

Better

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Gray

Introduction

1. Hebrews 1:4; 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6 (2X); 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24
2. This book was written initially to people who were
 1. Leaving Christ and the words of salvation spoken by Him 2:1-4
 2. Those revealing in "an evil heart of unbelief 3:12-13
 3. Those who were sinning willfully 10:26
3. The theme of this book is Jesus Christ is worthy of your faith!
4. The message for us is not to go back into the world or any other religion that we might have been in before we became Christians.
5. This is done by comparison.
6. The word "better" is used 13 times in this book
7. Let us study them to find that since we became Christians we are in a better place.

II Discussion

1. Christ is better than the angels 1:4
 1. Their concept of angels were just below God and worthy of adoration and respect
 2. They worshipped angels Colossians 2:18
 3. They were warned about receiving anything different than what they had received whether it was from an angel or man Galatians 1:6-9
 4. But Jesus is superior to angels because he can receive worship; name is better; laid the foundation of the world and is able to sit on the right hand of God
2. We expect better things of you 6:9
 1. They had been taught but needed to relearn the first principles 5:12-6:2
 2. Some had fallen away 6:4-6
 3. Some will thus be rejected 6:7-8
 4. But we expect better than this of you, you are to be steadfast until the end 6:9
3. The less is blessed of the better 7:7
 1. Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedek 7:1-5
 2. Melchisedek blessed Abraham therefore he is greater than Abraham 7:6
 3. This has always been true, that the greater bestows the blessings on those who are under them.
 4. Background for this is found in Genesis 14:18-20
4. We have a better hope 7:19
 1. The law of Moses made nothing perfect, sins were rolled forward each year 10:1-4
 2. The better hope made men perfect
 3. Perfect means complete, mature
 4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:11-13 shows that the better hope here is the Gospel
5. We have a better testament 7:22
 1. This word testament is diatheke an agreement between a superior and an inferior.
 2. Christ is the guarantee of a better agreement
 3. It is better because:
 1. The terms are more simple than the earlier one
 2. The observance are less hard
 3. It relates to all men, not just a few
 4. It is sure
 5. This testament or agreement is everlasting.
6. We have a better covenant 8:6
 1. Mediator is someone who goes between two parties
 2. Moses, then the high priest were mediators under the Old
 3. Christ is a better mediator than both Moses and the High Priest
 4. He is both the surety and mediator of this better covenant

7. We have better promises 8:6
 1. The Old Covenant was temporal. The promises had an ending to them
 2. The promises in the New Covenant are eternal John 14:1-3; Ephesians 1:3
8. We have better sacrifices 9:23
 1. The context in 9:18-28
 2. All spiritual items are dedicated with blood
 3. This requires a study of Exodus and the dedicating of the tabernacle, the items of the tabernacle, and the priest.
 4. Under the Old Law it was the blood of bulls and goats and they could not take away sin 10:1-4
 5. Under the New it is done by the blood of Christ 2 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5
 6. AS the cleansing blood of the animals made the items under the Old Law fit for use, Christ cleansing blood make us fit for us by God
 7. Christ's sacrifice was once for all
9. We have a better and enduring substance 10:34
 1. They had suffered many things and may have lost possessions during these trying times
 2. In heaven we have an enduring possession 1 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 1:4
 3. Comparing substance in Luke 15:13; Acts 2:45; 2 Peter 3:9-14
10. We have a better country 11:16
 1. The country the writer is getting them to focus on is better than Canaan and Chaldea
 2. The land where in we were born in always dear to our heart.
 3. If they were not seeking a better, they would have returned
 4. We are seeking a far better country and should not want to return.
11. We have better resurrection 11:35
 1. There are several who were resurrected under the Old Law, but they would have to die again
 2. Some did not accept the easy way out and suffered hard things, believing is a better resurrection based on a better hope
 3. This better resurrection is the final resurrection when all well be raised to die not more
12. We have better things for us 11:40
 1. We have a better testament, superior blessings and privileges
 2. This new testament is better than the old and the new is established upon better promises!
13. Christ's blood is better than Able's 12:24
 1. Hebrews 11:4 Able's sacrifice was good, because he obeyed God by keeping the commandments.
 2. We too must keep the commands of God that apply to us 2 Timothy 2:15
 3. In Christ blood there is victory 1 Corinthians 15:55-57; blessings Ephesians 1:3
 4. If Able's blood cried from the ground think about a single member of the body of Christ cries unto God, then even higher the blood of Christ speaking for those for whom He died.

III Conclusion

1. Are you where these better things are and are they yours?
2. Why not come to where they are and never leave!
3. Maybe you have left them and went back into the world and lost these better things, come back to them now!

Sources: Old sermon preached 1988; Focus on Faith sermon outlines from Hebrews by Tom Holland; studies in Hebrews by Tom Wacaster