

THE MYSTERIES OF HEBREWS An Introduction

I. THE _____ OF HEBREWS (1:1-4)

- No author is mentioned in the introduction to the book. He is unnamed and _____. Possibilities:
 - _____ or someone closely connected to him.
 - Barnabas, Luke, Silas, or 10 or so others.
 - Apollos (Luther).
 - Not a _____ (11:32).
 - Maybe the best explanation from Clement—written by Paul for Hebrew believers in Hebrew and translated by Luke into Greek.
- Other clues and evidence:
 - Very literary and well-educated.
 - Had a _____ heart for people.
 - A companion of _____ (13:23).
 - Had suffered past imprisonment himself (10:34).
 - Probably not one of the original twelve disciples (2:3).
- II. THE _____ OF HEBREWS (13:24)
 - “They of Italy” means the book was written either to or _____ Italy (Rome).
 - Best explanation = from Rome to Judea or Palestine, where Christians were primarily _____.
 - Other clues to Hebrew identity of recipients:
 - The author assumes their detailed _____ of the Old Testament.
 - The author describes a common Jewish _____ (1:1).
 - Other facts about the recipients:
 - They were personally _____ to the author and he to them (13:18, 23).
 - They were mainly “second-generation” Christians (2:3).
 - They were well-taught in the Word, but some were still _____ (5:12).
 - They had been persecuted, but not to death (12:4, 10:32), and needed to be ready for harsher persecution to come (13:13).
 - Some were facing a crisis of _____ and unbelief (12:12-13).
 - Some were _____ away or were not willing to suffer reproach for Christ.

III. THE DATE OF HEBREWS

- Probably before the destruction of the Temple in A.D. _____.
 - Temple worship is described in the _____ tense throughout the book.
 - 8:13 says that the Old Covenant was getting ready to vanish away.

IV. THE _____ OF HEBREWS

- The Person and work of Christ—many _____ for Christ
- The _____ of Christ—better = “greater than, superior to, more excellent”
- The danger of _____—many words for forsaking or backsliding such as “draw back, fall away, let slip, neglect, depart, come short, fall, fail, turn out of the way.”
- The need for _____ (32x) and faithfulness (“faithful” 6x).
- The importance of applying truth to life—“_____ us” (13x).

V. THE _____ OF HEBREWS (13:22)

- Structure:
 - An _____
 - Expositions and _____ interwoven
 - A closing.
- A “word of exhortation” (Acts 13:15) = a sermon in synagogue form.
- The book of Hebrews is a _____ sent by mail.

VI. THE _____ OF HEBREWS

- Like the recipients of Hebrews:
 1. **We have received a rich tradition of _____ in the Word that must upheld, mastered, and maintained rather than drifting away from it.**
 2. **We may be facing more strenuous opposition or persecution in the future that will _____ us to defect from our previous profession.**
 3. **We are a _____ body of people at various places in our Christian profession.**
 - Many _____.
 - Some still coming to _____ in Christ.
 - Some present and possibly professing but uncommitted.
 - Some possibly in the process of deciding _____ Christ and moving away from Him.
 - Application: We need to pay attention to the warnings and exhortations of this book! Truth is always meant to be _____.