

DUNAMIS

Power Hour

for the love of the Word

----- journey through the Bible -----



Introduction to Hebrews

Why was it Written?

- The Letter was written to Christian Jews
- These Christian Jews started to question whether Jesus is the truth. Legalistic Jews came to the Christian Churches to argue that they are lost and wanted them to follow Old Testament Lifestyle again and forsake the teachings of Jesus
- People doubted whether they had made the right choice in Jesus. **Maybe the old was better?**

Exo 16:3 And said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Num 11:4 And the mixed multitude among them [the rabble who followed Israel from Egypt] began to lust greatly [for familiar and dainty food], and the Israelites wept again and said, Who will give us meat to eat?

Num 11:5 We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt and without cost, the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.

Num 11:6 But now our soul (our strength) is dried up; there is nothing at all [in the way of food] to be seen but this manna.



Why was it Written?

- *This is a dangerous place to be and causes passivity, stagnation, disillusionment, impatience and negativity (suddenly nothing can go right). Life in the flesh and not Spirit anymore*



- *Later on we will look into the reasons why people get into these situations. There are 3 warnings in Hebrews. The book explains why people fall into the above state because they do not heed the warnings*



Why was it Written?

The basis of our Christian life, is total confidence in Jesus and a willingness to seek fulfilment in Him.

The Writer of Hebrews wanted the readers of this letter to return to this basis!!



About the Book of Hebrews:

- Authorship, date and exact recipients are uncertain
- Early tradition states Paul, but it is not written in the Apostle's style
- There are references to Barnabas
- Assumed it was written AD 68 or 69 – the writer speaks of sacrifices being made at the Temple. And that Temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70
- Not clear who the Letter is intended to BUT very clear it is written to Jews who are Christians
- The writer constantly speaks of Old Testaments events (that Jews would have known very well) AND he contrasted Jesus' position, and ministry
- The Book of Hebrews is written to demonstrate the superiority of Christ and the way of life built of faith in Him in contrast to a life built in the Old Testament Custom and Laws
- The Writers talks about how the Old Customs and way of Living was good - it gave a sense of fulfillment and identity and surety
- But God longed to have a relationship with each and every person
- The Promised Messiah, Saviour came, because of Him – every child of God has the ability to enter into a personal relationship with God, without the rituals and customs and dependence of priests and prophets



About the Book of Hebrews:

- The Book of Hebrews shows that there is more in Christ than the Old Testament way of living
- That the Jews who accepted Jesus turned to a new way of life, a new identity
- However, according to The Book of Hebrews, many Christian Jews became disillusioned as they did not walk in the victory and maturity – and was itching to get back to the old pattern and comfort of living
- This is where the Writer of Hebrews urges the Christian Jews not to forsake their faith in Christ Jesus – as there is more to what they are experiencing. There is a greater maturity in living your life in Christ
- The Book of Hebrews explains the FULL SALVATION in Christ
- The Book of Hebrews begins with Jesus – Total confidence in Him must be the basis of our new life and our identity as Christians

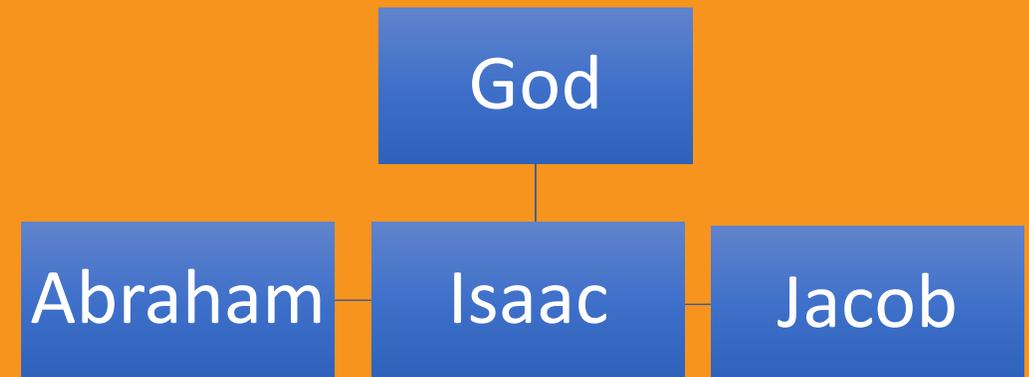


Old Testament understanding of the Trinity and Knowing and Pleasing God

Exo_3:15 God said also to Moses, This shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the **God of your fathers**, of **Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob**, has sent me to you! This is My name forever, and by this name I am to be remembered to all generations.

