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The Chapters of Hebrews

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Hebrews

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (HEBREWS 1)

Hebrews opens with a discussion of Christ as the selected one and the superior one.

- I. CHRIST, THE SELECTED ONE (1:1-3): The Father has chosen his Son to minister in four all-important areas.
 - A. Revelation (1:1-2a)
 - 1. In the Old Testament, God revealed himself through his messengers (1:1).
 - 2. In the New Testament, God revealed himself through his Messiah (1:2a).
 - B. Creation (1:2b-3)
 - 1. The Son made the universe (1:2b).
 - 2. The Son maintains the universe (1:3b).
 - C. Representation (1:3a): Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being.
 - D. Purification (1:3c): Jesus died to cleanse us from our sins.
- II. CHRIST, THE SUPERIOR ONE (1:4-14): Christ is superior to the angels in three important ways.
 - A. In regard to his relationship (1:4-7): The Father has declared Jesus to be his unique Son.
 - B. In regard to his reign (1:8-12)
 - 1. It will be a righteous reign (1:8-9).
 - 2. It will be an eternal reign (1:10-12).
 - C. In regard to his reward (1:13-14): The Father has promised to make Jesus' enemies his footstool.

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (HEBREWS 2)

This chapter contains a warning from Christ against drifting away from the faith and a discussion of the work of Christ.

- I. THE WARNING FROM CHRIST (2:1-4): This warning has to do with God's salvation.
 - A. The command (2:1-2)
 - 1. Don't drift from God's message of truth (2:1).
 - 2. Don't disobey God's message of truth (2:2).
 - B. The communicators (2:3): This salvation was preached by both Jesus and his apostles.
 - C. The confirmation (2:4): The gospel message was confirmed by signs and wonders.
- II. THE WORK OF CHRIST (2:5-18)
 - A. His sovereign ministry (2:5-8a)
 - 1. Christ created all people (2:5-6a).
 - 2. Christ cares for all people (2:6b-7).
 - 3. Christ commissioned all people (2:8a): Adam was put in charge of God's original creation.
 - B. His submissive ministry (2:9a): Christ agreed to come to earth and become "lower than the angels."
 - C. His saving ministry (2:8b-10)
 - 1. The rebellion (2:8b): Sin caused people to forfeit their control over nature.
 - 2. The redemption (2:9b-10): Christ died on the cross for everyone.
 - D. His sanctifying ministry (2:11-13): Christ now lives to make us holy.
 - E. His subduing ministry (2:14-15): By his death Jesus broke the power of Satan, who once held the power of death.
 - F. His sympathizing ministry (2:16-18): Having once suffered, Jesus is now able and willing to help those who are suffering.

SECTION OUTLINE THREE (HEBREWS 3)

Jesus is compared to Moses and is declared to be greater than Moses. A warning is given from the Holy Spirit against the sin of unbelief.

- I. THE WORTHINESS OF THE SAVIOR (3:1-6): Jesus is compared and contrasted to Moses.
 - A. The comparison (3:2)
 - 1. Jesus was faithful to God (3:2a).
 - 2. Moses was faithful to God (3:2b).
 - B. The contrast (3:3-6)
 - 1. Moses was a faithful servant in God's house (3:5).
 - 2. Jesus is the faithful son over God's house (3:3-4, 6).
 - C. The conclusion (3:1): Jesus is greater, so fix your eyes on him.
- II. THE WARNING BY THE SPIRIT (3:7-19): This warning has to do with the terrible sin of unbelief.
 - A. The example of unfaithfulness (3:9-11, 16-19)
 - 1. Israel's sin in the wilderness (3:9-10): They allowed unbelief to turn their hearts against God.
 - 2. Israel's sentence in the wilderness (3:11, 16-19): An entire generation died in the desert and did not enter the Promised Land.
 - B. The exhortation to faithfulness (3:7-8, 12-15)
 - 1. When you hear God's Word, heed God's Word (3:7-8, 15).
 - 2. Encourage one another daily (3:12-14).

SECTION OUTLINE FOUR (HEBREWS 4)

God promises rest for his people.

