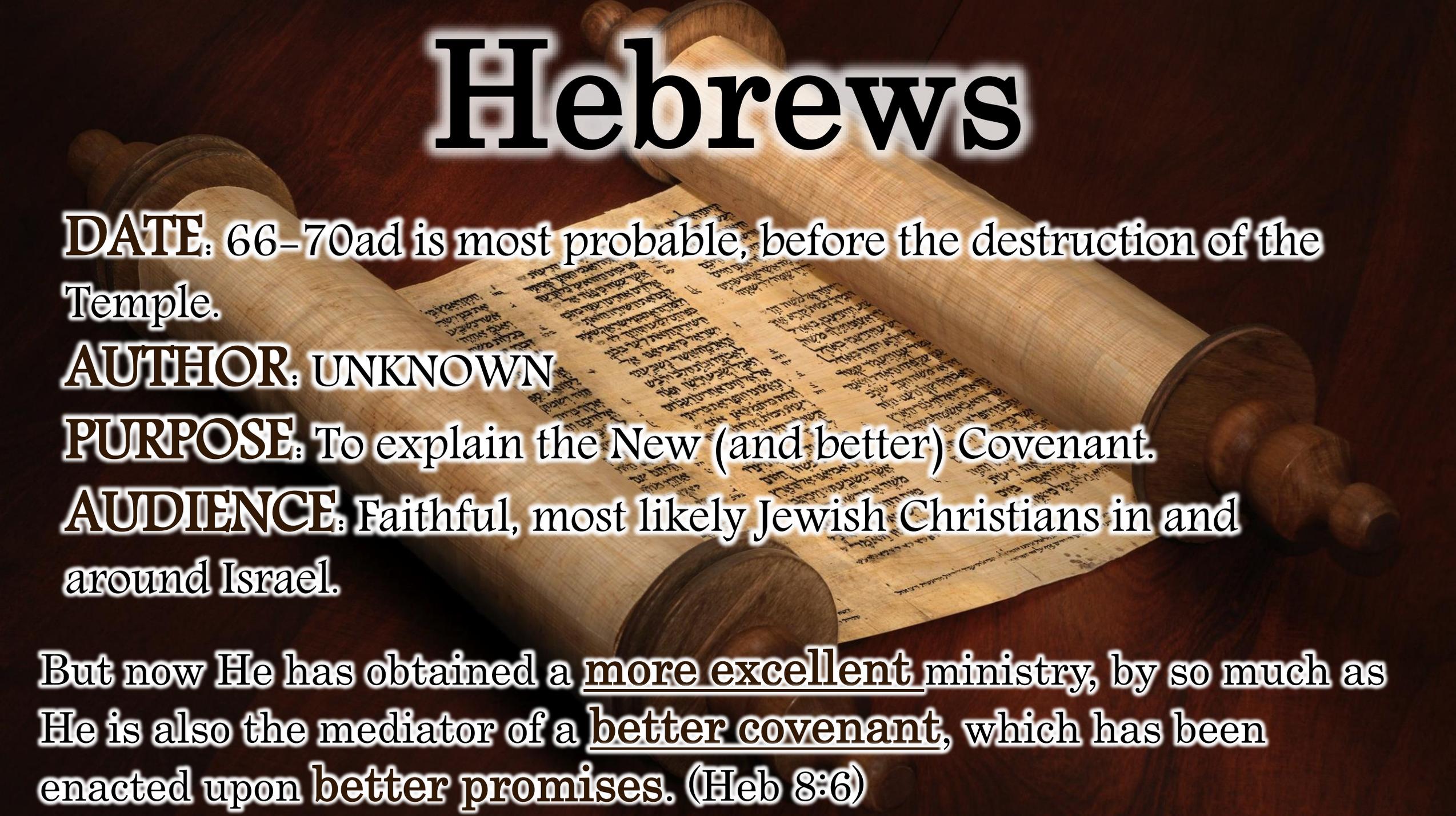


Class 1 –
Hebrews 1:1

HEBREWS



Hebrews

A scroll of ancient Hebrew text, likely the Book of Hebrews, resting on a wooden surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing several columns of text written in a cursive script. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly wood or leather.

