HEBREWS – A BETTER WAY

**DATE:**

**THE “WRITER”**

**THE “RECIPIENTS”**

**THE “TIME AND PLACE”**

**IV. THE “DESIRED EFFECT”**

What was God’s Desired Effect when He used this unknown author to pen this Book?

**A. The Main ‘Purpose’**

Was to Demonstrate the Superiority of the Person and Work of Christ to the OT Sacrificial system

This is found in chapters [**1-10:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A1-10%3A18)

Once the author had made that point, he was then able to combat the imminent danger of defection

[**2:1-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A1-4)**;** [**10:19-25**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A19-25) **…**

**B. To ‘Provoke’** (elicit response)

To provoke his readers to growth into Christian maturity

[**5:11-14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11-14)**;** [**10:32-39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A32-39) **…**

**C. To ‘Comfort’ them in their ‘Persecutions’**

[**11:1-12:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A1-12%3A13)

Using the example of other believers who endured

**D. To ‘Warn’ them**

About the Severity of Divine Chastisement

[**6:3-12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A3-12)**;** [**10:26-31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A26-31)**;** [**12:3-13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A3-13)

**E. To ‘Alert’ them**

To the Dangers of False Teaching

[**13:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A9)

**F. To ‘Request’ prayer for himself**

[**13:18-25**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A18-25)

**V. “DISTINCTIVE FEATURES”**

**A. The “Priesthood of Christ”**

This book contains the classic presentation of the doctrine of the Priesthood of Christ

Although other books emphasize the value of Christ's death,

The emphasis here is upon Christ as the High Priest who made the sacrifice of Himself

**B. The Ministry of “Intercession”**

In addition, the book reveals an area of Christ's ministry untouched in other volumes –

His present Priestly Ministry of Intercession

Intercession - *the action of pleading on one’s behalf*

Paul mentions in **Romans 8:34** that Christ was at the right hand of God, making intercession for believers

***“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”***

The Book of Hebrews describes the nature of that intercession in **7:24,25**

***“But this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood” “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them”***

**C. Divine “Chastisement”**

The key passage on the exposition of Divine Chastisement is also found here

**12:3-12 …**

A believer should not despise the chastening of God,

But endure it and profit spiritually from it

Chastisement is a sign of divine love and sonship;

Lack of it may indicate an illegitimate relationship or an unregenerate heart

It should produce reverence, submission, peace, righteousness, and encouragement in the believer's life

**D. The Hall of Fame of Faith**

The Book of Hebrews is home to the *“Hall of Fame of Faith”*

**11:1-40**

The Old Testament characters of -

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, and others …

Are cited as examples of men and women who believed that …

***“[God] is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

These endured the persecutions of the world because they trusted God

**E. The Definition of Faith**

The famous definition of faith is set forth in **11:1**

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”***

Whenever true believers think of the subject of faith,

Their minds automatically turn to **Hebrews 11**

**F. Full of Warnings**

The book is full of Warnings …

Inserted at various intervals within the presentation of the author's theme

The writer did not want to wait until his conclusion to apply these great truths to the lives of his readers

These warnings are signaled by the use of the word ***“lest”*** found 7 times

[**2:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A1)**;** [**3:12,13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A12-13)**;** [**4:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+4%3A11)**;**[**12:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A3)**,**[**13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A13)**,**[**15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A15)

It’s interesting how the author involved himself in the commands he directed toward his readers by making use of the word ***“us”***

These Warnings are all introduced by the words

***“Let us…”***

Here is a listing of the 13 instances -

**1. 4:1 – *“Let us therefore fear”***

**2. 4:11 – *“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest”***

**3. 4:14 – *“Let us hold fast our profession”***

**4. 4:16 – *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace”***

**5. 6:1 – *“Let us go on unto perfection”***

**6. 10:22 - *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith”***

**7. 10:23 – *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering”***

**8. 10:24 – *“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works”***

**9. 12:1 - *“Let us lay aside every weight”***

**10.** **12:1 - *“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us”***

**11. 12:28 – *“Let us have grace”***

**12. 13:13 – *“Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp”***

**13.13:15 – *“Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually”***

This type of command was not as direct or harsh

The author thus spoke to himself as well as to his readers

**G. The Key Word**

The key word of the book is ***“better”***

The word is used 13 times to show the superiority of the believer's position in Christ

**1:4; 6:9; 7:7,19,22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16,35,40**

In Christ the believer has -

Better Promises

A Better hope

A Better Covenant

A Better Substance

A Better Country

A Better Resurrection

And from these thought we get our title for the series

**“A Better Way”**