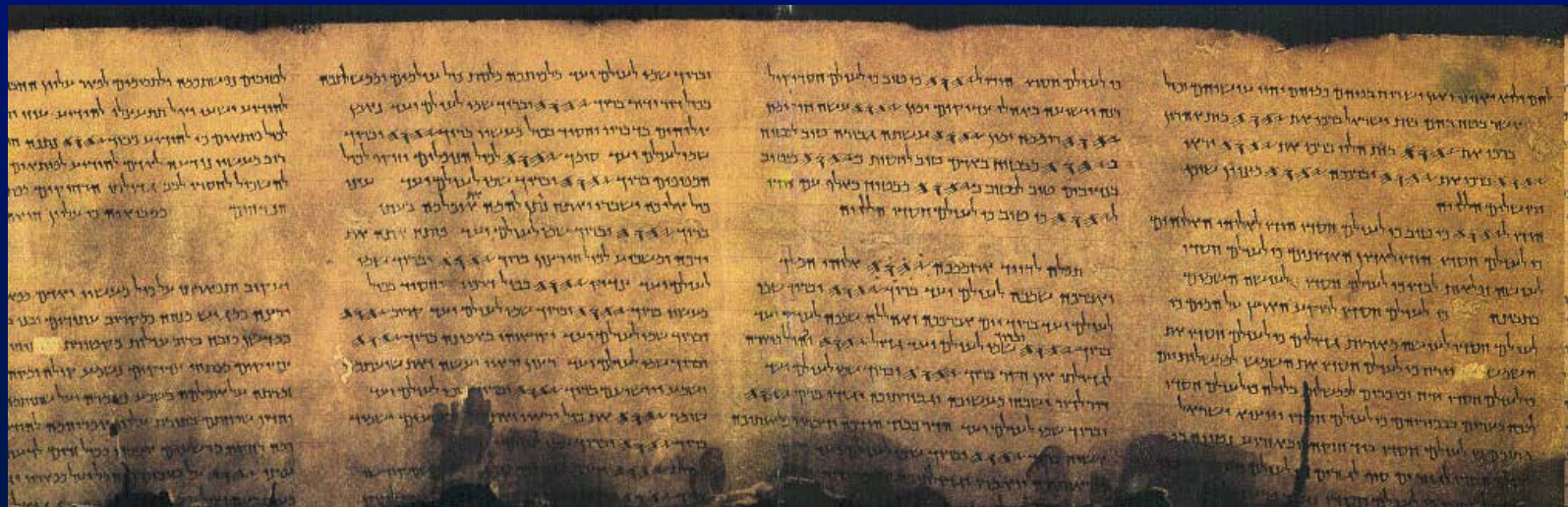


Hebrews 5:11-14

Warning to the Spiritually Dull of Hearing



Background

■ The flow

- Hebrews 5:11 begins a parenthetical statement that goes through the end of chapter 6

...Hebrews 5¹⁰ being designated by God as a high priest *according to the order of Melchizedek*.

Hebrews 5:11-6:20

Hebrews 7¹ *For this Melchizedek*, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him...

Background

■ The audience addressed

■ Options

- Immature believers *Most Popular*
- Jewish unbelievers

Background

■ The audience addressed


■ Clues



Warnings in Hebrews



Warnings against:

1. Neglecting the gospel (2:1-4)
2. Hardening their hearts to the gospel (3:7-14)
3.  You are here
4. Apostasy (10:26-39)
5. Refusing Him who speaks and warns from heaven (12:25-29)

Background

■ The audience addressed

■ Clues

- The warnings in Hebrews focus on the unsaved
- The book of Hebrews provides a major contrast between Christianity and Judaism – the New and Old Covenants
- There is a major problem if chapter 6 is talking about believers losing their salvation
- There are various clues in the words and phrases in this section that make a strong case for it addressing unsaved Jews



Background

■ The audience addressed

- My conclusion
 - This section is addressed to Jewish unbelievers rather than immature Christians

The Warning to the Dull of Hearing

■ The audience

- Jewish unbelievers considering the gospel

■ Their condition

- They are spiritually slow of understanding and acting accordingly (v11)
- They have been taught the truth for some time (v12a)

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■ Their needs

- They need to again be taught the basics (v12b)
- They need milk and not solid food (v12c)
 - Milk - the most very basic
 - Solid food - the more advanced

The Point: The Jewish unbelievers can't move on to deeper spiritual truths concerning Christ until they first truly understand and embrace Old Testament teaching which will lead them to faith in Christ as their Messiah

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■ Their condition (cont'd)

- They are spiritual infants who cannot digest the word of righteousness (v13)
 - i.e., the message about the righteousness of Christ which we have by faith

Romans 3:21–22 ²¹But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

The Warning to the Dull of Hearing

■ Their condition (cont'd)

- They are spiritual infants who cannot digest the word of righteousness (v13)
 - i.e., the message about the righteousness of Christ which we have by faith

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:9 ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

The Warning to the Dull of Hearing

■ Their contrast – the spiritually mature

- Refers to those who have come to know Christ as Savior

Matthew 19:21 ²¹Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be **complete**, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”


Colossians 1:28 ²⁸We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man **complete** in Christ.

The Warning to the Dull of Hearing

■ Their contrast – the spiritually mature

- Refers to those who have come to know Christ as Savior
- Key marks (v14)
 1. They can digest deeper truths concerning Christ
 2. They learn and practice Christian truths
 3. They are trained to discern truth from error, holy from unholy living

Application

- The  is a call to every person who is uncommitted to Christ in the heart
 - If you have been considering becoming a Christian, why are you waiting?
 - Accept and act now on the truth of God's word so that you don't become spiritually dull
 - Embrace the gospel and be saved!
- To the believer, we must warn others to no longer delay in embracing Christ!