

# HEBREWS OUTLINE

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The following is taken from George Guthrie, *Hebrews*, NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), but it does not always follow the format of Guthrie's outline.

- I. Introduction: God Has Spoken to Us in a Son (1:1-4)
  - A. The climax of divine communication (1:1-2a)
  - B. The person, work, and status of the Son (1:2b-4)
- II. The Position of the Son in Relation to the Angels (1:5-2:18)
  - A. The Son superior to the angels (1:5-14)
    - 1. The Son's unique relationship with the Father (1:5)
    - 2. The inferior position of the angels (1:6-7)
    - 3. The eternality of the Son's reign and relationship to the cosmos (1:8-12)
    - 4. The Son's position at the right hand in contrast with the position of the angels (1:13-14)

- **First Hortatory Interjection** – FIRST WARNING: Do not reject the word spoken through God's Son! (2:1-4)

- 1. A caution against drifting (2:1)

- 2. Motivation for heeding this admonition (2:2-3a)

- 3. The message of salvation (2:3b-4)

- B. The superior Son for a time became positionally lower than the angels (2:5-9)

- 1. Submission of all things to Christ (2:5-8a)

- 2. What we do and do not see at present (2:8b-9)

- C. The Son lower than the angels (i.e., among humans) to suffer for the "sons" (i.e., heirs) (2:10-18)

- 1. The appropriateness of the Son's suffering (2:10)

- 2. The Son's solidarity with the "sons" (2:11-13)

- 3. The reason for the Incarnation (2:14-16)

- 4. Conclusion (2:17-18)

- **Second Hortatory Interjection**

- 1. Jesus, the supreme example of a faithful son (3:1-6)

- 2. The negative example of those who fell through faithlessness (3:7-19)

- 3. Transition: from the problem of the wanderers to the promise of rest "today" (4:1-2)

- 4. The promise of rest for those who are faithful (4:3-11)

- 5. SECOND WARNING: Consider the power of God's word (4:12-13)

- III. The Position of the Son, Our High Priest, in Relation to the Earthly Sacrificial System (4:14-10:25)

- A. Overlap: We have a sinless high priest who has gone into heaven (4:14-16)

- 1. Hold firmly to the faith (4:14-15)

- 2. Draw near to God (4:16)
- B. The appointment of the Son as a superior high priest (5:1-10; 7:1-28)
  - 1. Introduction: The son taken from among humans and appointed according to the order of Melchizedek (5:1-10)
    - a. Universal principles of high priesthood (5:1-4)
    - b. The appointment of Christ as high priest (5:5-6)
    - c. The path to appointment (5:7-10)
- **Third Hortatory Interjection**
  - 1. The present problem with the hearers (5:11-6:3)
    - 1.1. The author confronts the hearers (5:11-14)
    - 1.2. Moving on to maturity (6:1-3)
  - 2. THIRD WARNING: The danger of falling away from the Christian faith (6:4-8)
  - 3. Mitigation: The author's confidence in and desire for the hearer's (6:9-12)
  - 4. God's promise our basis of hope (6:13-20)
    - 4.1. The example of Abraham (6:13-15)
    - 4.2. The finality of oaths (6:16-18)
    - 4.3. The encouragement of a firm hope (6:19-20)
- 2. The superiority of Melchizedek (7:1-10)
  - a. An exposition on Melchizedek (7:1-3)
  - b. The greatness of Melchizedek (7:4-10)
- 3. The superiority of our eternal, Melchizedekian high priest (7:11-28)
  - a. The rules have changed (7:11-19)
  - b. The power of a divine oath (7:20-22)
  - c. The permanent priest (7:23-25)
  - d. A summary and transition (7:26-28)
- C. Transition: We have such a high priest, who is a minister in heaven (8:1-2)
- D. The superior offering of the appointed high priest (8:3-10:18)
  - 1. Introduction: The more excellent ministry of the heavenly high priest (8:3-6)
    - 2. The superiority of the new covenant (8:7-13)
    - 3. The superior new covenant offering (9:1-10:18)
      - a. Introduction: The pattern of old covenant worship – place, with blood, effect (9:1-10)
      - b. Introduction to Christological arguments concerning superiority of the Son's offering for sin (9:11-12)
        - c. Christ's superior blood (9:13-22)
        - d. A sacrifice in heaven (9:23-24)
        - e. The once-for-all offering (9:25-28)
        - f. An eternal sacrifice (10:1-18)
          - (1) The limited abilities of the law (10:1-4)
          - (2) The superior sacrifice of Christ (10:5-10)
          - (3) Christ's priestly activity contrasted with that of the Levitical priests (10:11-14)

(4) A reflection on the finality of Christ's sacrifice in light of the new covenant (10:15-18)

E. Overlap: We have a great priest who takes us into heaven (10:19-25)

1. Let us draw near to God (10:19-22)
2. Let us hold to our hope (10:23)
3. Let us encourage one another (10:24-25)

- **Fourth Hortatory Interjection**

1. **FOURTH WARNING:** The danger of rejecting God's truth and God's son (10:26-31)

2. The positive example of the hearer's past and an admonition to endure to receive the promise (10:32-39)

2.1. Remember the past (10:32-34)

2.2. Encouragement to persevere (10:35-39)

3. The positive example of the Old Testament faithful (Heb. 11:1-40)

3.1. Overture (11:1-3)

3.2. First examples of faith (11:4-12)

3.3. Interlude (11:13-16)

3.4. More examples of faith (11:17-31)

3.5. Crescendo and conclusion (11:32-40)

4. Reject sin and fix your eyes on Jesus, supreme example of endurance (12:1-2)

5. Endure discipline as sons (12:3-17)

5.1. The discipline of children (12:3-13)

5.2. The importance of choosing holiness (12:14-17)

6. The blessings of the new covenant (12:18-24)

6.1. The old covenant mountain (12:18-21)

6.2. The new covenant mountain (12:22-24)

7. **FIFTH WARNING:** Do not reject God's word (12:25-29)

8. Practical exhortations (13:1-19)

8.1. General guidelines for Christian living (13:1-6)

8.2. Guidelines on church leadership and doctrine (13:7-19)

IV. Benediction and Closing (13:20-25)