DATE: 66–70ad is most probable, before the destruction of the Temple.

AUTHOR: UNKNOWN

PURPOSE: To explain the New (and better) Covenant.

AUDIENCE: Faithful, most likely Jewish Christians in and around Israel.

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by so much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted upon better promises. (Heb 8:6)

WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE SAY IT IS PAUL?

Pantaenus (180 AD) – “Since the Lord, who was the Apostle of the Almighty was sent to the Hebrews, Paul, by reason of his inferiority, as if sent to the Gentiles, did not subscribe himself an apostle to the Hebrews, both out of reverence for the Lord, and because he wrote of his abundance to the Hebrews, as a herald and apostle to the Gentiles.”

Clement (187 AD) – “In his work called Hypotyposis, he [Clement] affirms that Paul is the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews; and that, as it was addressed to the Hebrews, it was originally written in their language, and afterward translated by Luke for the Greeks” – Eusebius

Origen (213 AD) – “But possibly some one pressed with this argument will have recourse to the opinion of those who reject this epistle, as not written by Paul. In answer to such a one, we intend to write a separate discourse to show that epistle to be Paul’s.”

INTERNAL EVIDENCE:

1. Paul had a reason to write this letter anonymously.
 2. Hebrews is full of parenthetical statements like Paul’s other writings.
 3. A close relationship with Timothy is mentioned in Heb 13:23.
 4. Italian brethren are mentioned, a region Paul would have frequented at this time (Heb 13:24).
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WHY DO PEOPLE SAY IT ISN'T PAUL?

1. People have been arguing about the authorship since roughly 300 AD.
2. Paul always noted his authorship of a letter.
3. Paul's letters are written with a different style and flow than Hebrews.
4. Paul was noted for being an ineloquent speaker (1 Cor 2:1).
5. The language is more the style of Luke than of Paul.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK?

1. The internal evidence of the Epistle points toward it being written to Jewish Christians in Palestine that they would be persuaded to stay Christians.
 - There is a clear expectation that the readers would have a thorough understanding of the rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic era.
 - The letter purely addresses the risks and persecutions that arose from other Jews.
 - The main fear seems to have been that the people addressed would renounce Christ and fall back again to Judaism.

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

2. To **demonstrate the superiority of Christianity over Judaism** by showing that the law and all the forefathers (Abraham, Moses, etc.) agreed that the gospel only could save your soul.
 - The letter **contrasts** the Old and the New Testament as well as showing the New Testament as the **matured** completion of the Old's patterns.

THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

1. **Jesus' superiority** as the Son of God (1:1-2:4)
2. **Jesus' superiority** as the Son of Man (2:5-18)
3. **Jesus' superiority** to Moses (3:1-4:13)
4. **Jesus' superiority** as High Priest (4:13-8:5)
 - There is a HUGE parenthetical section of exhortation from 5:11-6:20
5. **Jesus' superiority** as Mediator (8:6-13)
6. **The superiority of Jesus' sacrifice** (9:1-10:18)

7. Exhortations to endure to the end (10:19-39)
8. Examples of faith (11:1-40)
9. Further exhortations to endure to the end (12:1-29)
10. Various personal and social exhortations and concluding remarks (13:1-25)

A large grey naval ship is docked at a pier. Several workers wearing blue shirts and hard hats are on the pier, pulling thick ropes that secure the ship. The ship's hull is visible, and the water is a dark greenish-blue. The sky is overcast.

The new covenant is so much greater than the old covenant

THEREFORE

DO NOT DRIFT!

THE OLD COVENANT

- Feasts
- Festivals
- Sacrifices
- Temple
- Priesthood
- Abraham
- Moses
- Law
- Kingship
- Etc...

THE NEW COVENANT

JESUS
CHRIST