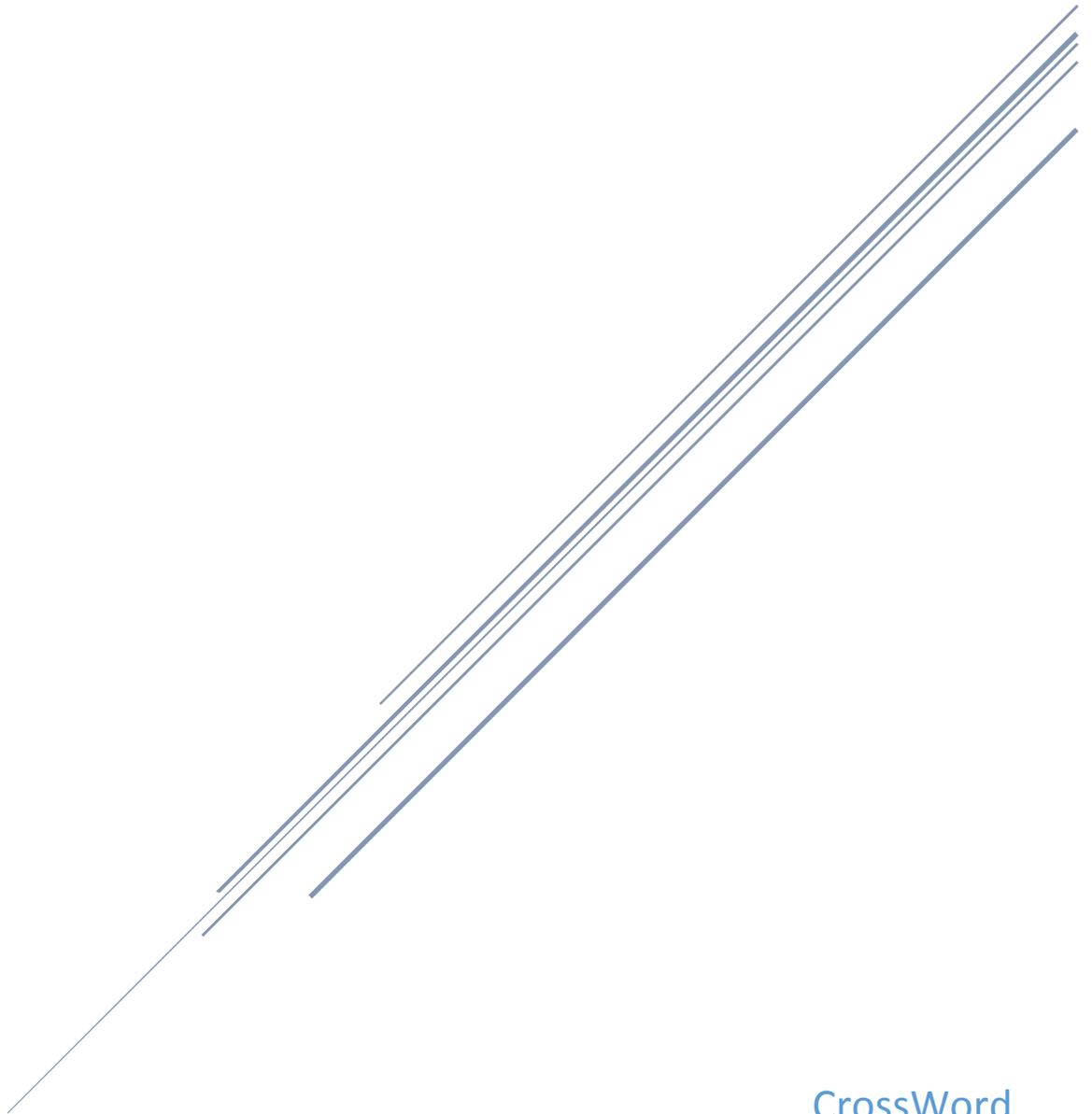


# CROSSWORD QUALITY TIMES

Based on Hebrews



CrossWord

2017

## CONTEXT

Even though we haven't reached the conclusion on who the author is, however, the book of Hebrews seems to have been written by a spiritually matured author. His writing reflects a devoted Christian leader who displayed passionate concern for believers considering to withdraw from Christianity. He is writing to a Christian community who seem to have been in a danger of giving up. They had faced hard times, especially those within them who have had the Jewish background.

The sufferings and persecution they have faced had caused some of them to reconsider their commitment to Christ, even being tempted to return to their traditional roots, and some of them considering to be syncretic in their religion: half commitment to Jesus and half commitment to their old system of belief and practice.

He is therefore, writing to encourage them or to persuade them to maintain their faith in Jesus, to urge them to hold fast their confession (4.14), and to encourage them to hold firmly, to hold fast (3.6) and to strive on Jesus. He does that by affirming to them the superiority of Jesus above everything and everyone that they had read about in the Old Testament.