- I. THE PROMISE OF GOD (4:1-11): This promise involves the rest that God has prepared for his people.
 - A. The whereabouts (4:3b, 5-6, 8-10)
 - 1. God's Old Testament rest (4:3b, 5-6): This was the Promised Land, which Israel failed to enter due to unbelief.
 - 2. God's New Testament rest (4:8-10): This is the place of his perfect will, which is available for all believers.
 - B. The way (4:2-3a): "Only we who believe can enter his place of rest."
 - C. The witnesses (4:4, 7)
 - 1. Moses spoke of these rests (Gen. 2:2) (4:4).
 - 2. David spoke of these rests (Ps. 95:11) (4:7).
 - D. The wisdom (4:1, 11): Guided by godly fear, we are to do our utmost to enter into this rest.
- II. THE POWER OF GOD (4:12-13)
 - A. What it is (4:12a-b)
 - 1. Its definition (4:12a): It is the spoken and written Word of God.
 - 2. Its description (4:12b): It is living, active, and sharper than any double-edged sword.
 - B. What it does (4:12c-13)
 - 1. It exposes all thoughts and desires (4:12c).
 - 2. It exposes all humankind (4:13).
- III. THE PRIEST OF GOD (4:14-16)
 - A. Who he is (4:14a): He is Jesus, the Son of God.
 - B. What he is (4:14b-15): He is our great High Priest.
 - 1. He once was tempted in all areas (4:15).
 - 2. He now can help us in any area (4:14b).
 - C. Where he is (4:16): At the very throne of grace.

SECTION OUTLINE FIVE (HEBREWS 5)

Christ, the great High Priest, is compared to Aaron, the first high priest.

- I. THE REQUIREMENTS IN REGARD TO THE PRIESTS (5:1-10): The author of Hebrews compares and contrasts the high priestly ministries of both Aaron and Christ.
 - A. Comparisons (5:1-4)
 - 1. Both were selected by God from among men (5:1a, 4).
 - 2. Both were appointed to represent people before God (5:1b).
 - 3. Both were to pray and offer up sacrifices (5:1c).
 - 4. Both were to demonstrate compassion (5:2a).
 - 5. Both experienced infirmities of the flesh (5:2b-3).
 - B. Contrasts (5:5-10)
 - 1. Only Christ is called God's Son (5:5).
 - 2. Only Christ was given an everlasting priesthood (5:6a).
 - 3. Only Christ was made a priest after the order of Melchizedek (5:6b, 9-10).
 - 4. Only Christ cried out to God in Gethsemane "with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could deliver him out of death" (5:7-8).

- II. THE REBUKE IN REGARD TO THE PEOPLE (5:11-14)
 - A. The frustration (5:11-12a)
 - 1. The author has much to say, but his readers are slow to learn (5:11).
 - 2. They should be teachers but instead need to be taught (5:12a).
 - B. The food (5:12b-14)
 - 1. Baby believers can be fed only milk (5:12b-13).
 - 2. Mature believers can easily digest solid food (5:14).

SECTION OUTLINE SIX (HEBREWS 6)

The author of Hebrews challenges his readers to strive for spiritual maturity and writes about how such maturity may be obtained.

- I. THE APPEAL FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY (6:1-12)
 - A. The author's challenge (6:1-3): The writer of Hebrews issues a twofold challenge to his readers.
 - 1. Don't go backward (6:1-2): He urges them to stop going over the same old ground again and again.
 - a. In the importance of turning from sin and toward God (6:1)
 - b. In the importance of baptism, the laying on of hands, the resurrection, and judgment (6:2)
 - 2. Do go forward (6:3): Push on to maturity in Christ.
 - B. The author's concern (6:4-8): He warns in regard to a dreadful situation.
 - 1. The impossibility in this situation (6:4-6)
 - a. The who (6:4b-5): Those who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit and have tasted of God's Word.
 - b. The what (6:6a): After experiencing this, they turn from God.
 - c. The why (6:4a, 6b): These people cannot be brought back to repentance, for they crucify the Son of God all over again.
 - 2. The illustration for this situation (6:7-8): The author refers to a piece of land to illustrate his point.
 - a. When the land is fruitful, it is blessed (6:7).
 - b. When the land is fruitless, it is cursed (6:8).
 - C. The author's confidence (6:9-12): He is confident his warning does not apply to his readers.

