

good  
NEWS BIBLE

LETTERS

of the New Testament Vol 2

Hebrews to Jude

Bible Society  
Trinity Business Centre  
Stonehill Green, Westlea  
Swindon SN5 7DG  
biblesociety.org.uk

First published 2020 by The British and Foreign Bible Society  
Copyright © 2020 The British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS)  
Additional material © 2017 BFBS

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)  
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.  
Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994,  
2004

The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, Floor 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2155 ([www.americanbible.org](http://www.americanbible.org)).

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

New Testament Letters Vol 2  
ISBN: 978-0-564-05307-0  
Typesetting and production management by Bible Society Resources Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The British and Foreign Bible Society

Cover design by Colin Hall

BSRL/2020/0.5M  
Printed in Great Britain

# Contents

Welcome to the Good News Bible	4
Hebrews	9
James	48
1 Peter	62
2 Peter	77
1 John	86
2 John	100
3 John	103
Jude	106
Where to find ...	111

# Welcome to the Good News Bible

Welcome to this dyslexia-friendly edition of Hebrews to Jude, using text from the Good News Bible.

If you are dyslexic, you may find most Bibles very difficult to read, with their small type, long paragraphs and thin paper. This book has been specially designed with the British Dyslexia Association's style guide in mind, so it has the following features:

- Thicker paper, so that type does not show through
- Cream-coloured paper
- Matt paper
- Plain font
- Larger type
- Wider line spacing
- Short paragraphs
- Bold headings

The Good News Bible is a clear, easy-to read translation of the Bible. It uses ordinary, everyday language so that as many people as possible can read and understand it. This has made it a very popular translation, selling over 150 million copies in the UK alone.

# The letter to the Hebrews

## **The letter about Jesus**

**What's it about?** The letter to the Hebrews focuses on Jesus as God and man, as high priest, as the sacrifice for our sin.

**Who wrote it?** The writer of this letter is unknown. The title has led to the belief that it was written to a group of Jewish believers.

**Why read it?** The writer of the letter helps his readers to understand more about the nature of Jesus, particularly in supernatural terms. This is a cosmic picture of what God has done to bring his people back to him, and who Jesus is.

**What's it to me?** The list of faithful people in Hebrews 11 reminds us of the history of the people of God, inspires us and places us at the end of that list.

# Chapter 1

## **God's Word through his Son**

<sup>1</sup>In the past, God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end.

<sup>3</sup>He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for human sins, he sat down in heaven at the right-hand side of God, the Supreme Power.

## **The Greatness of God's Son**

<sup>4</sup>The Son was made greater than the angels, just as the name that God gave him is greater than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For God never said to any of his angels:

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”  
Nor did God say about any angel,

“I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son.”

<sup>6</sup>But when God was about to send his firstborn Son into the world, he said:

“All God's angels must worship him.”  
<sup>7</sup>But about the angels God said,

“God makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> About the Son, however, God said:

“Your kingdom, O God, will last<sup>a</sup> for ever and ever!  
You rule over your<sup>b</sup> people with justice.

<sup>9</sup> You love what is right and hate what is wrong.  
That is why God, your God, has chosen you  
and has given you the joy of an honour far greater  
than he gave to your companions.”

<sup>10</sup> He also said:

“You, Lord, in the beginning created the earth,  
and with your own hands you made the heavens.

<sup>11</sup> They will disappear, but you will remain;  
they will all wear out like clothes.

<sup>12</sup> You will fold them up like a coat,  
and they will be changed like clothes.

But you are always the same,  
and your life never ends.”

<sup>13</sup> God never said to any of his angels:

“Sit here on my right  
until I put your enemies  
as a footstool under your feet.”

<sup>14</sup> What are the angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation.

---

<sup>a</sup> *Your kingdom, O God, will last; or God is your kingdom.*

<sup>b</sup> *your; some manuscripts have his.*

## Chapter 2

### **The Great Salvation**

<sup>1</sup> That is why we must hold on all the more firmly to the truths we have heard, so that we will not be carried away.

<sup>2</sup> The message given to our ancestors by the angels was shown to be true, and all who did not follow it or obey it received the punishment they deserved.

<sup>3</sup> How, then, shall we escape if we pay no attention to such a great salvation? The Lord himself first announced this salvation, and those who heard him proved to us that it is true.

<sup>4</sup> At the same time God added his witness to theirs by performing all kinds of miracles and wonders and by distributing the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

### **The One who Leads us to Salvation**

<sup>5</sup> God has not placed the angels as rulers over the new world to come — the world of which we speak.

<sup>6</sup> Instead, as it is said somewhere in the Scriptures:

“What are human beings, O God, that you should think of them;

mere human beings, that you should care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You made them for a little while lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honour,<sup>c</sup>

<sup>8</sup> and made them rulers over all things.”

