

Research Questions/Topics from NT 644/744—Hebrews in Fall 2018

Has the Church replaced Israel?
Hebrews 1:2c "...through whom he also created the worlds." v. 3b "...and he sustains all things by his powerful word..." and v. 10 "And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; "
The Book of Hebrews depicts Christ's role in creation, which was not directly mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. In this paper, this significant facet of NT Christology shall be explored.
The life of Abraham and the connections that the author makes about him in regards to faith and his relationship with God and how it all connects with the main theme of the book.
A study of the use of the Rest of God in Hebrews 4:1-11.
Similarities and differences of the Hebrews historical background and today's world, and how the book of Hebrew can apply to challenges of 20th Century Americans
The challenges of our faith today is very different from the first century, where we may not face death threats, but the result is very similar: people are leaving church. My research will focus on the similarities of the natures of the challenges and the author's exhortation.
I am interested in writing on the idea of "Entering into God's Rest" found in Hebrews 4.
I shall explore why Christ is sovereign (even) during times of suffering.
The representation of Jesus Christ as Son: What things are said to be true about Jesus Christ as the Son of God that are different from or not true about what is said of others, such as the angels, Moses, etc.?
Title: Jesus Experienced our Weaknesses and Remained undefiled
What does the New Covenant mean for the readers of Hebrews? What is lost from the Old, what is maintained, and why?
What (if any) is the role of the clergy in light of the royal priesthood as described in the book of Hebrews?
Looking at specific texts in Hebrews, explore how Christ is said to be offering himself and how his sacrifice is declared to be better than the sacrifices, gifts, and offerings specified by the Old Covenant. What made them superior? What view(s) of atonement do they reflect? How does Christ's actual [High] priestly functions contribute to the accomplishment of the atonement?

I want to explore the subject of “rest” as noted in Hebrews 3 and 4. My initial thoughts might include the following:

A. Identify through contrast and comparison the kinds of rest

- a. Promised Land Rest
- b. Sabbath Rest (Creation)
- c. Eternal Rest

B. What is the relationship between “rest” and “faith”?

- a. What role does “rest” have in the progression of one’s faith?
- b. What are the obstacles and benefits of biblical rest?
- c. How does one enter rest in a frenetic world?

How does the author of the book of Hebrews portray Jesus as prophet, priest, and king?

To answer this, I will be looking at the following sections:

- Hebrews 1 God speaks through Jesus (prophet)
- Melchizedek and Jesus (priest)
- Hebrews and Psalm 110:4 quotation (king)

Hermeneutical Foundation of Hebrews: A Study of the interpretation of the Psalms in Hebrews.

Do Hebrews 6 & 10 lay out a possibility that a believer in Jesus Christ can lose his salvation if he turns from Christ?

The topic I am planning to explore is God's Supreme Revelation throughout the book of Hebrews.

Divine Discipline in the Book of Hebrews

(Question: Is a God who disciplines his children through suffering marketable today?)

How are the readers to emulate/imitate those in the list of “faithful ones” from Hebrews 11?

The representation of Jesus Christ as Son:

What things are said to be true about Jesus Christ as the Son of God that are different from or not true about what is said of others, such as the angels, Moses, etc.?

My research topic is "Faith".

- a. What is Faith?
- d. Does having Faith matter to God?
- c. Can one exercise faith without practicing it (work)?

Does Hebrews 6:4-8 mean we can lose our salvation?

The Topic I am plan on exploring and researching is about Jesus being Greater then Moses.

And here are some Questions and Topics that I have suggested when students did not know quite where to begin:

- The use of Psalm 110:1 within Hebrews: Where is it used, how is it being used in those places, and what other Scriptures, if any, does it occur in close proximity to? How does/should our viewing Jesus Christ as the exalted, anointed King who is seated at God's right hand influence our faith and practice here and now?
- The representation of Jesus Christ as Son: What things are said to be true about Jesus Christ as the Son of God that are different from or not true about what is said of others, such as the angels, Moses, etc.? In light of this, what was writer exhorting his readers to do, and what should we be exhorting our listeners, those to whom we minister, to do?
- What are the specific things that the author wants the ideal audience/readers to do based on reading/hearing this sermon, and what reasons does he offer to persuade them to do these things? You could limit this to Chapter 4, Chapter 10, Chapter 13, or do some combination or all of these, if you felt that you had the time for research and space in your paper. How would these actions and reasons relevant and applicable in our contemporary setting?
- What part do Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection, and ascension play in the book of Hebrews? This could be limited to a couple of chapters, say Chapters 1 and 7, or a couple of aspects, such as his offering of himself, his making purification for sins, etc. How do we emphasize these things in our sermons, our Bible studies, and other ministries? Are these foundational truths upon which we build other doctrines and find guidance for our practices?
- One last idea could be a general survey of hope in Hebrews, an attempt at a definition/description arrived at inductively based upon the material present in Hebrews, and some presentation of the function of hope in the lives of the believers.