



Hebrews

- One New Man -

A large, dynamic splash of blue water, rendered in various shades from light to deep blue, occupies the upper half of the page. The splash is centered horizontally and has a sense of movement, with droplets and ripples. The word "HEBREWS" is superimposed on this splash.

HEBREWS

To the Hebrews!



The bridge between God's work in and through the **Chosen people** (the Jews) and **Christ-followers** (the true Jews) can be complicated even when you have some familiarity with the Story - but is much more easily understood as you consider the book of Hebrews. What is given to the Jews on earth are copies of what is in heaven: the Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies - even the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat - all are **copies** of what is in heaven (Hebrews 9:23).

The letter to the Hebrews carefully unpacks what each of these wonderful pictures (copies) reveal about what is happening right now in heaven before the throne of God. Without God's revelation "to the Hebrews" we would know much less about the plan which is unfolding within both Jew and Gentiles throughout the entire God Story.



- FRIEND -

Hebrews is the key which is custom-made by God to unlock many of the great mysteries of the God Story.

You will not find it easy - it is intellectually challenging for sure - but also heart-challenging on an immense scale.

I am humbled to have spent my lifetime having my heart remade through the animating work of the Spirit through the eternal words of the Living God, and understanding my life as a True Jew.

ENJOY!
Dave Nadler

THERE ARE FIVE HEBREWS **VIDEOS** LISTED IN
THE HEBREWS POST AT FOURTHSTREAM.COM

What the book of Hebrews can bring to your spiritual life...

The book of Hebrews has often been diminished in the teachings of the historical church, either through neglect or by choice. This is really a shame because Hebrews is a solid bridge between the two pivotal parts of the God Story, and demonstrates connections for the Bible's teaching of the "One New Man." *Wrestling with the concepts in Hebrews will help you connect parts of the God Story most people never understand.*

By carefully considering Hebrews we can understand the ONE redemptive plan through the Son of God or "Messiah." Messiah means to smear, and indicates how the blood of the Son covers all who believe. Jesus constructs a "bridge of light" out of darkness, and reconnects the lost souls of mankind with His Story - the God Story. The book of Hebrews and the "true Jews" are right in the middle of this epic struggle!

In Hebrews we tackle several issues which are key to living an informed faith.

There is only one "testament." Nowhere in the scriptures is there a designation of old and new. This myth perpetuates many misstatements and even false teaching about the God Story.

The false teaching of Law VS... Grace. To juxtapose Law as antithetical to Grace is not only unbiblical, it is dangerous to the Gospel. While there certainly is an "old" and "new" covenant, the Law is a part of God's grace, not separate from it.

There are basically only two religions. Worship of the Living God or worship of self. Political correctness postulates that every religion is legitimate by virtue of the fact that it is incorrect to pass judgement on anyone else's religious construct. Jesus (and the entire bible) are very clear. "I (Jesus the Son) am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes to the Father but through me." The bible teaches that we either worship the Living God or we worship self. All religions of the world, including historic Christianity, will be judged based upon this criteria. It is the Living God Himself who has said, "You shall have no other gods before Me."

The Hebrew people fulfill a very key and wonderful place in the God Story, but without Christ-followers find incompleteness apart from the finished work of Jesus, the Savior of both Jew and Gentile. According to Hebrews, Abraham's "seed" of faith trumps Moses, Aaron (priests), angels, and any other created beings. Abraham's "seed" were to be as many as the "sands of the sea." *A true Jew is any man or woman from any nation who has a "circumcised heart."* This is what the scriptures define as a "true Jew."

These concepts are addressed in the book of Hebrews and the content of the book is key to a mature faith.

Enjoy!

Dave Nadler, 4@Fourthstream.com

Welcome to the book of Hebrews!

To begin your study of the book of Hebrews, meditate on the book's content reflected in the overview chart below. Use these as guideposts to unlock the message of the book. The key verse we have chosen is found in 8:6 and focuses the *Better Covenant* God has provided in Christ (Messiah). Everything accomplished through the chosen Hebrew nation was set in motion to prepare the way for the Living Word, God's Son, to come into the world.

The author of Hebrews wishes his audience to comprehend the fullness of the work of Father God in Christ, and to understand Messiah's direct relationship to the "old covenant" of Judaism. What God did through the Law of Moses is eclipsed only by what has been done in His Son. To embrace this we must experience an understanding of the supremacy of Christ in our lives. This in turn will build our faith and result in hope-filled living through Jesus, or "Yeshua Messiah"! (2 Peter 1:16-21)

HEBREWS		Better Covenant	
<i>Christ is Superior...</i>			
In Israel's Faith			In Our Faith
Angels	Moses	Aaron	11:1-6,13,24-36 12:1,2
1:4,5,13,14	3:1-5	9:11-14	
1-2	3	4-10	10-13

"He also is the mediator of a better covenant." 8:6

Open Your Heart as You Read!

