

DISCOURSE STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

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I. Consider Jesus as the apostle of our confession (1:1–4:16)

A. Let us hold on to the message that our apostle gave us (1:1–3:1)

1. Let us pay attention to the message of God's ultimate messenger (1:1–2:4)
 - a. God has spoken through his son (1:1–4)
 - b. The son is greater than God's previous messengers (1:5–14)
 - c. Let us hold on to the things we have heard from the son (2:1–4)
2. Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest (2:5–18)
3. Partners in a heavenly calling; think of Jesus as an apostle and high priest (3:1–2)

B. Let us respond to Jesus' voice today and enter the rest (3:1–4:13)

1. Unlike the Israelites, let us respond to his voice and enter the rest (3:1–4:1)
 - a. We are Jesus' house, like the Israelites were Moses' house (3:1–6)
 - b. If you hear his voice do not harden your hearts like the wilderness generation (3:7–15)
 - c. Moses' followers did not enter the rest because they lacked faith (3:16–19)
 - d. Let us be afraid lest one of you may miss the rest (4:1)
2. Since the promise of the rest is still open, let us try to enter (4:1–13)
 - a. There is still a Sabbath rest for God's people (4:2–10)
 - b. Let us make every effort to enter the rest (4:11–13)

Thematic peak (4:11–16)

Let us make every effort to enter the rest

Let us hold on to the confession

Let us draw near to the throne of grace

II. Consider Jesus as the High Priest of our Confession (4:11–10:25)

A. Let us press on to maturity with new teaching about Jesus' priesthood (4:11–7:3)

1. Draw near to the throne of grace (4:11–16)
2. Jesus is a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek (5:1–10)
3. We have a new teaching about Melchizedek, but you are too immature (5:11–14)
4. Let us press on to maturity (6:1–3)

B. The new teaching results in access to God (6:1–7:3)

1. Through advanced teaching, let us press on to maturity, building on the foundation (6:1–3)
2. Teaching must result in persistence and growth (6:4–8)
3. We want you to show diligence to inherit the promises (6:9–12)
4. Teaching about hope and God's oath and promise gives you access to God (6:13–7:3)

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C. Let us draw near to God (7:4–10:25)

1. Jesus is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek (7:4–28)
 - a. Think about how great Melchizedek was! (7:4)
 - b. A defence of Jesus' priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek (7:4b–28)
2. Jesus' priesthood cleanses us and qualifies us to serve as priests (8:1–10:18)
 - a. Jesus' priesthood, covenant, tabernacle and sacrifice (8:1–13)
 - b. Jesus' ministry in the tabernacle cleanses the conscience of the believer (9:1–14)
 - c. Jesus' death inaugurated the new covenant and removed sins once for all (9:15–28)
 - d. Jesus' sacrifice perfected believers forever so there is no more sacrifice (10:1–18)
3. Let us draw near to God in the Holy of Holies (10:19–25)

Thematic Peak (10:19–25)

Let us draw near to God in the Holy of Holies and serve him as priests

Let us hold on to the confession

Let us consider how to motivate one another to love and good works

III. We are partners in Jesus' heavenly calling (10:19–13:16)

A. Let us run the race (10:19–12:2)

1. Let us consider how to motivate one another with love and good works (10:19–25)
2. Sin is a hindrance to progress and leads to judgement (10:26–31)
3. You need endurance to move forward (10:32–39)
4. Faith is modelled by action-events in the lives of people from the past (11:1–40)
5. Let us run the race with faith and endurance (12:1–2)

B. Let us serve God as priests in heavenly Jerusalem (12:1–29)

1. Let us run the race with discipline (12:1–17)
 - a. Life viewed as a race in heavenly Jerusalem (12:1–2)
 - b. The believers' suffering is like athletic training (12:3–11)
 - c. Strengthen weak limbs, make straight paths and pursue the goals of peace and righteousness (12:12–17)
2. Climax: Let us serve God as priests in heavenly Jerusalem (12:18–29)
 - a. Your location is heavenly Jerusalem where all the faithful are present and Jesus is speaking (12:18–24)
 - b. Do not resist Jesus' voice (12:25–27)
 - c. Let us serve God as priests through grace in heavenly Jerusalem (12:28–29)

C. Conclusion: Let us go to Jesus and offer sacrifices of love, good works and sharing (12:28–13:16)

1. Let us serve God as priests through grace (12:28–29)
2. Offer good works and sharing (13:1–9a)
3. It is good to be strengthened by grace (13:9b–12)
4. Let's go to Jesus and offer sacrifices (13:13–16)

Closing—Draw strength from relationships with your leaders and community (13:17–25)