

# HOLD FAST TO JESUS

AN INDEPTH STUDY OF HEBREWS

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*Welcome!*

# HOLD FAST TO JESUS

**Who wrote the book of Hebrews?**

**Consider:**

**Our attitude**

**Our assessment**

**Our attention**

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Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. <sup>2</sup> In these last days, He has spoken to us by *His Son*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's Word is Inerrant.

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Mark 9:7-8    <sup>7</sup> And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"    <sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.

**HOLD FAST TO JESUS**

**Appropriate Assessment**

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## Appropriate Assessment

In keeping with the **style** of a person well educated in formal rhetoric, the Greek of Hebrews is highly literary and very ornate.

\*The **vocabulary** is sophisticated, and it includes 150 words that are not found elsewhere in the New Testament and 10 that do not occur in any other Greek writings that have survived for our study.

\*The **structure** of the epistle conforms to conventions found in Greek rhetoric used when a speech was designed to persuade its audience to action. Much of this rhetorical achievement is lost when the original Greek of Hebrews is translated into modern language, but in the original it is elegant and euphonious Greek prose. The high rhetorical quality of Hebrews indicates that its author most likely had the most advanced literary education of any of the New Testament writers.

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/who-wrote-the-book-of-hebrews>

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## \* Ends like a letter:

**Hebrews 13:22-25** <sup>22</sup> And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. <sup>23</sup> Know that *our* brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. <sup>24</sup> Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. <sup>25</sup> Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

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## \* **Main focus:**

subject matter different from any other book in the New Testament:

the High priesthood of Jesus



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## Authors of New Testament books:

1. Matthew
2. Mark – writing for Peter
3. Luke (Luke, Acts)
4. John – John, 1,2,3 John, Revelation
5. Paul
6. James
7. Jude

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Paul wrote:

1. Romans
2. 1 Corinthians
3. 2 Corinthians
4. Galatians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians
7. Colossians
8. 1 Thessalonians
9. 2 Thessalonians
10. 1 Timothy
11. 2 Timothy
12. Titus
13. Philemon

# HOLD FAST TO JESUS

Proposed authors of Hebrews:

- Paul
- Luke
- Barnabus
- Silas
- Apollos
- Priscilla

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In at least one set of New Testament letters, the order is:

1. Romans
2. **HEBREWS**
3. 1 Corinthians
4. 2 Corinthians
5. Galatians
6. Ephesians
7. Philippians
8. Colossians
9. 1 Thessalonians
10. 2 Thessalonians
11. 1 Timothy
12. 2 Timothy
13. Titus
14. Philemon

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Parallels between Paul's writing and Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:3

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

Hebrews 2:4

“God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Hebrews 2:14( – 17)

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death. . . .”

Hebrews 8:6

“But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.”

Hebrews 10:14

“For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

Colossians 1:15 – 17

“The Son is the image of the invisible God. . . . For in him all things were created . . . and in him all things hold together.”

1 Corinthians 12:11

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

Philippians 2:7 – 8

“Being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being,

he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death —  
even death on a cross!”

2 Corinthians 3:6

“He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

Romans 5:9; 12:1

“Since we have now been justified by his blood”; “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

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Luke is a physician who accompanies Paul through thick and thin ([Co 4:14](#); [2 Ti 4:11](#)). His skills probably come in handy, because Paul takes a lot of beatings (2 Co 24ff).

But Luke's greatest legacy is his contribution to the New Testament. Luke writes more of the NT than anyone else (yes, even more than Paul). Luke's a meticulous journalist who sets out to record the life and ministry of Jesus in consecutive order ([Lk 1:1-4](#)), and later records the history of the early church ([Ac 1:1-2](#)). He composes these accounts on behalf of a mysterious Christian named Theophilus, who wants to learn more about his Christian faith.

## HOLD FAST TO JESUS

Clement of Alexandria (c. 155-220) is quoted by Eusebius (*Ecclesiastical History*, VI. 14) as saying that “the Epistle to the Hebrews is the work of Paul, . . . it was written to the Hebrews in the Hebrew language; but . . . Luke translated it carefully and published it for the Greeks, and hence the same style of expression is found in this epistle and in the Acts.”

Origen (c. 185-254) is quoted by Eusebius (*Ecclesiastical History*, VI. 25) as saying “but who wrote the epistle, in truth, God knows. The statement of some who have gone before us is that Clement, bishop of the Romans, wrote the epistle, and of others that Luke, the author of the gospel and the Acts, wrote it.”