To find our value in Christ is life's richest reward. Experiencing the grace of God is only available through faith in the Lord Jesus! Do you feel that you are on the path of faith that is described in Hebrews? The Jews were graciously given the law so the entire world could receive this *better covenant*. One cannot turn away from the work of the Messiah and still find eternal life. He alone can accomplish the will of the Father in the hearts of men - in any race in every century.

These new Hebrew believers needed insight as to who the Messiah was - and what His Kingdom consisted of. New believers coming to Jesus from paganism also needed clarification of their own. Today we must guard ourselves from interpreting faith by our own design. The very nature of authentic faith is only realized by losing ourselves in His Son, for in so doing, we FIND ourselves for eternity!

AUTHOR

Only Almighty God knows for certain! The most common names mentioned by Bible scholars are Barnabas, Apollos, Paul, Peter, and Luke.

DATE

It is thought that the book was written while the Temple was still standing (8:4, 9:6, 12:27, 13:10), and the reference to "the day approaching" (10:25) seems to indicate the catastrophe which occurred in AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies. For these reasons, the date set for this letter is around AD 64-67.

OTHER BACKGROUND

This book has been called "the fifth Gospel." The four other Gospels describe Christ's ministry on earth; this one describes His ministry in heaven at the Father's right hand. It amplifies Jesus' role as High Priest over the souls of men - and the superior ministry of the One True God - our deliverer Yeshua!

The letter was written to a group of Jewish Christians similar to those letters penned through Peter and James. It is clearly addressed to Hebrew Christians who were members of a definite, emerging community (13:7, 7-19, 22-24). The book was intended to exhort Jewish believers to move from foundations (Faith and the Law of God, or "Torah") to maturity (Faith in Christ). They had started well (6:10; 10:32-34) but had shown a tendency to reverse their course (5:11-12). They had not made sufficient progress as Christ-followers; they were like babies who continued to need to be fed from a bottle when they should have long ago taken to solid food (5:12-14). It is likely that their reluctance to press on was brought about by the fear of further rejection and persecution which they seemed to be facing (10:34).

It also appears evident that these Jewish Christ-followers were being lured away to lesser loyalty - as can be seen by the author's repetition of the key word better, which can be found a total of thirteen times in the book of Hebrews. Christ and His ways are superior in fulfillment to anything which preceded it, so why settle for less when you have the best?!

Why study the book of Hebrews?

1. There are many lesser loyalties 21st century believers may be enticed to give our allegiance. Hebrews exhorts believers to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus (12:2) and lay aside every weight (12:1) so that we might move forward to maturity.

2. It has been said that the New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament and that the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament. If you are like many believers today, you may have difficulty seeing the connection between the two (remember, we are the ones who call them Old and New). A thorough study of Hebrews will help you to see the harmony of the God Story and come to a greater appreciation of the unity of the Scriptures - as well as the foundations of Faith in the One True God!

3. God is not interested in our conformity but He wants us to be transformed. Hebrews 12 is key in helping us understand the huge opportunity to be transformed by faith - and to become followers who will honor the Lord God through how we live our lives.



Hebrews Chapter Chart

A Bread of Life Bible Study Guide. Copyright 1990.

Questions	Chapter	Title	Verse
<p>What does this chapter teach us about Jesus' relationship with the Father, men and angels?</p> <p>In what ways has God chosen to speak?</p> <p>Note this author's incredible use of the Psalms, the Law, and the Prophets. In this chapter alone he refers to Psalm 2, 97, 104, 45, 102, 110, and 103!</p>	1		
<p>Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted and what practical benefit does this have for us? What do you think "taste death" means? What appear to be the connections between Jesus and us? It would be good to read Psalm 8 and Psalm 22 here.</p>	2		
<p>In what way is Moses compared to the angels? What is the relationship between disobedience and unbelief?</p> <p>What is the chief difference between Moses and Jesus? What was the reason for Israel's lack of rest?</p> <p>Psalm 95 would be helpful here!</p>	3		
<p>How would you explain God's <i>Sabbath rest</i>? How do we miss it? How do we find it?</p> <p>What does the Word of God have to do with our rest? What do you think about this image concerning the Word?</p>	4		

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

There are a number of difficult passages in the book of Hebrews. The attached study on the "difficulties in Hebrews" should prove helpful. Above all it must be recognized that the author of Hebrews expected his readers to experience a living faith. We can learn much from the book of Hebrews about daily faith in our Creator, and how to move from mere conformity to being transformed by the Holy Spirit of grace!