- II. THE ANCHOR FOR SPIRITUAL MATURITY (6:13-20): This desired maturity is assured.
 - A. Because of the Father's promise (6:13-18)
 - 1. God promised to bless Abraham, and he did (6:13-15).
 - 2. God promised to bless us, and he will (6:16-18).
 - B. Because of the Savior's priesthood (6:19-20)

SECTION OUTLINE SEVEN (HEBREWS 7)

The author identifies and equates the priesthood of Jesus with that of Melchizedek.

I. A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE (7:1-3)

- A. The person of Melchizedek (7:1a, 2b-3)
 - 1. Who he was (7:2b): His name means "king of justice," and he was also the "king of peace."
 - 2. What he did (7:1a): He was both priest and king over the city of Salem.
 - 3. Where he came from (7:3): There is no record of either his birth or his death.
- B. The preeminence of Melchizedek (7:1b-2a)
 - 1. The battle (7:2a): Following the defeat of his enemies, Abraham met Melchizedek and paid tithes to him.
 - 2. The blessing (7:1b): Melchizedek blessed Abraham.

II. A THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (7:4-28): The author lists the various characteristics of Jesus, who, according to the Father's decree, is to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek (see Ps. 110:4). Thus, his priesthood would be:

- A. Royal (as was that of Melchizedek) (see 7:1)
- B. Superior (7:4-10)
 - 1. To whom? (7:5-7): To Levi, founder of the Levitical priesthood.
 - 2. Why? (7:4, 8-10)
 - a. Abraham was the ancestor of Levi (7:9).
 - b. The yet unborn Levi thus tithed to Melchizedek while still in the loins of Abraham (7:4, 8, 10).
- C. Independent (7:11-15)
 - 1. Independent of the law (7:11-12).
 - 2. Independent of the tribe of Levi (7:13-15): Christ came from the tribe of Judah.
- D. Everlasting (7:16-17)
- E. Guaranteed (7:20-22): The Father himself took an oath concerning this.
- F. Continuous (7:23)
- G. Permanent (7:24)
- H. Holy (7:26)
 - I. All-sufficient (7:18-19, 25, 27)
- J. Flawless (7:28)

SECTION OUTLINE EIGHT (HEBREWS 8)

The author discusses the threefold security of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant.

I. ITS SANCTUARY IS SUPERIOR (8:1-2).

- A. The place is better (8:1): It is located in the heavenly sanctuary.
- B. The priest is better (8:2): Jesus himself ministers in this sanctuary.

II. ITS SACRIFICE IS SUPERIOR (8:3-4).

- A. The Levitical priests offered up animals in the earthly sanctuary (8:4).
- B. The Lamb of God offers up himself in the heavenly sanctuary (8:3).

III. ITS SECURITY IS SUPERIOR (8:5-13).

- A. The old agreement was mediated by Moses (8:5, 7-8a).
 - 1. It was ruined by Israel's sin (8:7-8a).
 - 2. It was written on dead stones (see Ex. 32:15).
- B. The new agreement is mediated by Christ (8:6, 8b-13).
 - 1. It is restored by Jesus' sacrifice (8:6, 8b-9).
 - 2. It is written on living hearts (8:10-13).

SECTION OUTLINE NINE (HEBREWS 9)

The features that relate to both the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries are discussed in this chapter.