In these 5 passages to be discussed in these QTs we will trace one of the themes in this epistle, that of the Supremacy or Superiority of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

- a) 1.1-3: Jesus is God's Son, greater than the OT Prophets.
- b) 1.4-14: Jesus, God's son greater than the angels.
- c) 3.1-6: Jesus is greater than Moses.
- d) 4.14-5.10: Jesus is the greatest Priest.
- e) 10. 1-18: Jesus is the greater sacrifice than the OT sacrifices.

## QT 1: HEBREWS 1. 1-3 JESUS IS GOD'S GREATEST PROPHET

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### MAIN POINT

Jesus surpassed the best of prophets of earlier times, and we are all to listen to Him:

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### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

The very opening verses of this book affirm the supremacy of Jesus as God's prophetic voice that surpasses all the Old Testament and old ways that God had used in communicating with His people.

Long time ago (Hebr 1.1) God spoke to our fathers through the prophets. What the prophets spoke were not their own words or their own ideas, but were sent and commanded by God to deliver the oracles they delivered. But in these last days (Hebr 1.2) He has spoken to us by His Son. There are two different periods being separated in these first two verse: *Long ago, and these last days*. They are separated by Jesus. However as they are separated, Jesus doesn't bring a new thing, or doesn't break the long ago period, nor does He void it. Instead He comes to bring it to fulfillment. The 'long ago' period when God used the prophets is to be understood as the shadow of the real thing to be brought by or through Jesus in 'these last days'.

The author provides many reasons to why Jesus is to be seen as superior than the old ways and the OT prophets, below are the few:

1. The prophets portrayed the glory of God, but Jesus reflects it (1.3)
2. The Prophets expounded the nature of God as holy, but Jesus manifested it (1.3)
3. Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature.

The message that we get from this section of the chapter is that of Jesus' supremacy over the Old Testament prophets.

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### APPLYING THE PASSAGE

We are to submit ourselves to the teaching of God's word which are in Jesus.

We are to reaffirm our confidence in God who has spoken clearly to mankind in scripture and in His Son.

## QT 2: HEBREWS 1.4-14 JESUS' SUPREMACY TO THE ANGELS

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### MAIN POINT

Jesus is superior to all the angels because of His title, name and because of the worship that is due to Him.

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### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

The name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs (1.4).

The angels were created beings, and their primary function was to serve and worship God. Their *name* also spoke of their role, they were the *messengers*, used as God's heralds. So they were sent by God to perform various duties. That was who they were; *Messengers*, to serve God.

However, Christ has a name superior to the rest of the angels. He is far more than a messenger. According to verse 5, He has a unique relationship with God for He is the Son of God<sup>1</sup>. Because of the unique relationship He has with the Father, therefore He has the unique rights (v6) probably referring to the rights of inheritance as the first born.

The angels are to worship Him (v6). Part of their function or role was to worship God and in verse 6 the angels are commanded to praise Jesus because of His deity, because we have already established in 1.3 that Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature, He is God. His throne (1.8) is forever and ever.

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### APPLYING THE PASSAGE

We must hold fast and submit under the authority of Jesus.

Our worshipping, our daily living, must be Christ Centered and must be under the rule of Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> This is quoted from Psalm 2.7 and 2 Samuel 7.14

## QT3: HEBREWS 3.1-6 JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES

### MAIN POINT

God has always appointed faithful leaders for His people like Moses, but Jesus is far better than all of them.

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

The author of this passage starts by calling the readers of this passage 'holy brothers' (3.1). He refers to their relationship with Jesus as He Himself is not ashamed to call them brothers (2.11). So all true followers of Jesus according to this verse have a very intimate relationship with Jesus, they are His brothers, and He is the brother to them. This verse describes their union with Christ (brothers) and also their most important characteristic (holy). In 3.6 Christians are described as those who belong to God's house. So the first important thing mentioned in this passage is that of the relationship Christians have with Jesus Christ.

### The contrasting of Jesus and Moses

Now we get to the theme of the passage, Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses. (v3).

Moses was one of the most significantly important figures in the Old Testament and His ministry can be clearly seen in Exodus. In this passage Moses' ministry is not undervalued nor is it perceived as less important. However it is compared to that of Jesus and the result is that of Jesus' work being superior to that of Moses. Below is the comparison:

<b>Moses</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Faithful as a servant, steward in the house of God (3.5)	Faithful as a Son (3.6), and is the owner of the house
Witness (testifying) to the things that were to be spoken of God (3.5)	Christ is the revelation itself (1.1-3)
Moses was temporary	Jesus is permanent, eternal
Moses loved and served God,	Jesus is God.

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## APPLYING THE PASSAGE

Just as to forsake the way of Christ for the way of Moses for the recipients of this book was to go from greater to lesser, same applies to us today: to forsake Christ for things or people that promise us assurance, satisfaction, sense of identity is to forsake the treasure for trash, by doing that we forfeit the treasure for trash, the permanent (eternal) for temporary.

We must be reminded that in Christ we most certainly belong to the house of God and that should give us the sense of security and assurance.

In times of opposition or great rejection by those who do not belong to the house, those who still forfeit treasure for trash, let us therefore, maintain our loyalty and hold on to Jesus Christ, who is worthy of much more glory than Moses.