Hebrews Chapter Chart

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Questions	Chapter	Title	Verse
<p>How difficult would it have been to be Jesus? Read about Melchizedek in Genesis 14 and Psalm 110. Who is Melchizedek and why is he brought up in this book?</p> <p>When it comes to knowing God, what would you consider to be <i>milk</i>? <i>Solid food</i>?</p>	5		
<p>What is the relationship between <i>older</i> and <i>better</i> and what was the author getting at?</p> <p>What was the context of <i>falling away</i> for the audience that was being addressed in this letter?</p> <p>Read Genesis 22 and discover why God “swore by Himself.” Notice the word “better.” Circle it each time you find it in Hebrews.</p>	6		
<p>Note the comparisons between Jesus and Melchizedek in chapters 5,6,7. Why is this done?</p> <p>What was not provided by the <i>first covenant</i>? What is the practical difference between the two covenants for a believer? What is the “word of the oath?”</p>	7		
<p>What is the difference between Jesus’ sacrifice and the shedding of blood under the Levitical requirements? Read Jeremiah 31 for a better understanding of the new covenant.</p> <p>What is the significance of the copies?</p>	8		
<p>Jesus visited the Temple in Jerusalem on a number of occasions - where did He “appear?” What makes Jesus’ covenant “better?” How accurate are the “copies?”</p>	9		

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

These subjects are absolutely incredible when it comes to closing the loop on how the God Story is woven together. It is so exciting to dig in and see how complete, specific, and life-cahnging the scriptures can be! How does the idea of Jesus being your High Priest make you feel? What does it do for your day by day spiritual life?



Hebrews Chapter Chart

A Bread of Life Bible Study Guide. Copyright 1990.

Questions	Chapter	Title	Verse
<p>What purpose did the Jewish sacrifices accomplish? Where does forgiveness fit in with satisfaction for our falling short of the glory of God?</p> <p>Why is endurance so important? How is it possible that the blood of bulls and goats were not sufficient to cover the people's sins?</p> <p>What form of persecution and challenges do you think these believers were enduring?</p>	10		
<p>As you meditate on these acts of faith, try to identify with each person. What is common to each? What is different? What would you say was the author's main point about faith?</p> <p>What makes faith active and alive?</p>	11		
<p>What does it mean to <i>come short</i>? What was Jesus' anchor and comfort in His sufferings? Why is it important to submit to God's discipline in our lives?</p> <p>Take a moment to make a list of the characteristics of the "two mountains." Which mountain do you choose and how does it make you feel?</p>	12		
<p>What is the significance of going <i>outside the camp</i>? This is a closing statement about how to apply the sacrifice of Christ in community. What do you learn?</p>	13		

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

It appears that all along faith has been God's focus. Whether Adam, Noah, Moses, Abraham, David, Jesus, or the disciples: faith is the end game for the follower of God. It is neat to know that God is moving heaven and earth to bring us to faith - faith that can give us meaning in life - and eternal life in death!

DIFFICULTIES IN HEBREWS

The book of Hebrews contains some troubling passages that can seem to indicate we are the ones who keep ourselves in the love of God through our obedience.

Read these passages and see if you think that it is possible to fall out of God's favor. Don't be surprised that reading them out of context can make you feel exactly that way!

2:1-3; 3:12,13; 4:1,7; 6:1-8; 10:26-31

Several key questions when trying to interpret these passages:

Who was the target of this letter?

What is the main argument that is unfolding in the book of Hebrews?

This is key: What is the connection between unbelief, falling short, and disobedience?

What is the true "Sabbath rest" of the people of God?

Can you see why these passages could be misinterpreted if not viewed in context?

Fixing your eyes upon Jesus! (1:1-3)

The writer to the Hebrews was very concerned that his audience not get it wrong when it came to who Jesus was in relationship to everything and everyone that had preceded His visit to earth in human form. Circle each place where Jesus is referred to in Hebrews *in your Bible*.

2:9 3:1 4:14 6:20 7:22 10:19
12:2 12:24 13:12 13:20,21

As you read these passages and their contexts, what do you learn about Christ's place among the prophets and religious leaders in history?



I wrote the following paper during a one-year study with a Jewish Christ-follower. I felt it was a great privilege to consider the relationship between the Law and Messiah Yeshua with someone who was so passionate and dedicated to his views from the scriptures.

While we ended up disagreeing on several major points, the encounter put words and passages to many things I had weighed over my years as a teacher. I hope you will find it helpful to your faith.

THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT

Psalm 19:7

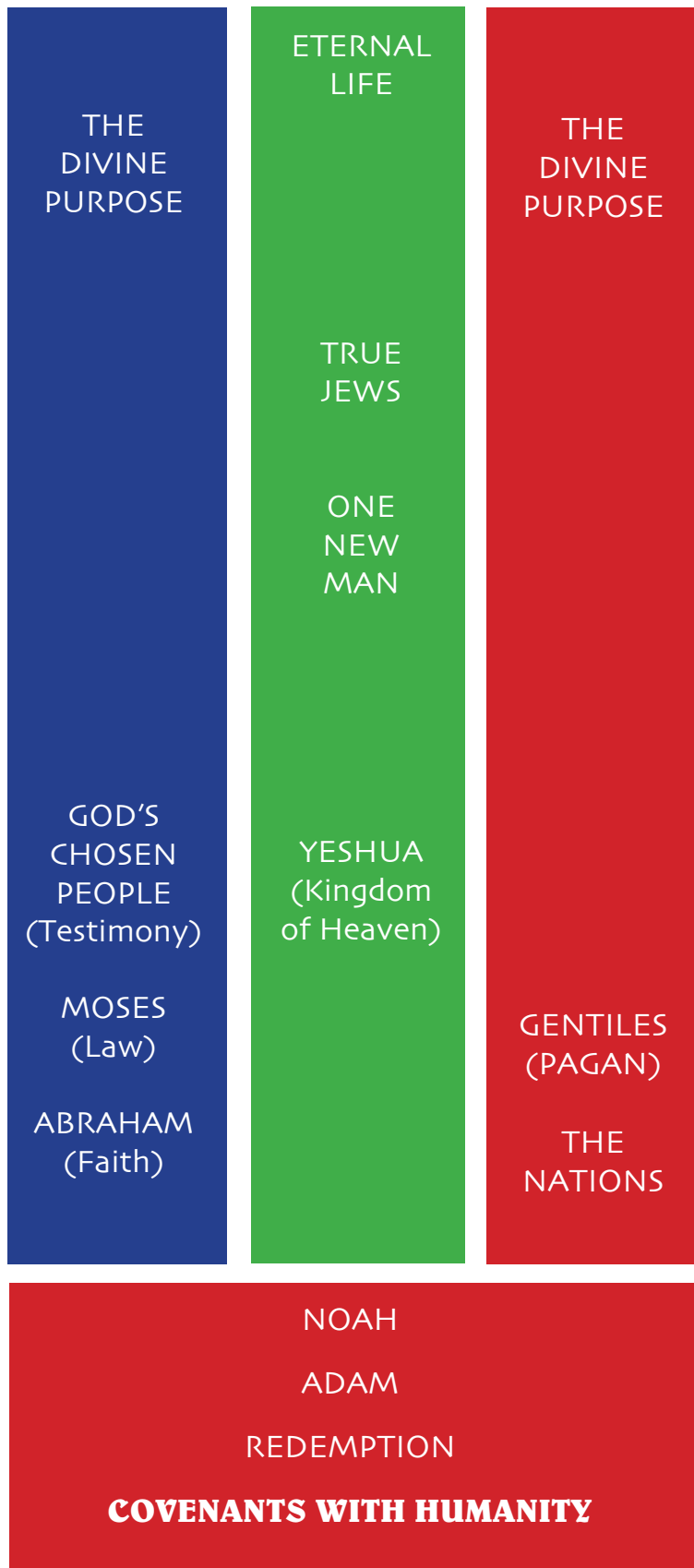
It is simply wrong to assert, as many have, that the Law of the Lord that Moses presented to the sons of Israel was somehow dissolved by Jesus (Yeshua). If the Law of the Lord is perfect (and it is - **Psalm 19**), why would the Jesus Who said “I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill the Law” in **Matthew 5:17-20**, set it aside to begin something new? In fact, there is no evidence that Jesus was anything other than a Law keeping and Law fulfilling rabbi (teacher).

It is important to realize that the *Law* (the 613 laws of Torah) is different from the *law* (thousands of “commentary clarifications” added by rabbis throughout history). Jesus’ conflict with the religious leaders seldom occurred because of the Law, but because of the law. They were simply - hypocrites. In all of their devotion to their “law” they had missed the very essence and purpose of the Law. Gentiles find ourselves in even more dire straights. Without the Law, the Gentiles are pagan to our core, and like the arrogant Jews, lost in a labyrinth of *self-worship* (Romans 1,2).

It is equally disturbing to juxtapose the “Law” as antithetical to “grace.” The Law is a *part* of His grace, inviting the law of Faith (Romans 3:27) to deliver the souls of men, even as the Law given through Moses reveals our sin (Romans 7:7). Through faith in Messiah the Law relinquishes its death grip on all who believe. This is a huge part of the argument of Paul’s letter to the **Romans**, and is completely consistent with what the scriptures of the Law claim for themselves (Deuteronomy 30:11-20).

