

Today's Message: HEBREWS: MESSIAH IS BEST!
Series: Messianic Letters (A.K.A. General Epistles)
Pastor Gary L. Stump

Don't we love a winner? Winners wind up in the Hall of Fame. What if God has a **Hall of Fame** for the Greatest of All Time? Who would be in it? That's what the book of Hebrews is all about.

Messianic Letters... Viewing the Old Testament through the lens of the New is backwards. We must view the New Testament through the lens of the Old Testament like the writers of the New Testament did.

Written by: Uncertain Author (Paul, Luke, Barnabas)

Written to: Messianic believers

Date Written: c. 67 AD (before 70 AD)

Theme: Messiah Yeshua is Best! Messiah Yeshua is Superior to: Angels; Prophets, Abraham, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Melchizedek, The Tabernacle, Levitical Priesthood.

Foundation Verses:

Hebrews 1:1–4 (NLT) Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

3 COVENANTS COMPARED IN HEBREWS:

Abrahamic Covenant Is Still in Effect

Hebrews 6:13–17 (NLT) For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:¹⁴ "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."¹⁵ Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.¹⁶ Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding.¹⁷ God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind.

Three Covenants Converge

Hebrews 7:5–6 (NLT) Now the law of Moses required that the priests, who are descendants of Levi, must collect a tithe from the rest of the people of Israel, who are also descendants of Abraham.⁶ But Melchizedek, who was not a descendant of Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham. And Melchizedek placed a blessing upon Abraham, the one who had already received the promises of God.

Abraham = **Abrahamic Covenant** – unconditional blessings for belonging

Moses = **Mosaic Covenant** – blessings for obedience; discipline for disobedience

Melchizedek = **New Covenant** (combination of the two)

Galatians 3:13a, 14a (NLT) But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law...¹⁴ Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham

Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, King

- Prophet represents God to the people—Moses
- Priest represents the people before God—Abraham
- King rules the people of God in the will of God—Melchizedek

Jesus, our High Priest, Mediates the New Covenant which is far better

Hebrews 8:6 (NLT) But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

New Covenant Promised

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NLT) “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD. ³³ “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

HALL OF FAITH: Hebrews 11

Faith Defined *Hebrews 11:1 (NASB95) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Faith Described *Hebrews 11:3 (NLT) By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.*

Faith Displayed

Hebrews 11:17 (NLT) It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac,

Hall of Faith: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rehab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. **Only one G-O-A-T = Jesus!**

SO WHAT? Are you in the Hall of Faith?

Hebrews 2:3 (NLT) So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NLT) Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

Hebrews 10:26–29 (NLT) Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. ²⁸ For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God’s mercy to us.



ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, August 7, 2022

1. NEXT SUNDAY IN NEW BUILDING—Onward Church will be moving to our new facility at 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (131st & SR 37) next Sunday, August 14, 2022. We are renting our facility from *Mission Christian Academy* led by Shawn Moore.

2. MOVING HELP NEEDED TODAY—Immediately after worship we will be loading up the stuff from our two storage cabinets in the children's area and taking it to our new building. We need hands to move things. Please help if you can.

3. FINAL WORKDAY AT NEW BUILDING SATURDAY AT 9AM—13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (SE corner 131st & SR 37). Text Alex Abell with questions or more info 317-416-8027. We will be moving in and setting up the worship center among other projects.

4. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



5. NO SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH IN JULY

6. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 9-11. Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana. Save the dates. More info to come.

7. 2022 ISRAEL TOUR—CANCELED / POSTPONED. We have had to reschedule our Israel Tour because of too many cancellations. Stay tuned for new dates to be announced for next year's tour.