

Israel according to the Book of Hebrews and the General Epistles

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Study Questions

1. Why did some of the leaders in the early Church “speak against” the book of Hebrews and General Epistles?
2. How well represented among our earliest Greek New Testament manuscripts are the book of Hebrews and the General Epistles? What does the evidence suggest?
3. The book of Hebrews is anonymous. What authors have been suggested? Why do you think Paul wrote or did not write the book of Hebrews?
4. Why do you think the book of Hebrews and the General Epistles are grouped together at the end of the New Testament, if they are as old (and authoritative as) the epistles of Paul?
5. What are some of the Jewish characteristics of the book of Hebrews?
6. What are some of the Jewish characteristics of the General Epistles?
7. When James talks about the importance of works in chapter 2, does he contradict Paul, who argues that no one can be justified by works of the Law? What “works” is James talking about?
8. In what ways does the author of the book of Hebrews show that Jesus is unequalled in authority?
9. In what ways does the author of the book of Hebrews warn his Jewish readers with regard to maintaining their faith?
10. Would it have been necessary for the apostle Peter to have a command of excellent Greek to have written the letters attributed to him in the New Testament? If not, why not?
11. How do the authors of the book of Hebrews and the General Epistles speak of Israel’s future and the fulfillment of the biblical promises?