There is very good reason to believe that the WRITTEN Torah (Moses) and the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44) were exact representations of YESHUA - the LIVING Torah (John 1:14). After all, why would the God-breathed written Law differ in any way from the “Word Made Flesh?” (Luke 16:17)

It is my purpose here to investigate the biblical arguments related to the “one new man” spoken of in **Ephesians 2**, where Jew and Gentile alike are brought together in the faith of Abraham, and delivered from futility and death by the work of Jesus (Yeshua), Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



THEOLOGY OF TIME

I am a student of the big picture, trying not to get too wrapped up in details until I can place them in the greater context. While this has proven to be an arduous way to interpret the scriptures, it has protected me from proof-texting and adding to or taking away from what has been written.

All conclusions about doctrine must flow from the scriptures interpreting themselves. These are some critical elements needing to be reintroduced to the Kingdom conversation as we approach the precipice of the consummation of all things.

Through ADAM comes life and death and the need to cover sin. (Romans 5:12)

Through ABRAHAM comes the promised SEED. (Galatians 3:16)

The HEBREWS are the ROOT of the Kingdom. (Romans 11:18)

JESUS is the TRUE VINE and the King. (John 15; 18:37)

His FOLLOWERS (True Jews) are the BRANCHES. They are harvested from among both Jews and Gentiles. (Romans 11:16-24)

We are to bear MUCH FRUIT in love. (Matthew 13:23; John 15:8)

Together Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua make up the *one new man* of Ephesians 2.

The closest red box above outlines the pre-Hebrew history of the human race. The vertical red area displays His continued plan for the nations or "Gentiles." The blue column recounts His plan for His Chosen People. The green box represents Yahweh's plan to bring Jew and Gentile together in Yeshua Messiah or Jesus. **One new man.** The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

NOAH

ADAM

REDEMPTION

COVENANTS WITH HUMANITY

COVENANTS WITH HUMANITY

The bible does not begin with the Hebrew story. It begins with the human story. Adam and Eve are not Jews, they are the offspring of God. Paul the Apostle understood this when he spoke to the Greeks in Athens (Acts 17). God made a covenant with the Son before the foundation of the world - to redeem the world (Revelation 13:8). He was not taken by surprise when Adam and Eve sinned. He made a covenant with Noah when He placed the first rainbow in the sky. Once more He will shake the earth (Hebrew 12:26,27). This is important - because even the Hebrew story has a greater context. *Something all Jews would do well to pay attention.*

When Yahweh (our Creator) placed His hand upon Abram He set into motion His plan to set apart a people to demonstrate His power to the nations - His favor and His presence until the end of time. The Jews would be given His "oracles" or Law - so that both Jews and Gentiles would understand our precarious, lost position - as well as to demonstrate how special the children of faith are to our Father. He would display His power among them, and His Chosen people would be the apple of His eye. From this people would come the Messiah - the One who would save both Jew and Gentile. *Something all Gentiles would do well to pay attention.*

The way of faith has always been His way. If Adam and Eve had placed faith in His Word - they would have believed Him rather than the Tempter. We learn from Hebrews 11 that imperfect men and women of faith have always been His instruments. Faith is always His goal - for through faith we honor Him and find eternal life.

But being born a Jew insured nothing of a spiritual nature. This is one of the chief messages of the Hebrew story and witness. For without **faith** it is impossible to please God. Period. Though the Chosen People were delivered out of Egypt and given the Law and the Tabernacle, (a way of sacrifice and honor, inviting them to know the One who had formed them) - spirituality would come only by **faith**.

The Gentiles did not have the experience of being God's chosen people and yet seem to instinctively be able to do "the Law." (Romans 2:14) The law of faith is never kept from Jew or Gentile. Faith is the only way any human may please God (Matthew 8:10).



The blue column displays the lineage of Abraham, the chosen people, and Moses the prophet. From the Jews would come the Messiah Yeshua - He would save the world from our sins. Not only would the written word be given to the chosen people, the Light of the World would be born of a Jewish virgin. Within Israel the eternal Son of God will nurture and grow. Under the tutor of the Law He will train. And this very Law that revealed the holiness of our Creator would be applied to Him - and He would die. Just like the blood on the door posts of their homes (Exodus 12:22) He would become our Passover Lamb. For without the shedding of blood there is no taking away sins (Hebrews 9:22). No forgiveness. It was absolutely necessary that the Lamb be sinless - without blemish (Hebrews 9:14). There was no other way for mankind to find forgiveness.

