

# “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS”

## The Letter to The Hebrews

### Who wrote The Letter to The Hebrews?

No one knows with certainty who wrote The Letter to The Hebrews. Bible scholars first thought that Paul might have been the author. Recent thinking how-ever suggests that it was written by one of his disciples.

### How did The Letter to the Hebrews get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Letter to the Hebrews was written to the Entire community of Jewish (Hebrew) Christians.

### When did these events take place?

Scholars suspect that The Letter to the Hebrews must have been written before the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

### For more about The Letter to the Hebrews:

See page 1323 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Long before we had the technology available to build massive machinery and steam shovels as big as a house, completing some projects took lifetimes. It is believed some pyramids in Egypt took hundreds of years to build while whole generations worked on the Great Wall of China. Hundreds of years ago, digging a tunnel or building a pass through mountain ranges took a long, long time. It wasn't uncommon for sons and grandsons to work at the same jobs their fathers and grandfathers worked at before the project was completed. Yet in a way, when the ribbon finally got cut, the accomplishment was celebrated in the name of everyone who worked on it, even if they were no longer around. In these situations, it was probably easy to forget that this day had been a dream of someone who by now was only a name in history. Today, we often keep a history in pictures and in words of big building projects, from beginning to end to make sure everyone's role and everyone's faith in the dream of the project is remembered.

The Letter to the Hebrews is that kind of record written just for the Jewish people. In 13 Chapters, the author of The Letter to the Hebrews meticulously retraces God's plan of salvation as it unfolded in their history. He reminds the Hebrews of the faith of their forefathers and how, through infinite love and mercy, God was always there to rescue them. The Letter to the Hebrews recounts how God saved the Jewish people and constantly kept their focus on what would one day be complete salvation. The author makes it clear that the completion of God's promise and plan for salvation is found only in Jesus. The Jews are reminded that they no longer have to look for God and His promise in Abraham, Moses or even Melchizedek. They don't have to count on old practices or customs to satisfy God. Now, if they soften their hearts, they can find everything in Christ.

But there is something else that makes the Letter to the Hebrews special. In this book, Jesus is more than just the Messiah, the fulfillment of Jewish prophesy. Jesus is yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is forever one with His Father in heaven, exalted even above the angels. The author reminds the Hebrews and he reminds us that Jesus is the ultimate priest who, though his human nature made us one with Him. Now, through Him, we can be one with God. God's gift of Christ to us is greater than even Abraham, Moses or Melchizedek ever imagined.

**Interesting Fact:** The Letter to the Hebrews is really not a letter at all. It is more like an essay or even a sermon. Unlike the other "Letters" in the Bible where the writer usually identifies himself, the Letter to The Hebrews lacks this information.

**Bonus Point:** What Gentile woman, called a harlot, became a convert to Judaism as a result of her favor to Israelite spies, and is names as an ancestress of Christ?