

Come Follow Me  
Elo Viz production  
Week 45  
Hebrews 1-6

Amongst all the speculation of who wrote the book of Hebrews, there is one truth: No one knows who the author is. There are hints and clues that some use to make a guess but there is not real or conclusive evidence of who wrote this wonderful book. One thing we do know is that it was written to the Hebrews. We don't know where these Hebrews lived but we do know who they were. They were believers.

And the message of the writings are very profound and inspiring. He starts out telling us about all the prophets and how fantastic they were to teach us and point us to Christ. From the old testament starting with Adam all the way up to the time that Jesus came to Earth and fulfilled the old testament laws that were given by the prophets. They were awesome, BUT... Jesus is better. At the end of Chapter 1 and into chapter 2 he says that Angels are good and glorious. But Jesus is better. Chapter 3 Moses the great law giver, really the founder of the Hebrew faith that they knew at that time. The one they revered, and nearly worshiped for receiving the 10 commandments from the Lord and instituting the laws. The writer of Hebrews says Moses was great...but Jesus is better. Even Joshua; Joshua was great...but Jesus is better. His intentions were to outline their history and all the great leaders of their faith, but to emphasize that all of these pointed to Christ. That he is the greatest of them all. Including the High priests.

Now in that day their temple was the center of their worship. Once a year there was one single person that was allowed to enter into the Holy of Holies and commune with God. This was such an important job. The High priest was responsible to make intercession for them at the altar, where they would sacrifice a lamb for their sins. Did you know that the possession of a High priest was so interesting that the calling to be a high priest they believed was chosen by God alone? Could you image the responsibility that came with that? They believed that if someone other than a high priest were to enter into the Holy of Holies that they would be struck dead in an instant. Some high priests were even required to wear a rope around their ankle in case they were found unworthy and died in the Holy of Holies, so that they could pull them out without going in to get them.

And here the author of Hebrews says. The High priest is good. But Jesus is better. And it outlines why:

**14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the [heavens](#), Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

**15** For we have not an high priest [which](#) cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points [tempted](#) like as *we are*, *yet* without [sin](#)."

(Hebrews 4:14-15)

So what does this mean? There is a lot to unpack from these 2 verses. Let's start at the end: But in all points tempted like as we are. Yes, this is true, yet hard to understand. See, to be tempted is not a sin. To give in to that temptation is a sin. Jesus, while He was here in this mortal life was tempted with every temptation that any could experience. And you may say: well, He didn't have drugs like we do, or electronics such as TV or social media like we do. He doesn't understand what we are going through. Actually He does. Though our temptations may be different in the item which we seek to worship, the feeling, the temptation, the desire to consume it upon our physical lust is the same. And Jesus experienced all those feelings. And yet did not give into any of them. Why? Because of you and because of me. Jesus was willing to go through all of that because He knew that that was the only way for us to get back to the Father. If He were to falter in His mission, to slump in a moment of weakness the ramifications of His mis-step would alter the eternal future for the entire human race. We would all be doomed for eternal damnation. So you ask how it's possible for Him to go through all that temptation, pain, suffering and heartache? It's because of His individual love for each of us. That's how he got through it. He had to get through it. He is the only one that could.

After the children of Israel crossed the red sea and arrived at Mt Sinai. They had an exhilarating opportunity to prepare to meet God. To see Him face to face. This is what God told them: “**3** And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD **called** unto him out of the **mountain**, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

**4** Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bare you on **eagles'** wings, and brought you unto myself.

**5** Now therefore, if ye will **obey** my voice indeed, and keep my **covenant**, then ye shall be a **peculiar treasure** unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine:

**7** ¶ And Moses came and, laid before their faces all these words which the LORD **commanded** him.

**8** And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will **do**. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

**9** And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick **cloud**, that the people may **hear** when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever.

**10** ¶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and **sanctify** them to day and to morrow, and let them **wash** their clothes,

**11** And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the **sight** of all the people upon mount Sinai.

**16** ¶ And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that [*were*] in the camp trembled.

**17** And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to **meet** with God.

18 And mount Sinai was altogether [covered in] smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the whole mount quaked greatly.

**Chap 20:18 ¶** And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear [you]: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” (Ex 19: 3-18, Ex 20:18-19)

Although this event took place thousands of years ago, I believe this mind set still exists today. God is saying to them and to us “Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

And a lot of the time we respond the same way that the children of Israel did. You go, you go and talk to God, then come back and tell me what He said. But that is not how God intended it to be. God is not untouchable. He is begging and anxious for us to come to Him, so that we may find grace and help in time of need.

This is a very important gospel truth. Too many times we put someone between us and God. A spouse, a friend, a Bishop, a prophet. And we rely on them to give us God's word, or even to interpret God's word. Because it can be challenging and hard to receive it for ourselves. But I can assure you that God wants to speak to you directly, not through someone else. He wants to talk to you. But you have to be ready and willing to do as He asks. Just as He told the Israelites, Sanctify yourselves, because I want to come to you. We have the ability and the command to come boldly to the throne of grace, to see God, and to hear His voice.

And it all starts by focusing on the right person. I'd like to show you an example of this. However, I do not want you to be offended. I simply want to use this as an illustration on this continuing problem. Let me start off my saying that I believe that Russel M Nelson is a prophet, called by God to lead His Church on earth. He is a wonderful man who has dedicated his life to doing God's work. You can see and feel the power of God in him as he speaks. But, this is not the church of President Nelson. There was a pattern that I noticed this last General Conference that I'd like to point out. As I listened to the 33 talks that were given I kept hearing: President Nelson said this and President Nelson said that. So I did a quick search on how many times president Nelson was referred to during the 5 sessions of conference. Exuding the sustaining of the general authorities. Can you guess how many times his name was mentioned? 56 times. There were only 7 talks, including his own, that he was not mentioned in. The other 26 talks on average referred to him 2.1 times. And 1 talk even referred to him 5 times. What else I found interesting is that of the 7 that did not refer to president Nelson were mostly members of the quorum of the 12 apostles, all except 2. Now, just so I am very clear, this is in no way an attempt to diminish president Nelson, or his calling, or the office as the Lord's prophet and the president of this church. What I am pointing out is that there is a large majority that will choose to focus on the wrong things in an attempt to illustrate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Remember what Nephi taught us? “we **talk** of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we **prophecy** of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our **children** may know to what source they may look for a **remission** of their sins.”  
(2 Nephi 25:26)

I'm positive that all of the speakers in General Conference had good intentions when it came to writing their talks. I'm positive that they all have very strong testimonies about our Saviour and His gospel. And I don't blame them. Because, any time someone mentions the name of Jesus Christ there is either a revival or a riot. There is seldom anything in between. In today's society of war and massacre it is clear that now is the time to pick which side you are on. Let us join the side that we know will win. The side of the all mighty God who is quick to save.

I challenge you. Whatever is standing in your way, get rid of it. Whoever is standing in your way, remove them. And Come boldly, Come boldly to the throne of Grace. I testify that He is there waiting anxiously for you to show up. For you to step up and seek Him with confidence and humility.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.