I. THE REVIEW OF EACH SANCTUARY (9:1-15)

- A. The earthly sanctuary (9:1-10)
 - 1. The information (9:1-7)

- a. The objects in the Tabernacle (9:1-5): The author describes the location of the gold lampstands, the incense altar, etc.
 - b. The overseers of the Tabernacle (9:6-7): The duties of both priests and the high priest are listed.
 - 2. The illustration (9:8-10): The Holy Spirit used the many regulations surrounding the use of the Tabernacle to illustrate the fatal weakness of the earthly Tabernacle-namely, its sacrifices could not cleanse the hearts of the people.
 - B. The heavenly sanctuary (9:11-15): This sanctuary is superior to the earthly one in four areas.
 - 1. The person offering the sacrifice (9:11): It is Jesus Christ himself.
 - 2. The preciousness of the sacrifice (9:12b): He offered his own blood.
 - 3. The permanence of the sacrifice (9:12a): It was done only once and will last for all time.
 - 4. The power of the sacrifice (9:12c-15): It brings about eternal redemption.
- II. THE RATIFICATION OF EACH SANCTUARY (9:16-28): Both sanctuaries had to be purified and ratified by the blood of a sacrifice.
- A. The earthly sanctuary (9:16-22)
 - 1. The sprinkler of this blood (9:16-19a): Moses.
 - 2. The source of this blood (9:19b): An animal.
 - 3. The summary of this blood (9:20-22): It could never take away sins.
 - B. The heavenly sanctuary (9:23-28)
 - 1. The sprinkler of this blood (9:23): Christ.
 - 2. The source of this blood (9:25-26a): Himself.
 - 3. The summary of this blood (9:24, 26b-28): Here the author gives us a threefold summary of the Savior's work.
 - a. He once appeared to die for us (9:26b-28a).
 - b. He now appears to pray for us (9:24).
 - c. He will appear to rule over us (9:28b).

SECTION OUTLINE TEN (HEBREWS 10)

This chapter begins with a comparison and concludes with a challenge.

- I. THE COMPARISON (10:1-18): Here the blood of earthly lambs is compared with the blood of the heavenly Lamb.
 - A. The inferiority of earthly lambs (10:1-4, 11)
 - 1. The frequency of these sacrifices (10:1-3, 11a): The priest had to offer up animals again and again.
 - 2. The failure of these sacrifices (10:4, 11 b): They could never take away sin.
 - B. The superiority of the heavenly Lamb (10:5-10, 12-18)
 - 1. The purpose (10:5-10): Jesus came for one purpose-namely, to offer up himself.
 - 2. The permanence (10:12, 14): His offering was once for all time, never to be repeated.
 - 3. The patience (10:13): "He waits until his enemies are humbled as a footstool under his feet."
 - 4. The purification (10:15-18): Someday he will purify the hearts of unbelieving Israel.
- II. THE CHALLENGE (10:19-39): This challenge is in the form of a fourfold exhortation.
 - A. Approach the throne of God (10:19-22): Christ's sacrifice allows us to boldly petition God's throne.
 - B. Advance the people of God (10:23-25): Believers are to be kind and helpful to each other.
 - C. Avoid the judgment of God (10:26-31).
 - 1. The contrast (10:26-29)
 - a. A reminder of how God once punished those who rejected the Law of Moses (10:26-28)
 - b. A reminder of how God will punish those who reject the Lamb of God (10:29)
 - 2. The certainty (10:30-31): We are assured God will judge his people.
 - D. Acknowledge the faithfulness of God (10:32-39).
 - 1. His past faithfulness (10:32-34): The author urges believers not to forget God's care for them during a former period of suffering.
 - 2. His permanent faithfulness (10:35-39): Whatever the present and future holds, they can

depend on his continuous care.

SECTION OUTLINE ELEVEN (HEBREWS 11)

This is the famous faith chapter.

I. THE EXPLANATION OF FAITH (11:1-3, 6)

A. Its nature (11:1-2)

1. "It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen" (11:1a).
2. "It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see" (11:1b).

B. Its necessity (11:3, 6)

1. With it people in the Old Testament were approved by God (11:2).
2. With it we are able to believe the power of God (11:3): This is especially true in regard to his creative power.
3. Without it we are unable to please the person of God (11:6).

II. THE EXAMPLES OF FAITH (11:4-5, 7-40)

A. Who they were (11:4a, 5a, 7a, 8a-11a, 12, 17-18, 20a, 21a, 22a, 23a, 24, 27a, 28a, 31a, 32): Sixteen people of faith are named, and many others are referred to as well.