But Israel rejected Yeshua as her Messiah. He became the prophesied stumbling block of Psalm 118. The Jews will now “go it alone” until the end of the age, when Jew and Gentile will come together as “**one new man.**” Jesus (Yeshua) through faith is the Lord of all children of **faith** - whether of Israel or from among the Gentiles. For according to Paul, “they are not all Israel who are of Israel.” (Romans 2:28,29; 9:6-8)

The Divine purpose is clear - He will call from among Jews and Gentiles the true Israel of God. While Jews look for signs and Greeks search for wisdom, **the substance belongs Christ** (Colossians 2:17). He will make “one new man” and through faith will form the great people who will dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:12-21). May the Name of the Living God be blessed forever and ever!

Jews look for signs and most have rejected Messiah. Their arrogance has become a snare. But this does not negate the fact that they are God’s chosen people. For God has not rejected His people, has He? (Romans 11). While Greeks search for wisdom, we are puffed up in our knowledge and cling to our pagan roots. The nations (who instinctively do the Law) and the Jews (who have the Law) are all shut up under sin by the Law (Romans 2; 11:32).

Abraham is the father of faith - Jesus/Yeshua is the **Seed** (Galatians 3:16). The Jews are the **root** (Romans 11:16-18), Jesus is the **Vine** (John 15:1), we (followers of Jesus) are the **branches** (Romans 11:16-24). It is His intention that these “true Jews” who are sons of Abraham (faith) produce **fruit** John 15:5,8).

As the diagram to the left indicates, **all things begin with faith**. Adam's faith. Cain and Abel's faith and sacrifice. Noah's faith. Abraham's faith. Moses' faith 430 years later - the Law. How will this nation be His nation? How will this profane people become holy before their Deliverer? The purpose of the Law given through Moses was to bring this idea of God's ownership of His people (and all of humanity) into focus - and to distinguish the Jews among the nations for the Father's purposes (Leviticus 11:44/Exodus 15:26). He was their God - and they were His people.

The Hebrew story unfolds through Moses, Joshua, the Judges, and the Kings. The 400 silent years have been completed. No prophet has spoken since Malachi promised that the "Sun of Righteousness would arise with healing in His wings." Then silence is broken by the one who would "prepare the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40). And what does John the Baptist say? (Matthew 3:2) And what does Jesus say? (Matthew 4:17) **There is now a very definite focus on the Kingdom**. His people (and the rest of the nations) are asked to "repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Not since David and the Psalms have we seen such a watershed of information about the Kingdom. Why? Because with the coming of Yeshua, God's Son, the Kingdom of heaven was at hand! Who is the King? Yeshua, Son of the Living God. Of what does His kingdom consist? Men and women of faith - true Jews of the "one new man" - Living stones, vibrating with life! (1 Peter 2:5)

Even now I feel echoes of Romans 11:33 overcoming my mind and my heart. For "His ways are not my ways, His thoughts not my thoughts!" (Isaiah 55:8,9)

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Now the King has arrived upon the earth to save the souls of men and to enter into His role as High priest in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 6:20). He will not **abolish** anything that had been written. He is the **object** of all that has been written (Matthew 5:17).

He is all in all. He is better than the angels, better than Moses, better than Aaron (the teaching of the book of Hebrews). He is the Mediator of a better covenant, enacted upon better promises." (Hebrews 8:6) All things authentic on earth are mere copies of what is in heaven. (Hebrews 9:11-14). He has torn the veil to the Holy place from top to bottom. The mercy seat is His. The covering of holiness is His. The blood once and for all sprinkled upon the mercy seat is His (Hebrews 9:12). He will come again as King and Righteous Judge of the earth (Revelation 19:13).

He is the fulfillment of all that has been spoken and written by the Father.

Colossians 1:15-20

This is why the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:17

The focus in the scriptures through Messiah becomes, once again, His ownership of His people for the praise of His magnificent Name. It is now time to make both groups into One New Man.

"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." (Romans 2:29)

CONNECTING THE BRANCHES WITH THE ROOT

Read Romans 9-11

Some historical and modern thinkers would have us believe that Jesus started His new religion in 34 AD. The Scriptures teach nothing of the sort. Abraham is the Father of the Hebrews, the Living God created these Jews for His own purposes, and that purpose included delivering the written Word to man, and then, in the fullness of times - the Living Word, His Son Yeshua or "Jesus" to the world. Jesus' followers are "true Jews" and are the beneficiaries of being "grafted in" to the covenant of redemption and the promise made to Abraham.

Jesus was the "Messiah" Whom the Living God had promised. According to the Scriptures, Jesus is His Son - and this is the same Jesus Who made the world! When God killed animals to cover Adam and Eve's sin He set into motion a "shedding of blood" that would find its pinnacle in the spilled blood of His own willing Son. The Son would birth into the world and sinlessly give Himself for the sin of the world. He would die, raise from the dead, and take the role of High Priest - at the right hand of His Father - and cover the sins of all who believe in His Name (Hebrews 7).

