

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for February 24, 2013**

**Introduction to the Book of Hebrews**

So what makes the Book of Hebrews, that is so carefully contracted and beautifully written, theologically profound and powerfully argued, so difficult to understand?

Old Testament quotations and allusions abound while details about Israel's priesthood and sacrificial system dominate much of the book.

Many of the author's arguments employ typological similarities that are difficult to grasp, for example, between old and new, temporal and eternal, or earthly and heavenly.

Although the arguments seem to be based on careful reasoning, they are often detailed and extensive so that it is difficult to see how the author moves from one argument or stage to the next.

There is also the insertion of repeated exhortations that seem, initially at least, to interrupt the overall flow of the discourse.

At a personal level, Christians throughout history have been unsettled by the warning passages in Hebrews 2, 3, 6, 10 and 12 which may seem to contradict the doctrine of eternal security.

Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

The best answer to this question would appear to have been given by Origen, "Who wrote the epistle? God knows the truth."

Who were the recipients of the letter?

There is a general consensus that the recipients of this letter would have been primarily Hebrew Christians.

Where were these Hebrew Christians living?

The book of Hebrews was written to Hebrew Christians living in Rome.

Why would the author have written these Hebrew Christians living in Rome this letter at this particular time?

The author of the book of Hebrews wrote this letter to strengthen the faith of Hebrew Christians living in Rome during a period of great persecution to help prevent them from falling away.

May God give us the grace to understand the truths that we will be studying in the book of Hebrews in the years ahead, so that our faith might increase and that God will be glorified.

Valley Bible Church  
3347 West Avenue J  
Lancaster, California 93536  
[www.valleybible.net](http://www.valleybible.net)