

INTRO: ABSOLUTE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST FOR PERSEVERANCE (Hebrews)

- A. ABSOLUTE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS, THE SON OF GOD** (1:1-4)
- B. SUPERIOR RELATIVE TO ANGELS, MOSES, JOSHUA** (1:5-4:11)
- C. WORSHIP THE SON, DON'T HARDEN HEART, DO ENTER REST** (1:5-4:11; see 3:6,14; 4:14)

I. THE WORD OF GOD (4:12,13)

- A. IMMEDIATE CONTEXT** (4:1-11; see 3:7-19)
 - 1. the word they heard (4:2; see 3:7f)
 - 2. the good news preached (4:2,6)
 - 3. the message of rest (4:1-11; see 3:11f)
 - 4. lesson: a call to faith & obedience (4:11; 2,3; see 3:18,19)
- B. PASSAGE ITSELF** (4:12,13)
 - 1. power: living, sharper (4:12a; see Gn.2:7; Jn.6:68; 20:22 | Is.49:2; Eph.6:17; Rev.19:2)
 - 2. work: effective, piercing (4:12a; see Gen.1:3f | Acts 2:37; Heb.9:9)
 - 3. result: complete exposure (4:12b,13; see 2Chr.6:30; Ps.33:13; 19:12f; 139:23f; Is.29:15; Jer.17:10)
 - 4. lesson: accountability (4:13b; see 13:17; Jn.5:29; 1Pt.4:5)
- C. BROAD CONTEXT**
 - 1. creation: every thing (11:3; Gen.1:1f; Ps.146:6; Rom.1:18f; 2Pet.3:5; Rev.5:13)
 - 2. providence: every event (Ps.135:6; see 1Sam.3:8; Job 2:10; Eph.1:11; 2Pt.3:7)
 - 3. redemption: even the dead (Ezk.37:4f; Jn.5:25; 11:43; Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14f)
 - 4. lesson: means of his will (Is.55:10f; see Jn.1:1f; Heb.1:1f)

II. THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST (4:14,15; 2:17,18; c.5-10)

- A. IMMEDIATE CONTEXT: ACCOUNTABILITY** (4:13; see 2Sam.12:7; Jn.16:8; Rom.3:20; 7:7f)
- B. SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST** (4:14; see 1:3)
 - 1. superior offering: God-man vs. animal (2:17,14; 9:12f; 10:4f; fat/body & blood; 1Cor.11:24f)
 - 2. superior tabernacle: real, heavenly vs. earthly copy (8:5; 9:11f, 24; see Gen.3:24; 2:11f; Rev.22:1f)
 - 3. consequence: persevere (4:14b; see 2:1f; 3:6,14; 6:15f; 9:28; 10:23f; 12:1f)
 - 4. lesson: enables us to give account with joy! (4:13b; see 10:19f; 2Cor.5:21)
- C. SUPERIOR HELP** (4:15,16)
 - 1. superior accomplishment: endured temptation perfectly (15; 2:18; 7:26; Mt.4:1f; 26:39f; Jms.4:7f)
 - 2. superior application: access to powerful & free, appropriate & timely help (4:16; 2:17; see 1Cor.10:13; Mt.11:26; Rev.21:6; see 1Tm.1:2; 2Tm.1:2; 2Jn.1:3)
 - 3. lesson: *get* help! (4:16; see 11,1f; 7:25; Mt.11:26)

III. FINAL LESSONS

- A. *SUBJECT YOURSELF TO THE CLEANSING EXAMINATION OF THE SPIRIT IN THE WORD!*** (4:12,13; see 2Chr.6:30; Ps.19:12f; 139:23f; Is.29:15; Jer.17:10; Rom.7:3f; 2Tm.3:14-17)
- B. *SUBMIT TO THE WORD AND FOLLOW IT TO THE SACRAMENTS & PRAYER!*** (4:12,13 w/14-16; see Rom.2:15; 2Cor.5:21; public worship: Heb.4:16; 1Tm.1:2; Lev.7:33; 1Cor.11:24f; private worship: 2Tm.3:14-17; Ps.139:23,24)
- C. *SUMMARY: GET HELP FROM THE GREAT PHYSICIAN!*** (Heb.4:12-16; see 2Cor.5:21)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)