1. Abel (11:4a)
2. Enoch (11:5a)
3. Noah (11:7a)
4. Abraham (11:8a, 9, 12, 17-18)
5. Sarah (11:11a)
6. Isaac (11:20a)
7. Jacob (11:21a)
8. Joseph (11:22a)
9. Moses' parents (11:23a)
10. Moses (11:24, 27a, 28a)
11. The people of Israel (11:29a, 30a)
12. Rahab (11:31a)
13. Gideon (11:32a)
14. Barak (11:32b)
15. Samson (11:32c)
16. Jephthah (11:32d)
17. David (11:32e)
18. Samuel (11:32f)
19. All the prophets (11:32g)

B. What they did (11:4b, 5b, 7b, 8b, 11b, 19, 20b, 21b, 22b, 23b, 25, 27b, 28b-30, 31b, 33-35a)

1. Abel gave the Lord an acceptable offering (11:4b).
2. Enoch left the earth without dying (11:5b).
3. Noah survived the great Flood (11:7b).
4. Abraham inherited a land (11:8b).
5. Sarah bore a son through a barren womb and began a nation (11:11b).
6. Abraham believed that God could raise the dead (11:19).
7. Isaac and Jacob both predicted the future (11:20b, 21b).
8. Joseph anticipated the Exodus long before it happened (11:22b).
9. Moses' parents defied the king of Egypt (11:23b).
10. Moses forsook the pleasures of sin (11:25).
11. Moses left the land of Egypt and was not afraid of the king (11:27b).
12. The people of Israel kept the Passover (11:28b).
13. The people of Israel crossed the Red Sea (11:29).
14. The people of Israel shouted down a city (11:30).
15. Rahab protected some Hebrew spies (11:31b).
16. The prophets and judges subdued kingdoms, shut the mouths of lions, quenched flames, escaped the sword, exchanged weakness for strength, put enemy armies to flight, and a few even raised the dead (11:33-35a).

- C. What they endured (11:35b-38)
 - 1. Terrible torture (11:35b)
 - 2. Ridicule (11:36a)
 - 3. Cruel flogging (11:36b)
 - 4. Imprisonment (11:36c)
 - 5. Stoning (11:37a)
 - 6. Being sawn in two (11:37b)
 - 7. Death by the sword (11:37c)
 - 8. Extreme poverty (11:37d-38)
- D. Why they endured (11:10, 13-15, 16b, 26, 35c)
 - 1. They saw the invisible City of God (11:10, 13-15, 16b).
 - 2. They believed that suffering for the sake of Christ was better than having all the riches of this world (11:26).
 - 3. They looked forward to their own resurrection (11:35c).
- E. What they received (11:16a, 39-40)
 - 1. In the past (11:16a, 39): The earthly and temporary approval of God.
 - 2. In the future (11:40): The heavenly and eternal approval of God.

SECTION OUTLINE TWELVE (HEBREWS 12)

The author compares a godly life to a great race and explains to his readers the reasons behind God's discipline. He again warns against the sin of unbelief.

