

### Reading Plan

1. Read the book of Hebrews once per week for the month of February
  - a. ~2 chapters per day at 7 days
  - b. ~2.5 chapters per day at 5 days
  - c. Challenge: read the book of Hebrews in one sitting (30-60 min)

### Physical Penman

1. Most commonly held penman is the apostle Paul
  - a. Church history attests to Paul being the physical penman
  - b. Would have been familiar with Timothy ([Heb. 13:23](#); cf. [1 Tim 1:2](#); [Phil. 2:19-20](#))
  - c. Could have withheld his name from the epistle to prevent prejudice from his fellow Jews on reading it (cf. [Acts 21:15-36](#))
2. Other proposed penman include Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Aquila, Mark, and Clement of Rome
3. It is an inspired book and thus the Holy Spirit is the author (cf. [2 Pet. 1:20-21](#); [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#))
  - a. The book of Hebrews is quoted by ancient authorities as Scripture as early as A.D. 96 with Clement of Rome
  - b. Found in the oldest versions of the New Testament including the Peshitta (Old Syriac Version) dating to the First or Second Century A.D.
  - c. Found in all the ancient catalogues of the canon of the Scriptures including that of Origen, Eusebius, Athanasius, and Cyril
  - d. Internal evidence shows inspiration (cf. [Heb. 2:1-4](#) with [Mark 16:20](#))

### Date of Writing

1. A.D. 63-65 (definitely before A.D. 70)
  - a. Those addressed had been Christians long enough that they should have been teachers ([Heb. 5:12](#))
  - b. They had forgotten the “former days” ([Heb. 10:32-33](#))
  - c. Many allusions to the temple and Levitical priesthood implying the temple was still standing
    - i. The temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70
    - ii. Clues the destruction of Jerusalem was not far off are found in the book ([Heb. 10:25](#), [12:27](#))
    - iii. Persecution was coming ([Heb. 12:4](#))

### Central Theme / Purpose

1. To prove Christianity is superior to all religions including Judaism
  - a. The word “better” is used thirteen times ([Heb. 1:4](#), [6:9](#), [7:7](#), [19](#), [22](#), [8:6](#), [9:23](#), [10:34](#), [11:16](#), [35](#), [40](#), [12:24](#))
2. To encourage the Jewish Christians to stay faithful to Christ and not to go back to Judaism ([Heb. 6:1](#), [12:1-3](#))
  - a. “And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.” ([Heb. 13:22](#))
  - b. “*For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*’ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” ([Heb. 10:37-39](#))
3. To show what true faith looks like ([Heb. 11:1-12:3](#))
  - a. Faith without works (obedience) is dead ([Jm. 2:14-26](#))

### Audience

1. Jewish Christians (Hebrews) who had converted to Christianity at Jerusalem
  - a. Hebrews were descendants of Abram ([Gen. 14:13](#))
  - b. The danger of going back to Judaism is a common theme in Hebrews (cf. [Heb. 2:1-4](#), [3:12-13](#), [10:24-39](#), [12:22-29](#), [13:9-14](#))
  - c. References to temple service are frequent throughout the book of Hebrews
    - i. The temple was located at Jerusalem
    - ii. The scattered Jews worshipped at synagogues
2. Generally speaking, any Christian to encourage them to remain steadfast in Christ
  - a. Whatever negative influence is around us, we must stay faithful to Christ
  - b. Thus, this book is a great and needed study