**Heb 2: 9** Jesus, crowned with glory and honor

**Hebrews 3:1**, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession;

**Hebrews 4:14** Therefore since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens -- Jesus the Son of God

**Hebrews 6:20** where Jesus our forerunner entered on our behalf, since he became a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 7:22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

**Hebrews 10:10** For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time

**Hebrews 10:19** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

**Hebrews 12:2** looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of *our* faith

**Hebrews 12:24** Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

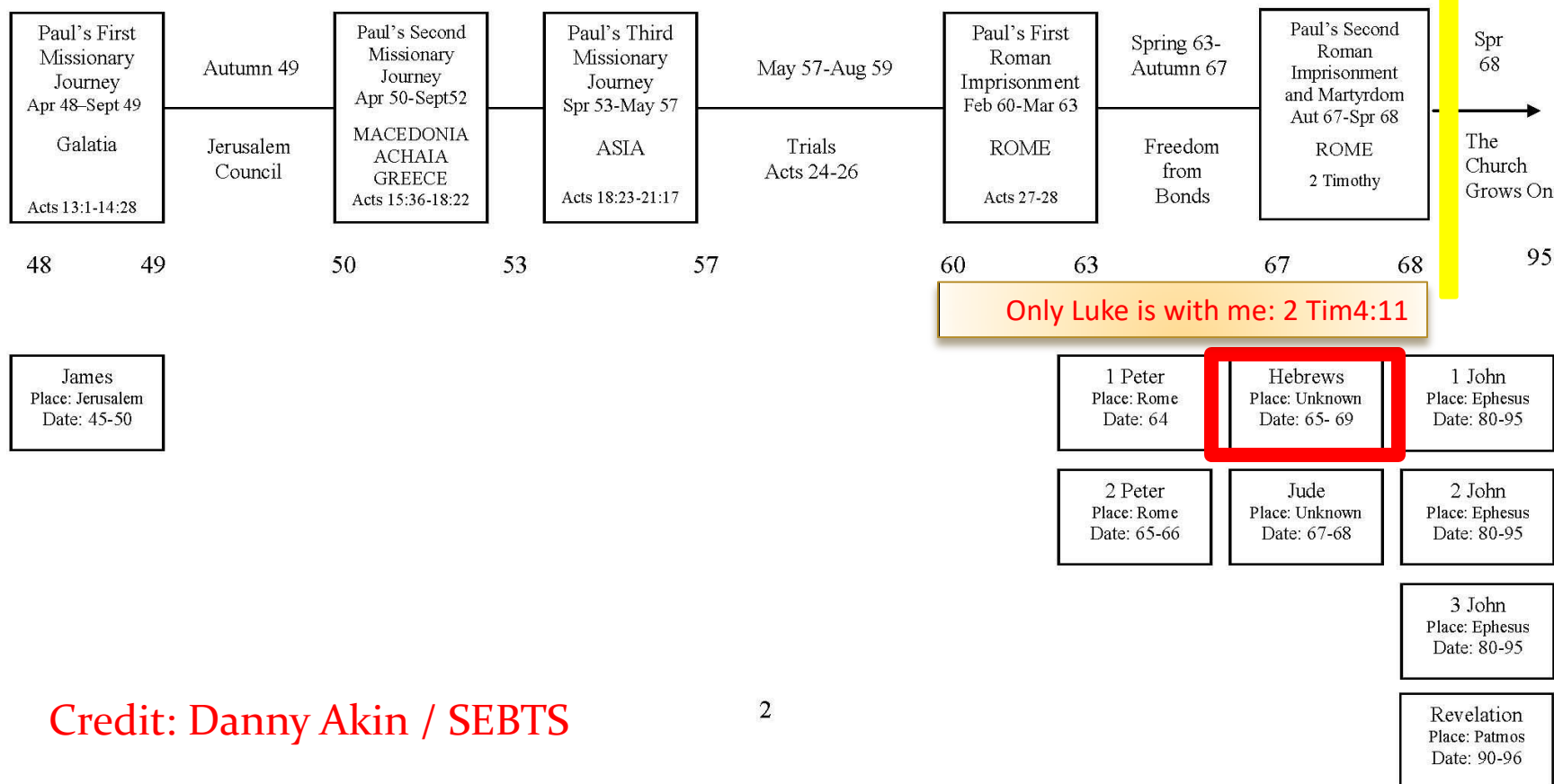
**Hebrews 13:12** So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

**Hebrews 13:20** our Lord Jesus -- the great Shepherd of the sheep

**Hebrews 13:21** Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever

# The Place of Hebrews, the General Epistles and Revelation in the New Testament History

70AD destruction  
of Temple in  
Jerusalem



Please prepare to share with your group:

(make a note of the Bible verse)

What description of Jesus is especially meaningful to you right now?

**Hebrews 3:6** but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son

**Hebrews 5:5** So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

**Hebrews 9:11** But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come

**Hebrews 9:24** For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf

**Hebrews 9:28** so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

**Hebrews 1:2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his **Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

**Hebrews 1:5** For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

**Hebrews 1:8** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

**Hebrews 5:5** So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

**Hebrews 5:8** Though a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered.

**Hebrews 7:28** For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.