25 verses found, 77 matches		
Genesis	5 verses found	16 matches
Exodus	9 verses found	27 matches
Leviticus	1 verse found	3 matches
Numbers	1 verse found	3 matches
Deuteronomy	7 verses found	21 matches
2 Kings	1 verse found	3 matches
Jeremiah	1 verse found	4 matches

11 verses found, 38 matches		
Matthew	3 verses found	11 matches
Mark	1 verse found	3 matches
Luke	3 verses found	9 matches
Acts	3 verses found	12 matches
Hebrews	1 verse found	3 matches

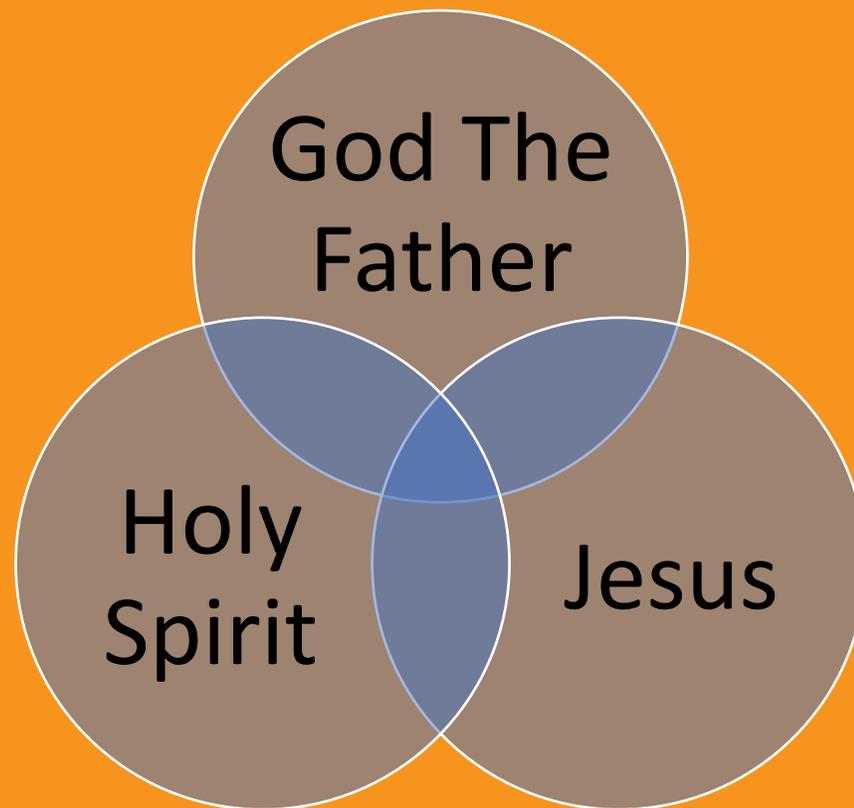


Old Testament understanding of the Trinity and Knowing and Pleasing God

Doctrine of the Trinity never explicitly taught in the OT, only references:

Gen 1:26 God said, **Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit]** make mankind in **Our image**, after **Our likeness**, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [*tame*] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth.
[Psa 104:30; Heb 1:2; Heb 11:3]

