

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

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PART 1: JESUS IS THE CREATOR

DATE AND AUTHORSHIP

The epistle to the Hebrews was written before the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. because it speaks about temple sacrifices in the present tense.

Let's look at men who read this epistle and used it in their preaching and writing:

Polycarp was born in 69 A.D. and died in 155. He became part of the second generation of Christians and served as a bishop in Smyrna, which was a church that the apostle Paul planted. He quoted the epistle to the Hebrews in his writings.

Clement of Rome was born in the late first century and was part of the second generation of Christians. In time he held the office of bishop over the church in Rome. He also used the epistle to the Hebrews in his teachings.

Justin Martyr lived between 100-165 A.D. and was born to a Gentile family in Palestine. He eventually ended up in Rome after his conversion to Christ where he started a school and also used the epistle to the Hebrews.

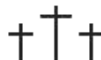
Dionysius of Alexandria was born in the second century and died in 265 and was a third generation Christian. From his writings we find that he also used the epistle to the Hebrews.

Theophilus of Antioch was born in the second century and died in 181 A.D. He was a third generation Christian and also taught from the epistle to the Hebrews.

Through this brief church historical search we can establish that the epistle to the Hebrews was used by second and third generations of Christians with many of the second generation having been in contact with the apostles themselves.

For a long time the church fathers ascribed this epistle to the apostle Paul, but in the last couple of hundreds of years, many so-called "scholars" are stating that this is not true because we don't know who wrote the epistle since the author didn't sign identify himself.

My position is that the apostle Paul was the author for the following reasons. In chapter 13 we find several things that point to Paul. In verse 15, the author speaks about always giving praise to God, which is also found in the letter to the Philippians. The author asks for prayer to be released from prison and informs the readers that Timothy has been released from prison. As the author closes the epistle, he sends greetings from the Christians in Italy and this is where Paul was a prisoner for a long time.



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Regardless who wrote this epistle, there is no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit directed the writer to pen the clearest doctrine of the Christian church when it comes to its relationship with the first covenant and a new covenant that the Jewish people must accept if they want to be part of the Messiah that God has sent from heaven.

CHAPTER ONE

The first three verses are an explosion of information that was unknown to Jewish people who had accepted the fact that God had spoken to their ancestors through prophets but had not understood that in the last days God had spoken to the Jewish people through his Son. **Hebrews 1:1-3**

There are four new concepts presented to the Jews:

1. There is a Son of God

In the very beginning of the Bible, God said that He wanted to make men in “our image.” **Genesis 1:26-27**

The Hebrew word for God used in this chapter is Elohim, which translates into English as “Gods.” Thus from the very beginning, Adam was introduced to the term “Gods,” and when he recorded the creation account given to him by Elohim, Adam dutifully noted what he had been told by “Gods.”

It is important for us to understand that Adam spoke the original language given to man and it was spoken for more than one thousand years until Elohim came down and confounded the language and created new languages that made it impossible for one group to understand another. **Genesis 11:1-9**

The record of the Creation recorded by Adam and passed down to Enoch, who in turn passed it on to Methuselah, who passed it on to Lamech, who in turn passed it on to Noah.

Abraham was a descendant of Noah’s son Shem, who was still alive when Abraham was born. Abraham was the ninth generation after Shem and the Creation account was passed down through this bloodline. The language that Abraham spoke was Chaldean, which was also the language of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. During the 430 years in Egypt, the language of the children of Israel changed into Hebrew, and when Moses compiled the Creation account, it was translated from the ancient language of Chaldean into Hebrew.

Moses did not change Gods into God; instead, he kept the original concept without any explanation. When Moses wrote down the book of Numbers, he quoted the prophecy given by Balaam, and for the first time we were introduced to the “Son of Man.” **Numbers 23:19-21**

The prophet Daniel gave us a more direct understanding that the term “Son of Man” is divine and part of Elohim. **Daniel 7:13-14**

It was Jesus that defined Himself as the “Son of Man.” **Matthew 8:19-20; 9:1-8**

The concept of the “Spirit of God,” also known as the “Holy Spirit” was given to us in **Genesis 1:2**, where it states that “the Spirit of Elohim” moved upon the waters.

As 21st century Christians we have access to the Gospel of John that gives the clearest definition of Elohim consisting of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. **John 1:1-2; 14; 25-26; 16:7-11**

2. He is the heir of God

There are no concepts in the Old Testament that the Son of Man is the heir of Elohim; instead, we have to turn to Jesus to find this concept. **John 5:17-31; 10:24-30**

The apostle Paul clarified this concept. **1 Corinthians 15:22-28**

3. Jesus is the Creator

Only in the New Testament do we have a clear teaching of the Godhead that Jesus is the Creator. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identified himself as the God of the Old Testament. **John 8:52-58**

Jesus used the name, “I Am,” that was originally used when he spoke to Moses. **Exodus 3:13-15**

The Hebrew text states that Elohim told Moses that “I Am that I Am.”

The apostle John declared that Jesus was the Creator. **John 1:1-4; 10**

This is repeated by the apostle Paul. **Colossians 1:9-17**

4. Jesus Is Upholding All Things

The concept that Jesus is upholding all things through the power of his word was also a new concept to the Jewish people. There was no knowledge about atoms, neutrons, electrons, etc. They didn’t know the tremendous energy that is locked up at the atomic level, they had never heard about an atom bomb, a hydrogen bomb or even a neutron bomb.

The Holy Spirit gave an understanding to the apostle Peter that the entire universe is going to be dissolved at the very end. **2 Peter 3:10-13**

As soon as the judgments are completed at the Great White Throne Judgment, Jesus will cease to uphold all things and the creation we live in will be dissolved. All believers in Christ will be transferred to the New Creation and all unbelievers will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:10-15; 21:1

Remember, it’s not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?