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **45** "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

Heb. 5:5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

Psa. 2:7 I will tell of the decree:

The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Psa. 2:10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

- 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,

for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Heb. 5:6 as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Psa. 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

Psa. 110:2 The LORD sends forth from Zion

your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of your enemies!

- 3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.
- 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

- **Psa. 110:5** The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.
- 6 He will execute judgment among the nations,

filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

- 7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.
- Heb. 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

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to execute fully, discharge, Jn. 4:34; 5:36; 17:4; to reach the end of, run through, finish, Lk. 2:43; Acts 20:24; to

consummate, place in a condition of finality, Heb. 7:19; to perfect a person, advance a person to final completeness of character, Heb. 2:10; 5:9; 7:28; to perfect a person, advance a person to a completeness of its kind, which needs no further provision, Heb. 9:9; 10:1, 14; pass. to receive fulfillment, Jn. 19:28; to be brought to the goal, to reach the end of one's course, Lk. 13:32; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 11:40; 12:23; to be fully developed, 2 Cor. 12:9; Jas. 2:22; 1 Jn. 2:5; 4:12, 17; to be completely organized, to be closely embodied, Jn. 17:23 → complete; end; fulfill; perfect.

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10 being designated by God a high priest

after the order of Melchizedek.

Heb. 5:11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of **hearing**.

Ouch! God spoke in various ways and at various times to their fathers and their fathers didn't listen! Now, if Christ is better than all of the other ways, they must be worse than their fathers!

έπεὶ νωθροὶ γεγόνατε ταῖς ἀκοαῖς.

Heb. 5:11			
ἐπεὶ	ἐπεί	Conjunction subord (caus)	since, because, when
νωθροί	νωθρός	Adjective masc plur nom	lazy, sluggish
γεγόνατε	γίνομαι	Verb 2 plur perf act indic	to become, be, be born, be created
ταῖς	ò	Article fem plur dat	the, who, which
ἀκοαῖς	ἀκοή	Noun fem plur dat	hearing, report; obedience

Heb. 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have **heard**, lest we drift away from it.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

They were immersed in the wickedness of rejecting Christ and didn't know it. They were rationalizing.

Heb. 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to

maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

7 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being

cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Heb. 6:9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. 11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.