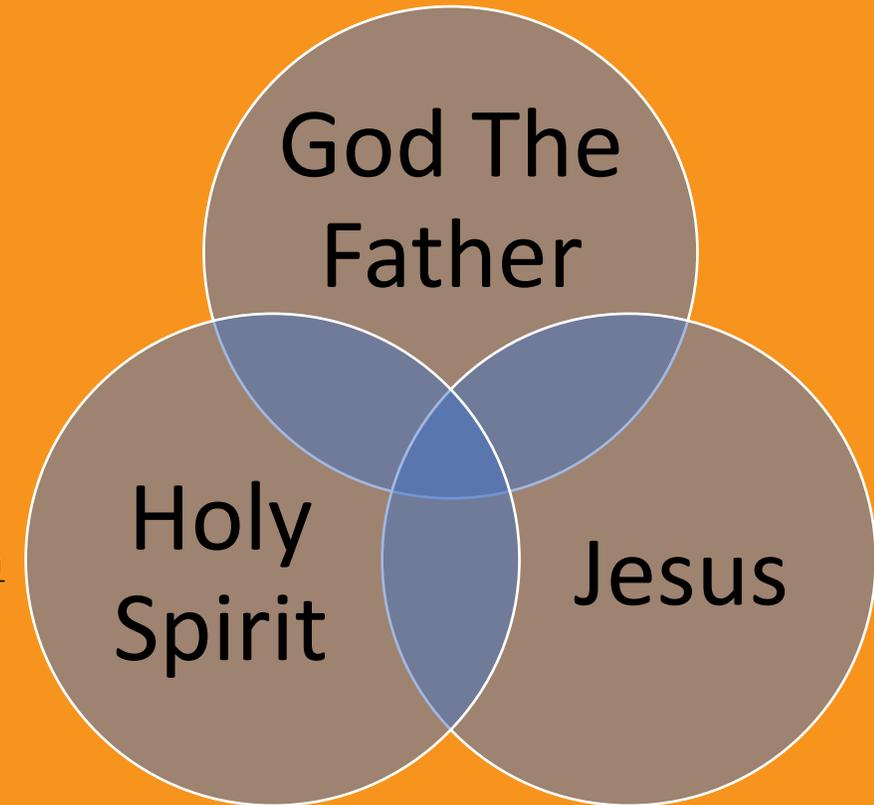
Hebrews expands on “One God in Three Persons” and “Knowing God the Father”



Hebrews expands on “One God in Three Persons” and “Knowing God the Father”

Only when Jesus came and taught, “I and the Father are One” ([Joh 10:30](#)) was truth about God as three Persons fully disclosed.

When it was disclosed, and Jesus began to explain that “no one comes to the Father except through Me” ([Joh 14:6](#)), it became vitally important that believers learn to rest their full confidence in Him.



Old Testament understanding of the Trinity and Knowing and Pleasing God

Luk 18:18 Once a Jewish religious leader asked him this question: “Good sir, what shall I do to get to heaven?”

Luk 18:19 “Do you realize what you are saying when you call me ‘good?’”

Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good, and no one else.

Luk 18:20 “But as to your question, you know what the **Ten Commandments** say—don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t lie, honor your parents, and so on.”

Luk 18:21 The man replied, “I’ve obeyed every one of these laws since I was a **small child.**”

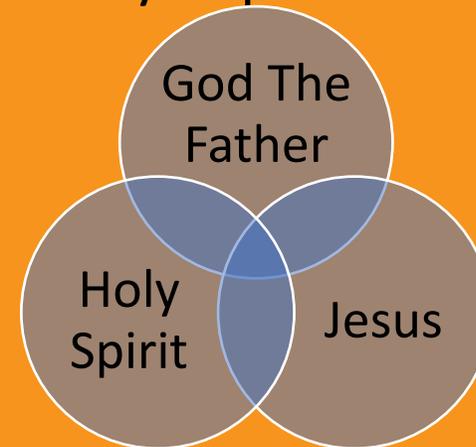
Luk 18:22 “There is still one thing you lack,” Jesus said. “Sell all you have and give the money to the poor—it will become treasure for you in heaven—and come, follow me.