## QT 4: HEBREWS 4.14-5.10 JESUS IS A GREATEST HIGH PRIEST

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### MAIN POINT

Jesus is the greatest priest, who offered a greatest sacrifice in the greatest holy of holies:

He is sinless priest who offered Himself as a perfect lamb for sacrifice and went to submit that sacrifice to God in Heaven on half of us.

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### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

- He has passed through the Heavens (v14).

He far surpasses all of His priestly forerunners. The Old Testaments priest were responsible for officiating sacrifices and offerings at worship places, particularly the tabernacle and temple. There was a place that only them could enter, (behind the thick curtain) the innermost sanctuary of the temple, where other humans could not enter lest they would die. So the Priests surpassed the curtain to enter into the holy of holies where it was believed that God lived. However, as we see in 4.14, Jesus surpassed heavens, and is seated at the right hand of God, while priests could only enter the place once a year.

- He was tempted like we are, but without sin (v15).  
When the Priests were going to offer sacrifices for the atonement of other people's sins they had to start with their own sins, Jesus however, is the perfect high priest (*being made perfect 5.9*) since He has no sin, and does not need to offer sacrifices for Himself (4.15, 5.1-3).
- He is the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (5.9)  
The sacrifices offered by priests on behalf of the people of God were not necessarily dealing with sin, but was a reminder of sin to the people since sacrifices had to be offered every year.  
Those sacrifices didn't bring eternal salvation but they constantly reminded them of their sin. On the other side however, Jesus is the source of eternal salvation to all who "obey Him" (emphasis on '*all who obey Him*').

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#### APPLYING THE PASSAGE

Let us hold firmly to our confession to what we believe in Christ Jesus. Let us endure remaining in Christ for He relates with us, and not only doesn't He relate but He also sympathizes with our weaknesses. He is with us in our struggle with sin and with all sufferings of this world.

Let us not go back to our old ways and to our old beliefs. Let us come to Him and remain in Him and He to us for He is the source of eternal salvation, but we are ought to come to Him in the manner of obedience.

#### QT 5: HEBREWS 10. 1-14

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#### MAIN POINT.

Eternal life cannot be found outside of Christ: The OT sacrificial couldn't deal with the heart of the problem of mankind which is sin, but Jesus dealt with sin once and for all.

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#### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE.

Hebrews 10.1-14 closes the large section that starts from 3.1. That section is where Jesus is presented as superior to the whole of Old Testament system counting from Prophets, Angels, Moses, Mosaic Covenant and Priests.

In these 14 verses the author presents a contrast between Jesus and the repeated OT sacrifices and from that contrast we learn that Jesus came in order to eternally sanctify His people through offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice once and for all, never to be repeated again and sufficient for all that God has intended to save.

- 10.1-4: The law and OT sacrifices were but a shadow of the real things to appear.

During the Old Testament period, people were sinners just like today, and their sins were a form of a barrier between them and God. The sacrificial system that was used in order to atone or to deal with the sins of the people of God is clearly explained in Leviticus 1.1-6.7.

However, something that also appears in Leviticus is the fact that these offerings that were used in Leviticus couldn't deal with the sins of the people of God. These sacrifices were offered continually every year (10.1), meaning they had to be repeated time and again.

They were not necessarily paying for the sins of Israel, nor removing the sins forever (10.4), but were just reminders of sins (10.3). This sacrificial system was therefore a shadow (10.1), or a pointer to something or someone who will deal with sin once and for ever.

- 10.11-14: Jesus, is the (real) greater sacrifice than the OT sacrifices.

In these 4 last verse of our section, the author once again concludes by doing a comparison between Jesus Christ's work and that of the Priests regarding the offerings and sacrifices.

<b>Priests</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Stood daily at his service, their task unfinished (10.11)	Sat down at the right hand of God, after completing His work (10.12)
Offerings offered repeatedly (10.11)	A Single sacrifice, once and for all. (10.12)
Those sacrifices can never take away sins (10.4, 11)	His sacrifice was for sins and for our sanctification. (10.12)

This means that the work of the Priest was just a shadow to something better to come because their work had to be done time and again and could deal with the main heart of the problem which was sin, their work couldn't earn salvation for the people of God.

However, with Christ, sins were atoned for once and for all, eternal salvation is fully earned, no need for Christ to go on the cross again.

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#### APPLYING THE PASSAGE

From this passage we learn that God is merciful: He doesn't take pleasure in punishing His people, He doesn't wish them to be judged. However, the same God I just, meaning He has to do justice with sin, sin must be punished.

He has always offered a way for His people to be made right with Him, He has always initiated peace with us (Offerings in the OT and Jesus in the NT).

He has counted all our sins on Jesus (the lamb who takes away the sins of the world in John 1.29), and our sins have been fully paid for in Jesus. Let us therefore, draw closer to Jesus, and let us have faith in Him, in Him only for He is the one who earned us the eternal salvation.

Let us then rest and trust in the sufficiency of Christ and of His great sacrifice.