



The Theology and Authorship of Hebrews

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Goals

- Gain an understanding of the theological stances of the author of Hebrews
- Examine each theological stance
- Develop a “profile” based on the author’s theological stances
- Look at other writings for someone who matches this identification

Context

- 45 CE - 95 CE
- To a group of Jews and/or Jewish converts
- Epistle? Book? Doctrinal statement? Sermon?

Christology

- Superiority of Jesus
 - Angels, prophets, Moses, priests, human sacrifices
- “High Priest”
 - Once “great high priest”
- Heb 1:2, 4; 2:9; 3:3; 9:11-12
- Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11 and Heb 4:14

Hebrews 2:17

¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. (NRSV)

Implications

Ecclesiology

- “What is the Church?”
 - Heb 4:14; 2:11-17
- “What is the intrinsic goal of the Church?”
 - Heb 13:13; 10:24; 13:3
- “What is the extrinsic goal of the Church?”
 - Heb 13:1-2

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let mutual love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (NRSV)

Implications

Theology of Scripture

- Scripture points to Jesus
- Heb 1:5; 8:8; 7:21; 5:1
- Scripture is profitable for teaching
- Exposition---Exhortation

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”? (NRSV)

Implications

Now What?

Luke Timothy Johnson

The authorship of Hebrews can only be understood from a theological perspective by looking at the contents of the text and then going outside of its walls for information, for this we turn to Acts 18.

Acts 18:24-28

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures.²⁵ He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately.²⁷ And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers,²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

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