**A STUDY OF HEBREWS: AN INTRODUCTION**

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***1. What kind of a document is it?***

a. Hebrews is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that has been packaged in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

When you read it, imagine yourself reading the transcript of a speech. The author switches

back and forth between teaching, encouraging, warning, illustrating, exhorting, and frequently

uses personal asides.

b. If you try to read it like one of Paul’s letters (with a more rigid structure) you will become

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is more of an informal conversation

than a formal argument.

***2. Who wrote it?***

a. The author does not reveal themselves and their name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to history.

i. Over the centuries various authors have been proposed (Paul was once a popular option.) A great

candidate (in my mind) is Apollos (Acts 18:24-28).

ii. While we do not know the name of the author, here is what we do know:

1.) The author was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2.) The author had a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Old Testament scriptures.

3.) The author was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4.) The author was a committed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, deeply concerned about the souls

of his audience.

5.) The author appeared to have an existing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with his audience.

***3. Who was the original, intended audience?***

a. The original audience appears to have been a relatively small group of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christians

(perhaps a home group) who had been raised in the Jewish synagogue but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to Christianity.

 i. The author assumes his audience has an extensive knowledge of the Old Testament.

ii. The author uses theological concepts that were very popular in Greek-speaking synagogues in the

first century (veneration of Moses, belief that angels were mediators of the O.T. law...)

b. The original audience appears to have been based in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, sometime around \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

 i. Why Rome?

1.) Compare Hebrews 13:24 with Acts 18:2.

2.) The earliest historical use (quoting) of Hebrews was from a letter written by Clement of

Rome at the end of the first century.

ii. Why around 64 A.D.? The following facts fit well with the history of Rome during that time:

1.) The recipients had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a while. (Hebrews 5:11-6:3)

2.) They had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through a time of persecution in the past. (10:32-34)

3.) They had yet to suffer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (12:4)

4.) The level of persecution was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (11:35-12:3; 12:7; 13:3, 12-17)

 5.) The Temple in Jerusalem appeared to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***4. What was the purpose of the sermon/letter?***

a. It appears that these Jewish Christians had recently slipped into a season of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Some of them were in danger of leaving their Christian faith and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to

worshipping in the Jewish synagogue.

b. The author \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to this topic by focusing upon the divine nature of Jesus,

His superiority to Moses, His superiority to angels, the superiority of His priesthood over

Aaron’s priesthood, the dangers of apathy, along with practical ways to grow in one’s faith.

***5. Here are some topics we will directly be dealing with through our study of Hebrews.***

a. Clear evidence for the deity of Jesus Christ.

b. Why did God have to become a human in order to rescue humans from sin?

c. Is it possible for a Christ follower to lose their salvation? If so, what does one have to do in order

to walk down this road?

d. How did Jesus’ life and ministry specifically and uniquely meet our needs?

e. Why is the New Testament so much better than the Old Testament?

f. How can a Christ follower avoid and/or overcome apathy in their faith?