

the Eastern Fathers, comparative phrases and ideas (cf. 1:3 with Col. 1:15, Phil. 2:6, 2 Cor. 4:4); similar patterns of development (doctrinal, practical); similar closing style; mode of quotation from the Old Testament; reference to Timothy (13:23); the variety of typical thinking (cf. Galatians). On the other side of the ledger Pauline authorship is argued against on the basis of the tradition of the western Fathers, the lack of title or inscription; the statements of 2:3 compared with Gal. 1:12, 2:6) the nature of the language..meaning the syntax-grammar of the Greek used.

Historically one will find that the Eastern church championed Paul (the early fathers) while the western fathers preferred Luke, or Barnabas, or Clement (no real unanimity). Later writers found Luther preferring Apollos, Calvin leaning towards Luke or Clement, based on the style of Greek, and a number of others for assorted reasons. It is probably irrelevant in the long run. Its place in the canon seems early assured although it is not listed in the Muratorian Canon...it is cited early by Clement as authoritative and soon thereafter by Martyr. (A few good notes on this subject in Harris: INSPIRATION AND CANONICITY.) Certainly the author was one very familiar with the Old Testament, a profound logician, and one informed on Jewish rites, life, and expectations.

The date of writing was certainly before the fall of the temple (10:3, 8:4) and is usually set at 63 AD, plus or minus. The recipients are thought to have been particularly Jewish believers in Palestine with reference to others also in the New Testament world, and the occasion was both to reconfirm them in their faith and to restore them to it as the case may be.

Outline:

- I. The Superiority of Christ 1-10
 - A. Better than angels 1-2
 - B. More worthy than Moses 3-4
 - C. Superior priest 5-8
 - D. Superior sacrifice 9-10
- II. The Life of Faith 11
- III. Practice of Holy Living 12-13

History of Redemption:

Hebrews is significant in the role it develops for Christ in the superiority characteristics of the foregoing outline. He is the perfecter of all that concerns His people and the "author and finisher" of their salvation. The result is that the only harm of a really heavy sort is the harm that comes from refusing Him. The text is interwoven with warning passages to emphasize this.