

Hoofin' It Through Hebrews

Prolegomena & 1:1-2

Definitions and Concepts

Prolegomenon –

A critical and detailed introduction to a book. From its Greek origins to its eventual Latin final construction, it means, “the things that come beforehand” or simply, “to say before.” You might run across this word in a theology or introduction book because it is often used in the academic field of theology. The plural form of this word for a discussion of various things that must come before is prolegomena.

Introduction –

A typical introduction of a book of the Bible includes some standard things: Title, date, authorship or destination, audience, circumstance or occasion or provenance or purpose, background, structure or outline, theme, content or text, literary features, contribution, adoption into the canon, and history of study or controversy.

A word of Caution.

It is important to remember that the Introductions you may run across, either in your Study Bible, on-line, or in published form vary. Scholarship and approach might be different. The date or author or theme might be more debated than presented in a single introduction. Outlines and structure are widely divergent depending on the approach. These are tools to help, not definitive sources of information. Use a little caution by comparing introductions against each and repeat what work you can to draw your best conclusions.

Prolegomena:

1. What is the title of the book we are studying? Why does it have that title? What does that title suggest about the book we are about to dig into?
2. What is the potential date of authorship of the book of Hebrews? Is there anything significant about the date? What difference does it make if the book was written before 70 AD rather than after?
3. Other than God, who was the author of the book of Hebrews? Can we know? Are there clues about who it might be and who it might not be? Could it be more than one author?

4. Who is the most likely intended audience for the book of Hebrews? Why is this important to know?
5. Where does the book of Hebrews fit in the story of the redemptive history of God? Why is it important we know this?
6. What does the book of Hebrews contribute to the Bible that we might not have if we didn't have the book in the Canon?

Hebrews in 10 words or less.

“Jesus is better than any Old Testament person or sacrifice.”

Verses 1:1-2.

1. Who is the subject of the first verse? Why is this important?
2. What are some of the ways God spoke in the days of old?
3. Why does this passage speak of Jesus being the heir of all things and the one whom God created the world through? What's significant about that?
4. What is this verse saying about Jesus?
5. As these verses move into verse 3, who is the author talking about? Why is that important for verses 1 and 2?