The Literary Context of the Book of Hebrews

Literary Context for BI5500 Hermeneutics

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In all the outlines and commentaries[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2) that I have read through there is three main sections in the book of Hebrews. The first section talks about Christ and His authority/supremacy which we see most clearly in Hebrews 1:8-10 as follows:

**8**But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

**9**You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

**10**And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,

and the heavens are the work of your hands.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Following the establishment of Christ as a superior person to us in chapter 1-6 we then see chapter 7 lead into the superior priest hood that has now been established in Christ that is better than the old one in Heb. 7:15-16. The author continues to hit this point home until he hits chapter 11 where we transition into faith and great examples of faith that we can look to for hope and assurance. The following outline is what I have put together:

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Christ – Supremacy of God - chapters 1–6

A. Jesus being exalted as supreme—1:4–2:18

B. Jesus Greater than Moses—3:1–4:13

C. Jesus The great High Priest—4:14–6:20

III. The Priestly Order of Melchizedek/Jesus—chapters 7–10

A. Melchizedek being established as a High Priest and his legitimacy -7

B. Jesus better than Melchizedek—8

C. Redemption through Jesus blood is our greater holy place—9

D. No need for additional sacrifices, Christ’s being once for all—10

III. Walking By Faith - chapters 11–13

A. Examples of faith -11

B. Jesus perfecting our faith through discipline/ final warnings -12

C. Closing Benediction -13

My passage is Hebrews 6:1-12 and the main purpose of my passage is warning people of falling back into their old ways of doing things, to leave behind the elementary doctrine and take up a new one of maturity that Christ gives us through His life, death and resurrection. My passage fit with this outline by way of trusting in Jesus as the new high priest that has established a better holy place than that originally established back in the levitical times. The outline goes through Jesus superiority into his ability to come and be a better high priest then even that of Melchizedek into how we should now follow this high priest.

Call to maturity (6:1-4)

Lamentation (6:4-9)

Encouragement (6:9-10)

Exhortation (6:10-12)

1. Zane C. Hodges, “Hebrews,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament and New Testament, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Hebrews,” in The Bible Exposition Commentary, ed. Warren W. Wiersbe (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)