

Hebrews Background

We are unsure about the author of Hebrews.

There are thoughts that it could Barnabas, who traveled with Paul.

Apollos, who was friends with Paul.

Luke, writer of the Gospel of Luke and Acts, and Paul are also suggestions for authors.

None of these are perfect fits and so authorship remains up for debate.

Truthfully, authorship doesn't matter much.

What matters is that the Holy Spirit inspired someone to write the book and therefore it has been included in our New Testament.

We know that it was written to Jewish Christians.

We know this because it was titled in manuscripts as "to the Hebrews"

It was written to Jewish believers somewhere in Italy.

In 589 BC what is known as the Jewish Diaspora begins.

This started with Babylon exiling many of the Jews to Babylon.

It continued as Jews chose to leave the promised land or as they were captured by different groups and sold into slavery and sent around the known world.

The author frequently quotes the Greek Septuagint.

The Greek translation of the Jewish scriptures, our Old Testament.

This helps us know he is writing to Jews outside of the promised land.

It was written before 70 AD.

We know this because the author writes about worship at the temple in Jerusalem as on going.

In 70 AD the temple was destroyed by the Romans at this point worship ceased.

It is also considered a sermon not a letter.

Hebrews helps us see how the Old Testament story is completed through Christ.

It primarily focuses on how Christ is better prophet, a better priest, a better sacrifice.

Jesus is better!