“Obsession with the Law of Moses”



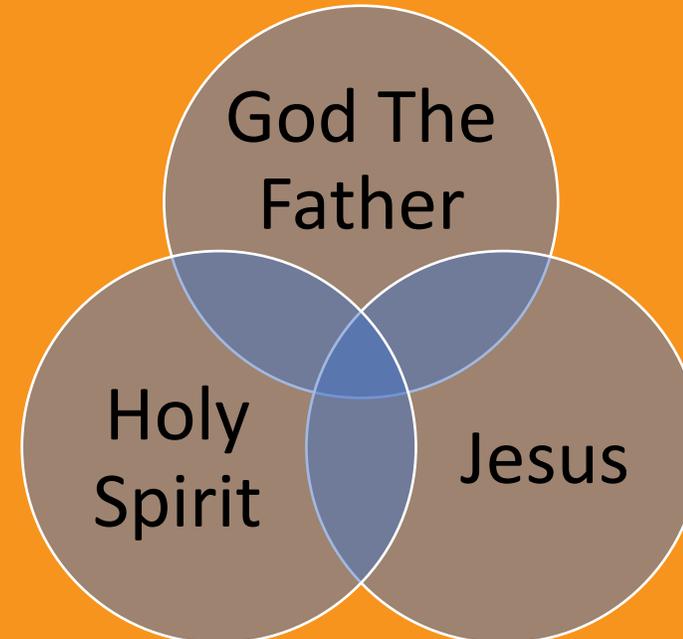
Old Testament understanding of the Trinity and Knowing and Pleasing God

- It really was the desire of the Jews to know God (note, they did not know Him as Father nor relational sonship)
- Hebrews explains how Jesus is a far Superior Revealer of God the Father
- When Jesus came and taught, **“I and the Father are One” (Joh_10:30)** was truth about God as three Persons fully disclosed. When it was disclosed, and Jesus began to explain that **“no one comes to the Father except through Me” (Joh_14:6)**, it became vitally important that believers learn to rest their full confidence in Him.



Old Testament understanding of the Trinity and Knowing and Pleasing God

- In other words, Jesus is the fulfilment of Gods restoration plan
- There is nothing higher or greater than knowing Jesus
- In everything, God the Father has determined the focus must be on Jesus
- We will never find anything better than knowing Jesus
- BUT THEN MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF JESUS



“BUT THEN MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF JESUS”

Jesus' position being affirmed in The Book of Hebrews:

1. The Coming Kingdom belongs to Jesus – Heb 1:2
2. Creative Power Belongs to Jesus – Heb 1:2
3. The original Glory of God belongs to Jesus - Heb 1:3
4. Sustaining Power belongs to Jesus - Heb 1:3
5. Redemptive work belongs to Jesus – Heb 1:3