To paint authentic Christianity without the roots of our Hebrew heritage is a sad error. We owe our human story to the Hebrews. The scriptures were given to and cared for by the Jews. Jesus or "Yeshua" was Hebrew. The first tens of thousands of converts following Christ were Jewish. Though the Good News has been taken to the Gentiles, for thousands of years it was protected in the cradle of Judaism. It would be a huge mistake to try to grow the branches without the root.

It is not a matter of making Gentile Christ-followers into Jews. We are not related to Abraham by blood. It is, however, hugely important to discover what a "true Jew" is - and what it means to BE one of these true Jews. Every word and letter of the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms and the Messiah and the Apostles - all give us keys to understand what it means to live by faith and not by sight. After all, Abraham (faith) precedes Moses, according to Paul and the rest of the scriptures, by 430 years (Galatians 3:17).

THE JEW & THE TRUE JEW

Read Romans 2

It appears that Yahweh appointed and anointed Paul to be the bridge from the Hebrew experience to the gathering of the nations at the end of the age. The Father had (and has) very special plans for His Chosen People. They are His instruments to bring His righteousness to the world. Through the Jews the written Word would be preserved, His power would be made known, and through the tribe of Judah the Messiah would come.

THE TRUE JEW

The true Jew is not merely Jewish or Gentile. He or she is “a new man,” old things have passed away - all things have become new. Simply a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Everything written in the Law is profitable for doctrine, teaching, and training in righteousness. The whole “new testament” is built upon the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to **fulfill** it (Matthew 5:17). In fact, He IS the Living “Torah” or Law (John 1:1,14). There is only ONE testament. There is only One Living God.

This fulfillment of the Law begins with **His perfect sacrifice**. By believing in the sacrifice of Jesus, the need for the Aaronic priesthood and the blood of bulls and goats is no longer required (Hebrews 10:4). The “better covenant” is so-termed because it fulfills the requirements of the Law in Messiah (Hebrews 8:6). *This in no way means that we cannot learn from understanding what the Law says about sacrifice. It does mean that the requirement of the Law is satisfied with regard to sacrifice.* This is the central teaching of Hebrews. Jesus’ covenant is better than angels, better than Moses, better than Aaron. He created the angels, fulfilled Moses’ (Yahweh’s) requirement for blood, and became our perfect High Priest - taking away the need for the Aaronic priesthood to offer the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 7:27).

Like the need for **sacrifice** being fulfilled in Christ, the need for circumcision has also been met through faith. A circumcised heart is the mark of a true Jew (Romans 2:29), and to make a converted Gentile live like a Jew would be as faulty as trying to make a Jew live like a Gentile. The promises and purposes belong to the Jews, and we have been “grafted in” to their story through faith. This is why Paul goes to such pains to explain the “law of faith” in Galatians (Romans 3:27), contrasting the bond-woman with the free woman. But Jew and Gentile alike find our home in the **One New Man**. True Jews - circumcised in heart and guided in conscience by the Spirit of the Living God (Hebrews 9:14).

Physical **circumcision** was the sign of the covenant for the Jews, but heart circumcision is for true Jews. The Law’s required sacrifices were completed in Christ and the 613 Laws of the Torah continue to explain righteousness (Matthew 5:18; Romans 7:18; 1 Timothy 1:8). *But the substance belongs to Christ.* The Hebrew “copies” find their fullness in the One who is the Great High Priest - Yeshua, Son of God. This in no way means the Tabernacle and the Temple and everything in them are not “profitable for doctrine.” It does, however, mean that the goal is to make all children of faith, Jew and Gentile, into “true Jews.”

According to Yeshua in Matthew 22, all of the Law flows from two commandments. “One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ “This is the great and foremost commandment. “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The Ten Commandments were given two times on tablets to Moses at Horeb, and in them we find the guideposts upon which all the Law, Psalms, and the prophets hinge. These guideposts lead us to Messiah, and our birth into the spiritual family of “one new man.” Through the foundation of His eternal Word and His written Law upon our hearts, our consciences are renewed day by day - as **true Jews of the Spirit through the law of faith.**

ONE NEW MAN

The Law of the Lord is perfect (Psalm 19:7).

Jesus did not come to abolish but to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17-20).

Jesus is the Living Torah (John 1:14).

The Law is a part of His grace (Romans 7:7) **inviting us to the law of faith** (Romans 3:27).

The requirements of the Law are completely fulfilled in the work of Messiah (Deuteronomy 30:11-20 and Galatians).

