An Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

Sunday 19 February 2017
Speaker – Pastor Marshall Muller
2 Timothy 2:15 states,

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."
Christian believers are instructed to ‘rightly divide the Word of Truth’.
As believers, are we commanded to gather for worship on the Sabbath or on Sunday?
We need to know the …

- **Who** (was it written to? Who is the author?),
- **What** (is it all about? What is its purpose),
- **Where** (the geographic & cultural significance),
- **When** (the historical background),
- **Why** (was it written? What questions are being asked? And by whom?)

… to be able to rightly divide (and teach) God’s Word correctly.
5 Messianic Jewish Epistles

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- Jude
5 MESSIANIC JEWISH EPISTLES

Hebrews (problem = persecution)
James (problem = persecution)
1 Peter (problem = persecution)
2 Peter (problem = false doctrine)
Jude (problem = false doctrine)
The DIASPORA (dispersed) = someone living outside the land of Israel

Book of Hebrews
- deals with those who are being persecuted in the land of Israel.
But it was written by someone in the Diaspora (living outside of Israel).
Who wrote the Book of Hebrews?

Was it Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Clement of Rome, Luke, Silas, Phillip, John Mark, Aristion or Priscilla?

We don’t really know!!!
Who is the audience?

2nd Generation Believers
Jewish Believers
Believers for a long time
Spiritually immature
Wavering in their faith
due to persecution
They know the author
Where are the readers located?

Jerusalem

Rome

Churches of Judea
Where are the readers located?

Jerusalem

Rome

Churches of Judea
When was Hebrews written?

Before AD96 (Clement quotes it)

After AD50 (quotes Timothy)

Before AD70 (Levitical system functioning)

AD64-66 ‘A shaking in the Land (Jewish revolt)
When was Hebrews written?

We can deduce that the book of Hebrews was written between A.D. 64 to 66.
What was the Historical background?

Esau (Genesis)
Exodus (Tabernacle & Priesthood)
Leviticus (blood sacrifices)
Numbers (Jesus greater than Moses)
Melchizedek
Law of Moses
Prophets
What was the Historical background?

Gospel (Matthew 12:22-45) - The Unpardonable Sin

Solution - Acts 2:38-41
‘Repent & be baptised’
Context of Hebrews?

Jewish Believers going through severe persecution

Considering going back to Judaism

Get saved again later when the heat is off?
5 Warnings in Hebrews

Used to teach that you can lose your salvation

Passages deal with physical not spiritual

Readers encouraged to refrain from going back to Judaism
Why was Hebrews written?

To show that Jesus is much more superior than angels, Moses or Judaism

To explain that Judaism was good, but Jesus is better!
Therefore since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession.
Key words in Hebrews?

Perfection
Eternal / Forever
Heavenly
Better
Once you accepted that Jesus was greater than anything/anyone else, what difference has it made in your life?

Can others around you see the difference?
LIFE BEGINS ONCE JESUS BECOMES THE REASON YOU LIVE IT.
Practical Application

Are we tempted to fall back into the ‘law’ system (judgmental, keeping rules, works theology etc.) rather than trust Jesus (who is far better than the law)?
What have you learned?
Homework this week

Read Hebrews 1 (& beyond)
Hebrews 1
God’s Final Word: JESUS!

Next Sunday
26 February 2017