
THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

An overview with a focus on God's character



A letter to spiritual Israel

From God, with love

Introduction

Dear friends,

For six thousand years the great controversy has been raging on

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Revelation 3:21).

the earth. We are nearing the end of this conflict. As we see the day approaching we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves (Hebrews 10:25). In this day and age we may not be able to assemble in person, but we can do it in other ways. Let us gather warmth from each other and unite together in Jesus Christ.

We have started a series of studies to provide an overview of the Book of Hebrews. This book is filled with encouragement and confidence-building words. We need this desperately right now, especially as we near the time of trouble which is soon to burst upon the world - that long talked about Day of Judgment. Why do we need this?

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment
(1 John 4:17).

Since our focus is on God, we must understand *His* perfect love, and not focus on *our* love. We need to understand *His* love so that we may have “boldness in the day of judgment.” We need to appropriate *His* love so that we may “come

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boldly to the throne of grace,” (Hebrews 4:16). We need to have “**full assurance of faith**” in *His* love, so that we may be “sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:22).

We need to have complete, full assurance of faith in God’s love and salvation or we will succumb to Satan’s deceptions which can lead us to death, as it happened to Judas.

Salvation. We all need that too. And those of us who believe in it really *want* it. Don’t we all want to be saved? But what is salvation? What are



..that the genuineness of your **faith**, *being much more precious than gold that perishes*, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7)

we to be saved from? Is salvation simply the act of being transported from earth to heaven? Or is it being saved from a certain way of *thinking* and *being* that would inevitably cause us to die?

One Bible verse that addresses the issue of salvation, but which seems a bit scary and ominous at first reading, is this one from 1 Peter:

Now “If the righteous one is **scarcely saved**, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear” (1 Peter 4:18, emphasis added)?

What does this mean, “if the righteous are scarcely saved”? This text certainly does not sound too promising or encouraging. We might all just as well give up right now.

But wait... then what do we make of this other verse from the Book of Hebrews?

...how shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*... (Hebrews 2:3, emphasis added)

It doesn't seem to make sense that in one place the Bible says that we are “scarcely saved” while in another it says that we have a “so great salvation.” “Scarcely saved” or “so great a salvation,” which one is it? The obvious answer is, it is both. But how?

**If we are
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good news.**

These two verses fall perfectly into place when we realize that yes, God's salvation is great and abundant, but it is *our* frail faith, *our* belief, that is not so great. If we are “scarcely saved” it is not because God “scarcely” saves us, but because we “scarcely” *believe* in the good news of salvation. And even if we do believe, our faith is frail, weak, tossed by the winds of doubt. This must change. And we must help others see it.

The Book of Hebrews is all about affirming our faith in the good news of God's unconditional love for us. The Father sent His Son to assure us that we are forgiven, justified, and sitting in heavenly places by His grace, and not by our own merits and works.

God knew that Satan would try by all possible means to steal our assurance of His great salvation, and so He sent us a precious message of affirmation in the Book of Hebrews. This message is especially relevant for us who are living in the very

last days of earth's history because Satan is walking about like a roaring lion, as he knows his time is short:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).



The goal of Satan's attack is to *devour* our faith and trust in God. He accomplishes this by distorting the character of God. How can we put our trust in a fickle, revengeful, two-faced tyrant who keeps track of our every thought and action so that he can proportionately and accordingly punish us?

The character of God is the goal of all knowledge. This is the saving knowledge that we all need.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3, emphasis added).

This is the salvation that Jesus Christ, the Saviour, came to impart to us.

I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will praise You (Psalm 22:22, emphasis added).

God wants us to overcome all doubt that we are accepted by Him. He wants us to have the same faith Jesus had while hanging from the cross - "the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). From Gethsemane to the cross the condemnation that comes with the Knowledge of Good and Evil weighed so heavily on Christ that He could no longer see the loving face of His Father. But knowing the Father's character, by faith, He overcame.

God is cheering us on to overcome in the same manner, and He says to us:

"To him who **overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

"He who **overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death" (Revelation 2:11).

“To him who **overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*” (Revelation 2:17).

“And he who **overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Revelation 2:26).

“He who **overcomes** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels” (Revelation 3:5).

“He who **overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name (Revelation 3:12).

“To him who **overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, **as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne**” (Revelation 3:21).

“He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7).

Let us strive to overcome as Jesus overcame and let us “fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life” to which we “were also called” (1 Timothy 6:12).

We pray that this series will be a blessing to you, and we ask that you share it with those who can benefit from it.

Sincerely,

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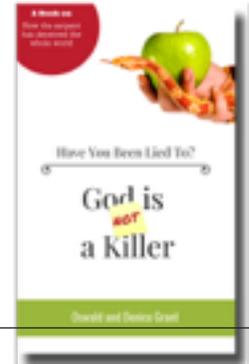
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