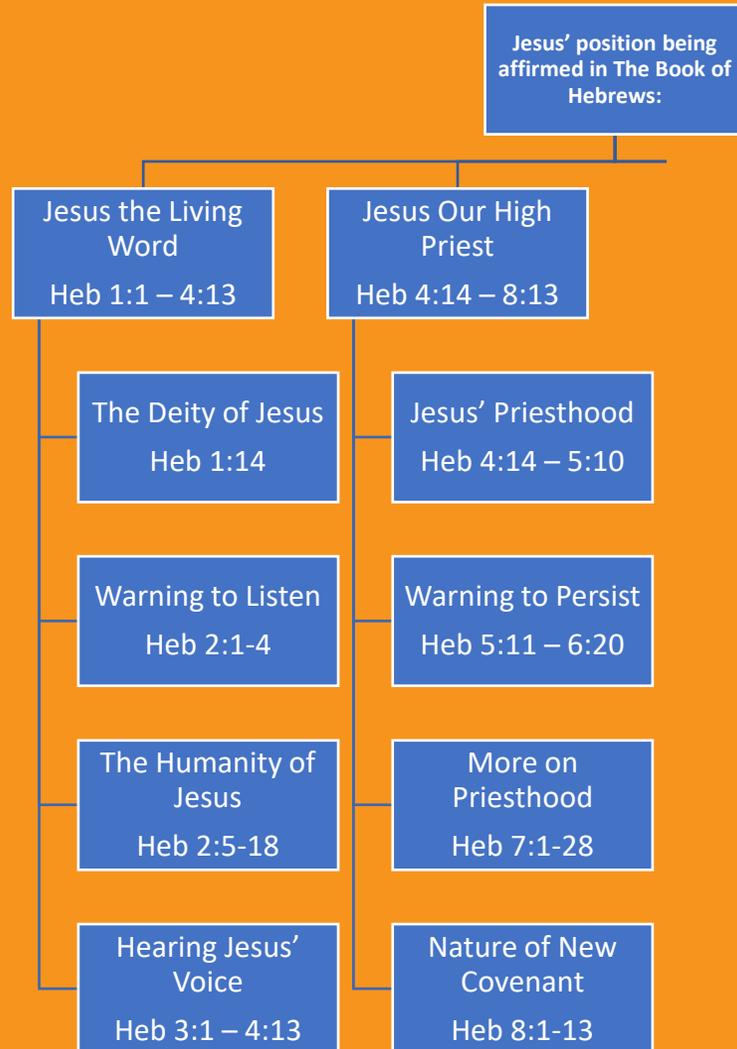


“BUT THEN MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF JESUS”

