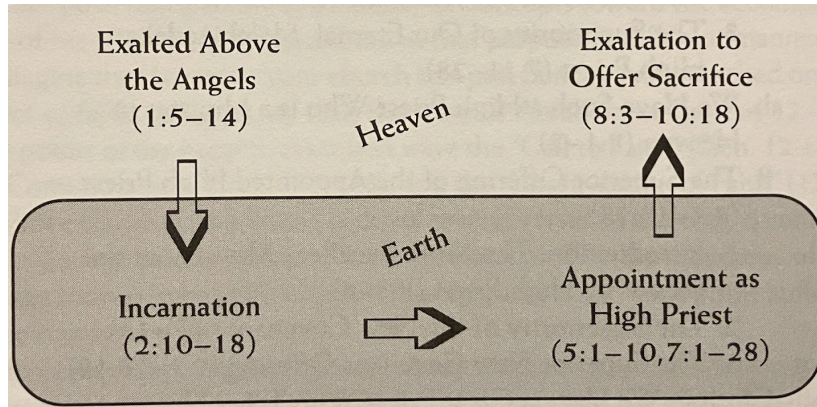


# New Testament Survey

## Class 26: Hebrews

### Logical and spatial development of the Son



(from Guthrie, *Hebrews*, NIVAC, p.30)

24-Mar-24	James
31-Mar-24	-----NO CLASS-----
7-Apr-24	1 Peter
14-Apr-24	2 Peter
21-Apr-24	Letters of John
28-Apr-24	Jude
5-May-24	The Old Testament in the New Testament
12-May-24	Revelation
19-May-24	Our Future Hope

**Author:** “A dynamic preacher...knowledgeable of the Old Testament ...highly educated...deeply concerned about the spiritual state of the believers he addressed” (George Guthrie, *Hebrews*, NIVAC, pp.24-26).

### Recipients:

- Were expected to understand OT references without much context
- Lived in Rome?
  - Received greetings from “those from Italy” (Heb 13:24)
  - Hebrews was quoted by Clement, a Roman church leader, at the end of the first century (1 Clement 36:1-6)

### Date:

- Before 70 AD?
  - The destruction of the temple is not mentioned
  - Hebrews 10:1-2 implies that sacrifices are still being offered
- Perhaps the previous persecutions (e.g., Heb 10:32-34) took place under the emperor Claudius c.49 AD
- Perhaps the encouragement to endure the current suffering (Heb 11:35-12:3) implies the persecutions of Nero in the early 60s AD

### Form and Purpose:

- A letter in the form of a sermon
  - The author calls his letter a “word of exhortation” (Heb 13:22), a phrase used to describe sermons (e.g., Acts 13:15)
- The purpose: “to encourage a group of discouraged believers drifting from real Christianity by bolstering their commitment to draw near to God and to endure in commitment to Christ” (Guthrie, *Hebrews*, p.22).

## Outline (lightly adapted from ESV Study Bible)

1. Jesus Is Superior to Angelic Beings (1:1–2:18)
  - a. The supremacy of God's Son (1:1–14)
    - i. Introduction: summary of the Son's person and work (1:1–4)
    - ii. Evidence of his status as Son (1:5–14)
  - b. Warning against neglecting salvation (2:1–4)
  - c. The Son made like us in flesh so that he might suffer, deliver from death, and help us (2:5–18)
2. Jesus Is Superior to the Mosaic Law (3:1–10:18)
  - a. Jesus is greater than Moses (3:1–6)
  - b. Warning: Don't fail to enter the Sabbath rest for the people of God (3:7–4:13)
    - i. The failure of the exodus generation (3:7–19)
    - ii. Entering God's rest (4:1–13)
  - c. The high priesthood of Jesus (4:14–10:18)
    - i. Take heart: We have a sympathetic high priest (4:14–5:10)
    - ii. Pause in the argument: warning against spiritual immaturity and apathy (5:11–6:12)
    - iii. The certainty of God's promise (6:13–20)
    - iv. Return to main argument: Explanation of Psalm 110—How Jesus is a priest like Melchizedek (7:1–28)
      - v. Jesus is high priest of a better covenant (8:1–13)
      - vi. The earthly holy place (9:1–10)
      - vii. Jesus's sacrifice of himself is better than the old sacrifices because it purifies consciences (9:11–28)
      - viii. Christ's sacrifice once for all (10:1–18)
3. Call to Faith and Endurance (10:19–12:29)
  - a. Draw near with the full assurance of faith (10:19–39)
    - i. Exhortation to draw near (10:19–25)
    - ii. Warnings against deliberate rejection of Jesus (10:26–39)
  - b. Old Covenant believers who endured by faith in the face of opposition (11:1–40)
  - c. Endurance until the kingdom fully comes (12:1–29)
    - i. Jesus, founder and perfecter of faith (12:1–2)
    - ii. Look to Jesus so that you do not grow weary (12:3–17)
    - iii. A kingdom that cannot be shaken (12:18–29)
4. Concluding Exhortations and Remarks (13:1–25)
  - a. Sacrifices pleasing to God (13:1–19)
  - b. Benediction (13:20–21)
  - c. Final greetings (13:22–25)