

Story 129: A Letter Written to Hebrew Christians

The Jews who became believers in Jesus Christ had many enemies. Some people did not want to change, and did not want to hear about Jesus. Many Jews wanted to continue to worship God in the old, familiar ways. They did not like followers of Jesus. Some government leaders began killing Christians. Life was very dangerous for any person who believed in Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews was written to encourage believers not to be afraid. It reminded them that Jesus came to make a new and better agreement between God and man.

“Long ago in many ways and at many times God’s prophets spoke his message to our ancestors. But now at last, God sent his Son to bring his message to us. God created the universe by his Son, and everything will someday belong to the Son. God’s Son has all the brightness of God’s own glory and is like him in every way. By his own mighty word, he holds the universe together.” – Hebrews 1:1-3

The Lord said, “I tell you the time will come, when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and the people of Judah. It won’t be like the agreement that I made with their ancestors, when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. They broke their agreement with me. . . . this is my new agreement: The time will come when I, the Lord, will write my laws on their minds and hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people.” – Hebrews 8:8-10

“The Law of Moses is like a shadow of the good things to come. This shadow isn’t the good things themselves, because it cannot free people from sin by the sacrifices that are offered year after year. . . . But the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. It only reminds people of their sins from one year to the next. . . . The priests do their work each day, and they keep on offering sacrifices that can never take away sins. But Christ offered himself as a sacrifice that is good forever. . . . By his one sacrifice he has forever set free from sin the people he brings to God.” – Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-12a, 14