---

<sup>c</sup> Many manuscripts add: *You made them rulers over everything you made* (see Psalm 8.6).



# The letter from James

## **The letter of wisdom**

**What's it about?** The letter explains that we can't have faith without action, that we can't act as the world acts and still follow Jesus.

**Who wrote it?** Traditionally, this letter is ascribed to James, the brother of Jesus, but that is not certain.

**Why read it?** This is a most practical and direct book. James takes no prisoners as he explains how to live out your faith.

**What's it to me?** Do you look at yourself in the mirror and then forget what you look like?

## Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> From James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Greetings to all God's people scattered over the whole world.

## **Faith and Wisdom**

<sup>2</sup>My brothers and sisters, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, <sup>3</sup>for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.

<sup>4</sup>Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

<sup>5</sup>But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all.

<sup>6</sup>But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven and blown about by the wind.

<sup>7-8</sup>People like that, unable to make up their minds and undecided in all they do, must not think that they will receive anything from the Lord.

## **Poverty and Riches**

<sup>9</sup>Those Christians who are poor must be glad when God lifts them up, <sup>10</sup>and the rich Christians must be glad when God brings them down. For the rich will pass away like the flower of a wild plant.

<sup>11</sup>The sun rises with its blazing heat and burns the plant; its flower falls off, and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way the rich will be destroyed while they go about their business.



**“The rich will pass away like the flower of a wild plant” (1.10)**

### **Testing and Tempting**

<sup>12</sup>Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup>If people are tempted by such trials, they must not say, “This temptation comes from God.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one.

<sup>14</sup>But people are tempted when they are drawn away and trapped by their own evil desires.

<sup>15</sup>Then their evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters!

<sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning.

<sup>18</sup>By his own will he brought us into being through the word of truth, so that we should have first place among all his creatures.

### **Hearing and Doing**

<sup>19</sup>Remember this, my dear brothers and sisters! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry.

<sup>20</sup>Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose.

<sup>21</sup>So get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct. Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts, which is able to save you.

<sup>22</sup>Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.

<sup>23</sup>Whoever listens to the word but does not put it into practice is like a man who looks in a mirror and sees himself as he is.

<sup>24</sup>He takes a good look at himself and then goes away and at once forgets what he looks like.

<sup>25</sup>But those who look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, who keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice — they will be blessed by God in what they do.

<sup>26</sup>Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourselves.

# The first letter from Peter

## **The letter of persecution**

**What's it about?** The letter was written to encourage those who suffered from persecution (which was growing, both from the Jewish authorities and the Romans).

**Who wrote it?** The letter is attributed to Peter, the disciple of Jesus, but some scholars have disputed this.

**Why read it?** Jesus warned his followers that they would suffer in the same way he did. Peter reminds the readers of this, but reminds them too of the new life they have in Jesus.

**What's it to me?** If you've been made fun of because you're a Christian, then this letter is for you. Jesus suffered too, as did his followers in the first century AD. Peter recognised this and offers us encouragement and comfort.

## Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> From Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ —

To God's chosen people who live as refugees scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

<sup>2</sup> You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood.

May grace and peace be yours in full measure.

### **A Living Hope**

<sup>3</sup> Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, <sup>4</sup> and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.

<sup>5</sup> They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

<sup>6</sup> Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer.

<sup>7</sup> Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be

tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>8</sup>You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, <sup>9</sup>because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him.

<sup>10</sup>It was concerning this salvation that the prophets made careful search and investigation, and they prophesied about this gift which God would give you.

<sup>11</sup>They tried to find out when the time would be and how it would come.<sup>a</sup> This was the time to which Christ's Spirit in them was pointing, in predicting the sufferings that Christ would have to endure and the glory that would follow.

<sup>12</sup>God revealed to these prophets that their work was not for their own benefit, but for yours, as they spoke about those things which you have now heard from the messengers who announced the Good News by the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. These are things which even the angels would like to understand.

### **A Call to Holy Living**

<sup>13</sup>So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

---

<sup>a</sup> *when the time would be and how it would come; or who the person would be and when he would come.*

<sup>14</sup>Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant.

<sup>15</sup>Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy.

<sup>16</sup>The scripture says, "Be holy because I am holy."

<sup>17</sup>You call him Father, when you pray to God, who judges all people by the same standard, according to what each one has done; so then, spend the rest of your lives here on earth in reverence for him.

<sup>18</sup>For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; <sup>19</sup>it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw.

<sup>20</sup>He had been chosen by God before the creation of the world and was revealed in these last days for your sake.

<sup>21</sup>Through him you believe in God, who raised him from death and gave him glory; and so your faith and hope are fixed on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that by your obedience to the truth you have purified yourselves and have come to have a sincere love for your fellow-believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart.<sup>b</sup> <sup>23</sup>For through the living and eternal word of

---

<sup>b</sup> *with all your heart*; some manuscripts have *with a pure heart*.