

Week 10 Overview of Hebrews and the General Epistles

1. Overview of Hebrews

1) Author

- (1) Traditionally attributed to Paul, but the authorship remains uncertain.
- (2) Origen: "Only God knows who wrote it."

2) Recipients

- (1) Jewish Christians facing persecution.
- (2) Those tempted to revert to the old covenant practices (law and sacrifices).

3) Purpose

- (1) To declare that Jesus Christ has fulfilled and surpassed the Old Testament system (law, sacrifices, high priesthood).
- (2) To emphasize perseverance in faith, spiritual maturity, and assurance of salvation through Christ.

4) Key Themes

- (1) The supremacy of Jesus Christ (greater than angels, Moses, and Aaron)
- (2) The comparison between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant
- (3) Exhortations to faith and endurance (Hebrews 11: "The Hall of Faith")
- (4) Christ's ministry as the true High Priest and the heavenly sanctuary

2. Overview of the General Epistles

- ✳ The General Epistles are letters addressed not to specific churches but to a broader audience.

1) James

- (1) Author: James (the brother of Jesus)
- (2) Theme: The importance of faith accompanied by works (James 2:26)
- (3) Emphasis on practical Christian living.

2) 1 and 2 Peter

- (1) Author: Peter
- (2) Theme (1 Peter): Endurance and hope amid suffering
- (3) Theme (2 Peter): Warning against false teachers and eschatological

vigilance

3) 1, 2, and 3 John

- (1) Author: The Apostle John
- (2) Theme (1 John): Love and truth; warning against false teachers
- (3) Theme (2 and 3 John): Walking in truth and maintaining the purity of the church

4) Jude

- (1) Author: Jude (the brother of James)
- (2) Theme: Contend for the faith(Jude 1:3)
- (3) Warnings against heresies and false teachers

3. Summary

- 1) Hebrews bridges the Old and New Testaments by presenting the theology of Christ's fulfillment.
- 2) The General Epistles convey practical and cautionary messages to a wide range of Christian communities.