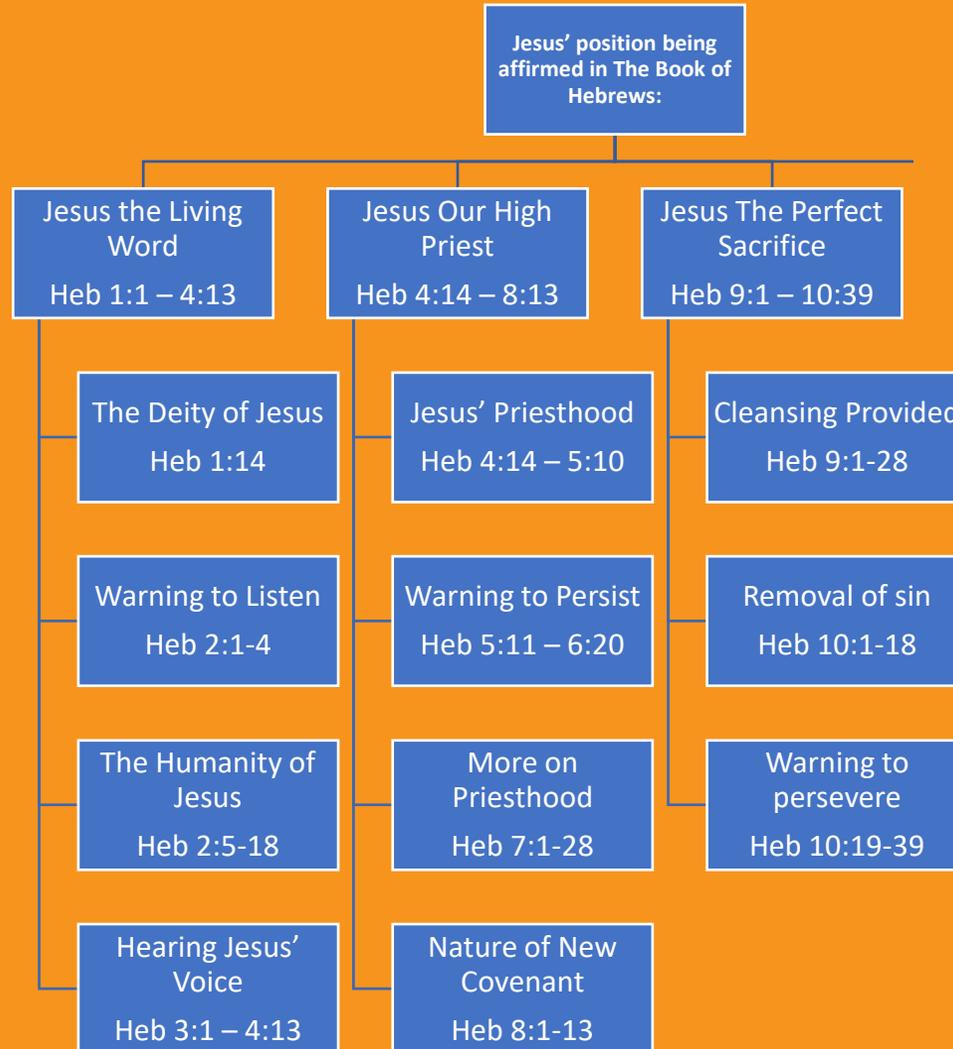
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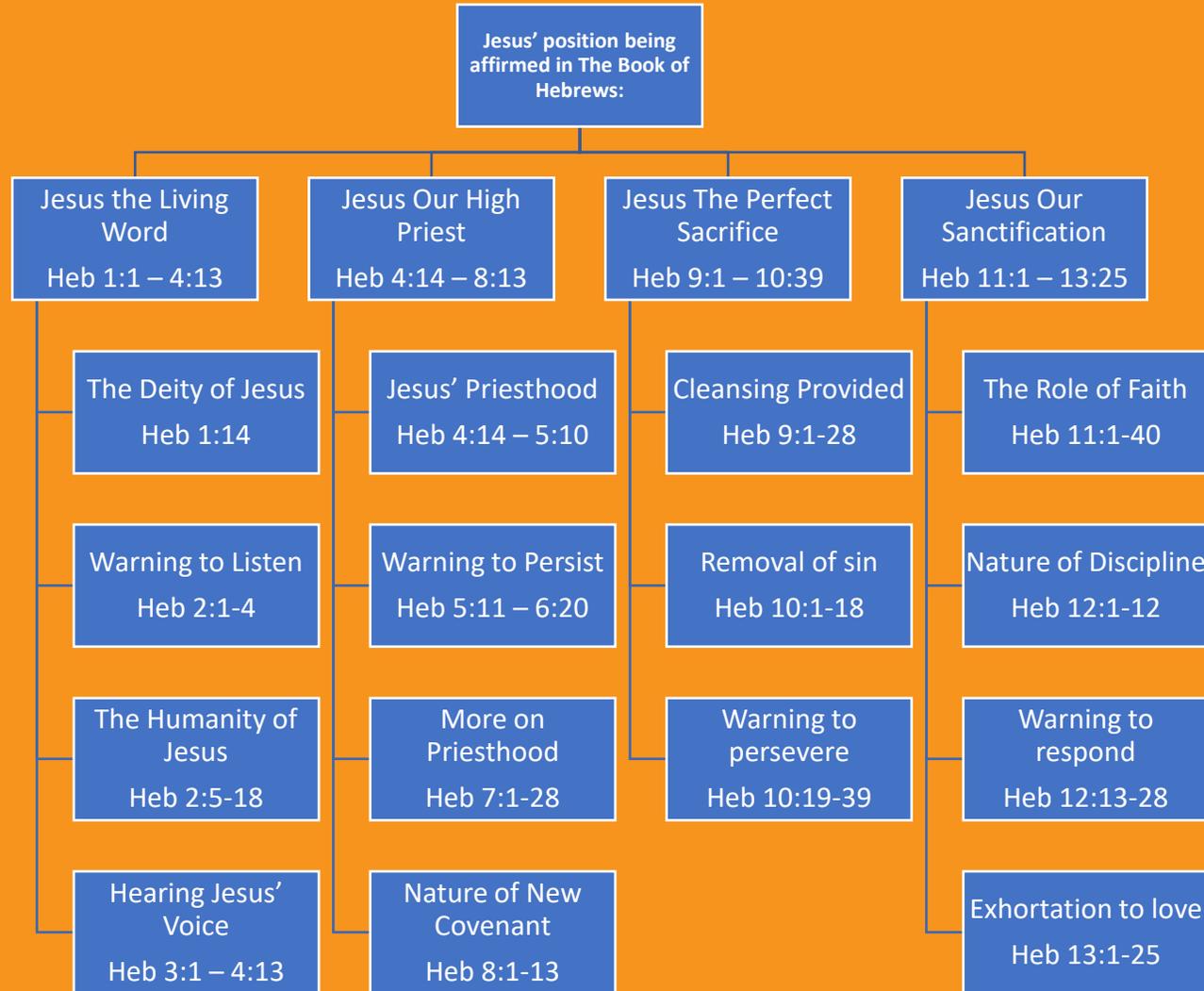
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WARNING

Warnings of Hebrews:

- There are 3 extensive warning sections in Hebrews
- Some see it as warnings against the lost of Salvation;
- However, when you study them, the warnings are about Christians missing out on the FULL SALVATION experience with Christ
- It is a warning to people that has started the race but are giving up before they reach the fullness and maturity in Christ



