

Chapters 12-13..We are advised of God's dealing with us in the place to which Christ has brought us and are told how we should respond. The warning is that, apart from this place, there is nothing other than judgment and condemnation. The instruction is to live lives of love, spiritual sacrifice, and holy service until the time when the "great Shepherd" completes His will for us.

(3) items of further study

- the tabernacle service
- Melchizadek
- the concept of rest
- Contrasts of ideals O.T./N.T

c. Summary:

Hebrews is a challenging book...the picture it gives of Jesus and His work is very precise and full. Some have called it the "Royal Book" and it has long been a favorite area for typology and symbolism. It is hard to image life without it!

2. The Epistle of James

a. An overview

The brief and obscure reference in James 1:1 has caused speculation through the years. Uncertainty concerning the authorship of James was probably one factor contributing to its late acceptance by the church (it is first quoted by Origen, c. AD 225). It is generally agreed that James the son of Zebedee died too early to have written it (he was martyred about AD 44).

The traditional opinion that James was the brother of Jesus (cf. Mk. 6:3; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19) has much to commend it. He was the leader of the church in Jerusalem, a well-known person in the early church. Its sermonic character, Jewish-Christian tone, parallels with the speech of James (Acts 15:13-21), and the Sermon on the Mount all suggest a Jewish all suggest a Jewish Christian of prominence who had heard Jesus speak and who was himself a good speaker.

This opinion is not accepted by all scholars, however. Some point to the lack of distinctly Christian doctrines, the jumble of moral sayings and the rare mention of Jesus by name (only 1:1 and 2:1), saying that James was originally a pre-Christian Jewish homily (sermon) adapted by som (now unknown) Christian for use in the church. This view seems improbable for at least