

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**Hebrews 1*****Hebrews 1***

Many in the Western world look at the Jews as a people God once called and chose to bring to Himself for a particular purpose, but many believe that purpose is now finished and God has chosen to use the church because the Jews rejected Messiah, and therefore God has rejected them. That fits into man's sinful warped logic and analysis, but we must remember that our logic and reasoning at best are flawed by sin. God's ways are high above ours and His thoughts are far above ours. God is not finished with the Jews. Has God cast His people off, forsaken them, replaced them? God forbid! May that never be, says the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans chapter eleven. God made a covenant with Abraham, and by lineage, Isaac, and Jacob. Read the Book of Genesis again from chapter twelve onward and notice the irrevocable calling, covenant, and gifts to the Hebrews, known to us now as Jews, because of the dominance of the tribe of Judah. Without the Hebrews, there would be no Bible, no promises, no oracles of God. There would be no promises to David, the direct descendent of Abraham, and there would be no Messiah that could come by promise through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Israel, and David. There would not have been any Gentiles in the church, because without the Jews being used by God to establish the church and bring the gospel to the Gentiles, first to Cornelius in Acts chapter ten, then to all of us. For the vast majority of the first decade of the church age, the people who trusted Jesus and received Him as Messiah were Jewish. When the Gentiles came into the church, they were not grafted into the spiritual promises made to

Abraham, so that the Jews would be forsaken by the Gentiles and cut off, but rather to embrace them and live in gratitude for the sharing of the gospel to all who would repent of their sins and trust Jesus as Messiah and Savior.

The Gentiles had much in their culture and backgrounds that were contrary to the one true and living God, but so did the Jews. They were poles apart. The Jews of the first century who became a part of the early church had lived for centuries under the Torah (God's Instructions), the Prophets, and the Writings, but they had also lived under the traditions of the fathers, which were not on par with the Words of God, but many took them as so. This is the culture the Lord Jesus came into and the culture of those Jews who came to Jesus at Pentecost and thereafter. They had teachings that they had to overcome. The early Jewish believers were outcasts among their people and were persecuted by other Jews, including Saul of Tarsus, until his conversion. When assaulted and persecuted many Jews were tempted to separate themselves from the Gentiles and *turn back and revert to the teachings of Judaism* that relied on animal sacrifices, keeping of Jewish rituals, and even their DNA to make them acceptable to God. The Book of Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish followers of Jesus the Messiah to not turn back to those elements which brought them to see the Savior and their need for Him but could never be their Savior. The writer of Hebrews established how Jesus is superior to any covenant, ritual, angel, priest, sacrifice, or worship system. Let's study the book together over the coming days!

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are God's final Word and Expression of Himself to man and that in you dwells the fulness of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Thank you for never changing and will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that you gave us the gift of salvation, even the forgiveness of our sins even though we were strangers from the promises to the Jewish nation.

Amen