Warning 1

Hebrews 3-4

- First of the warnings are found in Hebrews 3:1-19 & Heb 4:1-16
- There are 2 directions/courses you can choose
- One is to obey when you hear the Voice of God and act on it
- The other is to disobey the Voice of God – rebel against the Word of God, and harden your heart and doubt whether God's direction is best

Outcomes of the responses:

- If you disobey – You will not find rest in God
- If you obey – You will find God's rest

NB!!! THE FIRST DANGER THAT CAN STEAL THE FULL EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION IS DISOBEDIENCE



Warning 2

Hebrews 6:1-20

- Warning is for believers
- There are 2 courses once again you can choose from:
- 1 path – laziness
- 2nd path – walk and grow to maturity in Christ



Outcomes of the responses:

- If we fail to go on and grow and become lazy – our lives will be marked by unfruitfulness, and we will fail to possess all that being in Christ provides
- If we grow and move into maturity – we will fully grasp the hope that is in Christ who is eternity and we will be reshaped into His likeness

NB!!! THE SECOND WARNING IS TO ENSURE THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS DON'T BECOME DISILLUSIONED BY LIVING FOR CHRIST, WONDERING WHETHER THEY ARE SAVED OR NOT



Warning 3

Hebrews 10:1-39



- God is warning against a people who wants to **hurry the process of maturity** and to rush through everything
- There are 2 courses once again:
- The one path is **throwing away our confidence** and completeness of Jesus's work and shrinking back from what He wants for us
- The 2nd path is to **stand strong and firm**, to persevere until you see all that God has promised for us.

Outcomes of the responses:

- If you shrink back and try and rush maturity you will not see the fullness of Christ's salvation in your life
- Standing firm will let all the promises in your life be fulfilled.

NB!!! THE THIRD WARNING SHOWS THAT IF YOU WANT TO HAVE FAST/RUSHED PROCESS YOU WILL NOT EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF THE SALVATION OF CHRIST



Ch	Theme	Concept	Key Verses	Key Words	Meaning
Foundation Truths ... Chapters 1-6					
1	Jesus' identity	Jesus is God	Heb 1:1-2	Whole, complete	Jesus is enough — there is nothing more I need.
2	Our identity	We are Jesus' brothers	Heb 2:11	Mastery, dominion	I need to see myself raised to mastery of life in Jesus.
3-4	Life-principle	Experience our position	Heb 4:10	Rest, faith, response	When I trust and obey God I enter His rest.
5	High Priest	Jesus links us with God	Heb 4:16	Weakness, link	When weak, I can come confidently to Jesus for forgiveness and aid.
6	Maturity	Security stimulates growth	Heb 6:18	Insecure, foundation	I can forget myself and launch out in reckless trust that the Atonement is complete.
Deeper Truths ... Identity Chapters 7-10					
7	Priesthood	Relationship is assured	Heb 7:25	Guaranteed relationship	I can have assurance of salvation: Jesus is my Guarantee!
8-9	Law	Righteousness is necessary	Heb 8:10	Commandment law, inner law	I can trust Jesus to make me progressively more righteous as I trust and obey Him.
9-10	Sacrifice	Holiness is ours	Heb 10:14	Guilt, cleansed	I can see myself in Jesus as a holy, not a guilty person.
Deeper Truths ... Lifestyle Chapters 10-13					
10	Warning	Maturing takes time	Heb 10:35-36	Process, persevere	I can know that daily commitment to God's will will produce maturity.
11	Faith	Faith enables	Heb 11:6	Enablement, obedience	I can meet any challenge enabled by faith in God.
12	Discipline	Faith becomes commitments	Heb 12:10	Patience, holiness	I can discipline myself to full commitment to faith's life.
13	Love	Faith produces love	Heb 13:20-21	Externals, grace	I can find life's real meaning in others and in Christ.

Key Concepts Table

Identify one or more key concepts that you want to develop in your life. Use this series to understand and develop this in your life.

Students and teachers are welcome to share and give reasons for their choices