Through ADAM comes life and death and the need to cover sin. (Romans 5:12)

Through ABRAHAM comes the promised SEED. (Galatians 3:16)

The HEBREWS are the ROOT of the Kingdom. (Romans 11:18)

JESUS (Yeshua) is the TRUE VINE and the King. (John 15; 18:37)

His FOLLOWERS (True Jews) are the BRANCHES, harvested

from among both Jews and Gentiles. (Romans 11:16-24)

We are to bear MUCH FRUIT in love. (Matthew 13:23; John 15:8)

Together Jewish and Gentile followers of Yeshua make up the one new man of Ephesians 2:15.

His divine purpose is to bring His Kingdom to fruition within this **one new man** (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Revelation 19:16).

The Jews have the Law, the Gentiles instinctively “do the things of the law” (Romans 2:14) because we are all the offspring of God (Acts 17).

True Jews (Romans 2:28,29; 9:6-8) are those who embrace His Son and are children of faith through the Seed (Galatians 3:16).

The substance belongs to Messiah, because He fulfills the Law (Colossians 2:17; Galatians 2:16).

To paint authentic Christianity without the roots of our Hebrew heritage is a sad error. We owe our human story to the Hebrews. The scriptures were given to and cared for by the Jews. Jesus or “Yeshua” was Hebrew. The first tens of thousands of converts to follow Christ were Jewish. Though the Good News has been brought to the Gentiles, for thousands of years it was protected in the cradle of Judaism. It would be a huge mistake to try to grow the branches without the root.

It is not a matter of making Gentile Christ-followers into Jews. We are not related to Abraham by blood. It is, however, hugely important to discover what a “true Jew” is - and what it means to BE one of these true Jews. Every word and letter of the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms and the Messiah and the Apostles - all give us keys to understand what it means to live by faith and not by sight. After all, Abraham (faith) precedes Moses, according to Paul and the rest of the scriptures, by 430 years (Galatians 3:17). Our goal is not to become law-keepers, but to use (obey) the law lawfully to bring about a clear conscience before our King and Creator (Hebrews 10:22).

For Jewish and Gentile followers of Messiah to search for **harmony** under the promises and covenants fulfilled in Jesus is a privilege of the end of the age. While such enquiry provides a **tension** that neither Jew or Gentile will find “comfortable,” it is key to the fulfillment of the one new man of Ephesians 2.

Selah!

IN CHRIST
"one new man"
Ephesians 2:11-22

JEW
Yahweh

GENTILE
The Living God
or Idolatry

The Written Torah
(613 laws of life)

"Both groups into one"

The Living Torah: Yeshua
(Two "hanging" Commands)

WORD OF GOD
Written upon our hearts by
the Spirit of the Living God.
Jeremiah 31:31

**The TEN & the 603
Honor Yahweh.
Honor His Word.
Keep His signs.**

**Times and the seasons. Feasts, Sabbaths, etc.
Dietary holiness and purity.
Pray and bless.
Love the Brotherhood.
Remembering the poor.
The Gentiles.
Marriage, Divorce, and family.
Sexual purity.**

**How we conduct business.
Employees, servants, and slaves.
Vows, oaths, and swearing.**

**The Sabbath year/and the year of Jubilee.
The court and judicial procedures.
Injuries and damages.
Property and Property rights.
Criminal laws.
Punishment and restitution.
Response to the prophets.
Idolatry and idolatrous practices.
Agriculture and animals.
Clothing.**

**The Firstborn.
Kohanim and Levites.
Offerings, tithes, taxes.
The Temple, the Sanctuary, the Sacred Objects.
Sacrifices and Offerings.
Ritual purity and impurity.
Lepers and leprosy.
The King.
Nazarites.
Wars.**

All of the 613 laws of Torah (the Law and the Prophets and Psalms) "are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16

HEBREWS IN REVIEW

Here are some solid reflections on the book of Hebrews that can help you put together some of the thoughts from the time you have spent here.

What would you consider to be the main point of the letter to the Hebrews?

What have you concluded to be the relationship between the Law and Messiah?

In a nutshell, what would you consider to be the main teaching gleaned from the example of Melchizedek?

What is your conclusion about the existence and involvement of angels?

The word “better” is used 13 times in Hebrews. Summarize the significance.

What would you consider to be the true “sabbath rest” of God’s people?

HEBREWS IN REVIEW (continued)

What would be your take on the difficult passages in the letter to the Hebrews?

Is it theologically possible for someone to know God and lose God?

Who is your favorite person in the faith chapter (11)? Why are they your favorite?

What personal spiritual use is the teaching concerning the two mountains (12)?

What would you say was the main thing you gathered from this study?

Do you feel you have met Jesus “outside the camp?”

How would you rate your time invested in the letter to the Hebrews?



“...who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever.”

- Romans 9:4,5

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