

WEEK 20

## **Hebrews 7-13 discussion and Titus background**

### **Hebrews 7-13 discussion**

#### **Bible discussion questions**

What did you think was the theme of Hebrews 7-13 ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Hebrews 7-13 ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

Chapter 7 can be a bit hard to follow; I think verses 15-16 are a good explanation.

How is Jesus like Melchizedek? a priest not in the order of Aaron (Christ from Judah),  
no written end to his priesthood, God's oath gave it a legitimacy and promise of  
continuance forever that Levitical priests did not have

Why was Christ's priesthood better? v. 23-28

permanent, saves completely, always lives to intercede, meets our need for a  
holy sacrifice, so doesn't have to sacrifice for his own sins, once for all sacrifice

Priests minister by offering gifts and sacrifices according to the law. In Ch.8:6, how is

Jesus superior? better ministry, better covenant, better promises

Why was a new covenant needed? 8:8-10

In Ch. 9, he describes the layout of the sanctuary. What does he say is the point of how the  
tabernacle was arranged? v.8-10

How was what Christ did better than the old layout, in v. 11-15? came thru the real tabernacle

in heaven, entered by his own blood, obtained eternal redemption, cleanses us not  
externally but internally, receive the inheritance, set us free from sin

What does the example of the will mean? v. 16-18,22

What is God's view on reincarnation? 9:27

What do we learn in 9:28 about the second coming of Christ?

All this talk about the sacrifices—look at 10:1-4. What does this passage say about them?

How about v. 14-18?

In light of ALL this, what does 10:19-25 say we should we do? “let us...”

draw near to God, hold unswervingly to hope, consider how to spur each other on,  
not give up meeting together, encourage one another

Does 10:26-31 reflect the kind of God our culture wants to believe in? How is it different?

What were these believers like in the beginning of their walk of faith? v. 32-39

Take a moment to THANK HIM for all He has done.

In chapter 11, who stands out to you from the hall of faith?

Why is faith necessary? v. 6

VIDEO v. 37

The contrast always amazes me in 11:32-35a and 11:35b-38. Why does their faith lead to  
such disparate endings?

The world may have seen them as failures. What does God say about them in v. 38?

In ch 12:1-2, we have another athletic metaphor. This is the language of the Olympic-type  
games that everyone was familiar with.

How do Olympic athletes train, and what can we learn from that? If your child showed  
amazing athletic skill in skating, for example, what would you do to help them  
get to the Olympics some day?

What is our antidote when we get discouraged? 12:3

Look at 12:5-11. What are the benefits of God’s discipline?

shows God’s love and acceptance of us as sons, it’s for our good, through it we share  
in His holiness, brings a harvest of righteousness and peace

In 12:14-17, what should our relationships be like?

What differences are there in the pictures of the old covenant versus the new covenant in 12:18-24?

What is a “kingdom that cannot be shaken”? v. 28

In 13:5, why does Paul say we should be content?

13:7 says we should consider the end result of a godly lifestyle.

What do you think are the outcomes of a life of ungodliness versus a life of godliness?

What does 13:15-16 say is a sacrifice we should offer to God, now that we no longer offer animals?

praise, do good, share with others

v.22--- only a SHORT LETTER!

### **Titus background**

#### Timeline

(63 Paul visits Crete, leaves Titus there to supervise church, then to Nicopolis in Achaia)

65 Titus—letter carried by Apollos and Zenas

Titus rejoins Paul in Nicopolis (after being relieved by Tychicus or Artemas)

#### Who wrote it?

Paul wrote it either from Macedonia or from Nicopolis in Achaia

#### About the epistle

another pastoral epistle, like 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy was

Titus was a Greek Gentile by birth, converted by Paul

He had accompanied Paul to the Jerusalem council in ~49 AD, seemingly as an example to them

that a Gentile could indeed be saved without being circumcised

Later, Paul sent him to Corinth during the 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, to look into some of

the problems in the church there, and begin to collect the offering for the poor,

which would indicate that Paul found him to be a very capable leader.

He was considered wise and tactful.

After leaving Corinth, he met Paul in Macedonia with news of the situation in Corinth.

He was sent back to Corinth, carrying the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthian letter

He was left in Crete (during Paul's travels after his release from Rome) to use his administrative gifts to consolidate the work there.

This letter was sent to him with Apollos and Zenas while he was in Crete.

Artemus or Tychicus relieved him in Crete, and he rejoined Paul in Nicopolis.

He was with Paul when Paul was arrested again, and accompanied him to Rome.

Then Paul sent him to Dalmatia (north of Macedonia)

Tradition says he returned to Crete and was a bishop of the church there, and was there until he died of old age.

#### About the church

Crete : large island south of Greece; very mountainous, but fertile valleys

called the island of 100 cities

home of an ancient civilization that was much older than Greek history.

highest mountain said to be the birthplace of Zeus

People were known as daring sailors and excellent bowmen, but had a terrible moral reputation.

There were many slaves in the early church there.

The church was probably started by Cretans who were in Jerusalem at Pentecost, or possibly from disciples from the Ephesian or Corinthian churches, which were not that far away.

Paul visited Crete on his way to Rome the first time.

There were many problems with false teachers, who apparently were very immoral and were caught up in genealogies , possibly about Davidic ancestry or family ties with Jesus, which gave them "inside info" on the gospel. Some were taking passages from

OT genealogies and basing doctrines on some strange interpretation of them.

Similar false teachings that church in Ephesus dealt with (see 1Timothy) ,

dealing with strange apocryphal Jewish legends and OT genealogies

Other info

the quote in 1:12 is from the Cretan poet Epimenides from 600 BC