- I. THE CONTEST (12:1-4)
 - A. The race (12:1): We are to faithfully run the spiritual race God has marked out for each of us.
 - B. The role model (12:2-3)
 - 1. Who he is (12:2a): We are to fix our eyes on Jesus, the start and finish of our faith.
 - 2. What he did (12:2b-3): He endured the opposition of sinners and died on the cross.
 - 3. Why he did it (12:2c): Because of the joy he knew would be his.
 - 4. Where he is now (12:2d): At God's right hand.
 - C. The reassurance (12:4): The readers are informed they have not suffered as Christ suffered.
- II. THE CHASTENING (12:5-13): Divine discipline is the theme of this passage.
 - A. The relationship (12:7b-10)
 - 1. The disciplinarian (12:9-10): The heavenly Father himself.
 - 2. The disciplined (12:7b-8): All believers. As earthly fathers discipline their children, so the heavenly Father disciplines his children.
 - B. The reminder (12:5a): The readers have forgotten Solomon's words concerning this in Proverbs 3:11-12.
 - C. The reaction (12:5b-5c, 7a): Believers are urged to respond positively to discipline.
 - 1. Negative reactions (12:5b-5c)
 - a. "Don't ignore it when the Lord disciplines you" (12:5b).
 - b. "Don't be discouraged when he corrects you" (12:5c).
 - 2. Positive reaction (12:7a): "Remember that God is treating you as his own children."
 - D. The reasons (12:6)
 - 1. To prove we are his children (12:6b)
 - 2. To prove his love (12:6a)
 - E. The rewards (12:11)
 - 1. Discipline produces righteousness (12:11 b).
 - 2. Discipline produces peace (12:11a).
 - F. The renewal (12:12-13)
 - 1. "Take a new grip with your tired hands and stand firm on your shaky legs" (12:12).
 - 2. "Mark out a straight path for your feet" (12:13).
- III. THE CHALLENGES (12:14-17)
 - A. The author's exhortation (12:14-15)
 - 1. "Try to live in peace with everyone" (12:14a).

2. "Seek to live a clean and holy life" (12:14b).
3. "Watch out that no bitter root of unbelief rises up among you" (12:15).
- B. The author's example (12:16-17): Esau is held up as a tragic example of what not to do.
 1. He was immoral (12:16a).
 2. He was godless (12:16b).
 3. He despised his birthright (12:16c-17).

IV. THE CONTRASTS (12:18-24): Two mountains are contrasted.

- A. Mount Sinai (12:18-21)
 1. The person (12:21): Moses.
 2. The principle (12:18-20): The law of God.
- B. Mount Zion (12:22-24)
 1. The person (12:24a): Christ.
 2. The principle (12:22-23, 24b): The grace of God.

V. THE CAUTION (12:25-27): The author solemnly warns his readers about the terrible results of unbelief.

VI. THE CONSUMING FIRE (12:28-29)

- A. Our God is a coming King (12:28).
- B. Our God is a consuming fire (12:29).

SECTION OUTLINE THIRTEEN (HEBREWS 13)

The writer of Hebrews concludes with words about love, leaders, legalism, and lordship.

I. A WORD ABOUT LOVE (13:1-6)

- A. Positive (13:1-4): Whom we are to love.
 1. Each other (13:1)
 2. Strangers (13:2)
 3. Prisoners (13:3)
 4. Our spouse (13:4)
- B. Negative (13:5-6)
 1. What we are not to love (13:5a): Money.
 2. Why we are not to love it (13:5b-6): We are to be satisfied with what we have.
 - a. God has promised never to forsake us (13:5b).
 - b. God has promised to be our helper (13:6).

II. A WORD ABOUT LEADERS (13:7, 17-19, 22-25)

- A. The author tells his readers to honor and obey the spiritual leaders of their church (13:7, 17).
 1. Let them serve as role models (13:7).
 2. Submit to their authority (13:17).
- B. The author tells his readers to pray for the spiritual leaders outside their church (13:18-19, 22-25).
 1. He refers to himself (13:18-19, 22).
 2. He refers to Timothy (13:23-25).

III. A WORD ABOUT LEGALISM (13:9-11): What altar and sacrifice should the believer be associated with?

- A. Negative (13:11): Not the altar in the Tabernacle.
- B. Positive (13:9-10): The altar at Calvary.

IV. A WORD ABOUT LORDSHIP (13:8, 12-16, 20-21)

- A. The Shepherd of the fold (13:8, 12, 20-21)
 1. Who he is (13:8): He is Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
 2. What he has done (13:12, 20-21)
 - a. He once redeemed us (13:12, 20).

- b. He now equips us (13:21).
- B. The sheep in the fold (13:13-16)
 - 1. We are to live for him down here (13:13, 15-16).
 - a. We are to suffer for him (13:13).
 - b. We are to sacrifice to him (13:15-16).
 - (1) The sacrifice of our words (13:15)
 - (2) The sacrifice of our works (13:16)
 - 2. We are to look forward to living with him up there (13:14): This world is not our home.