



# The Church in Hebrews

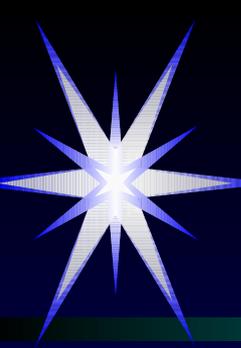
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Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.



## A. The Time: Last Days

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# Hebrews 1:1-2

old age

new age

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.



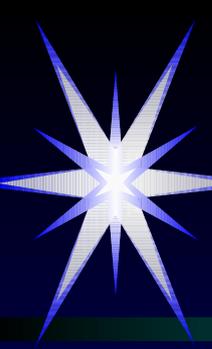
# Hebrews 4:2: Continuity with Israel

For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.



# Hebrews 2:9: New in Christ

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.



# New in Christ

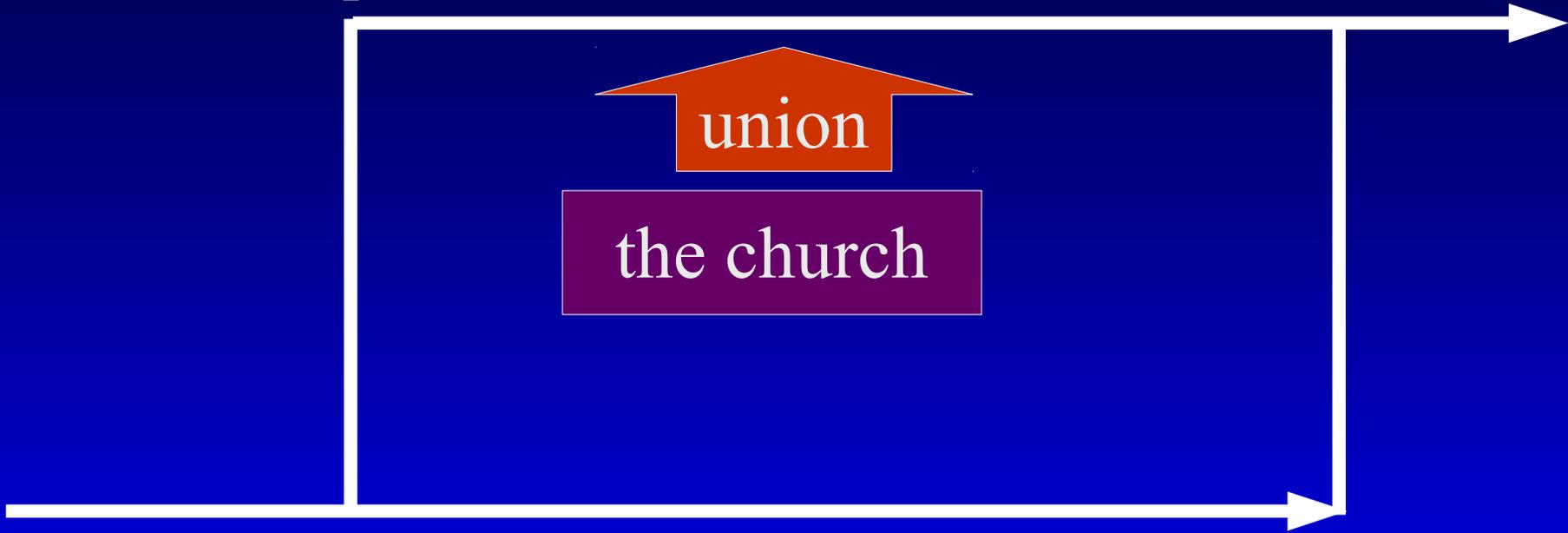


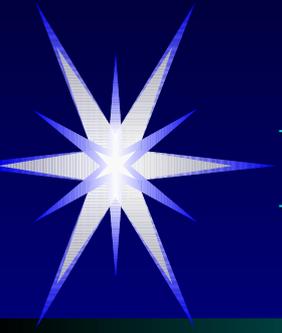
Victory in Christ

union

the church

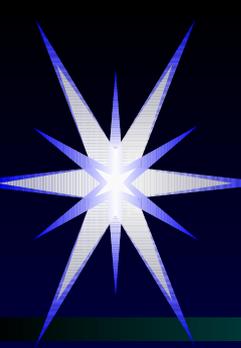
Age of Adam





## B. The Nature of the Church

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# Characteristics of the Church

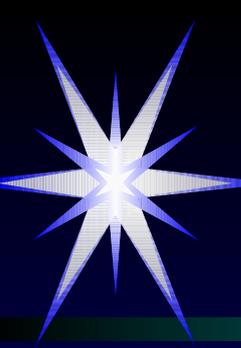
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## For Israel

▶ Brothers (fleshly)

## For the Church

▶ Brothers of Christ (2:11-12)



## Hebrews 2:11-12

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers

saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”



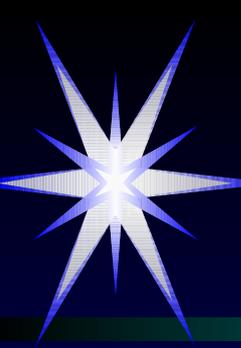
# Becoming Brothers

Christ our  
brother  
(Heb. 2:11-12)

Israel:  
Brothers in  
Abraham

you (church)  
are brothers





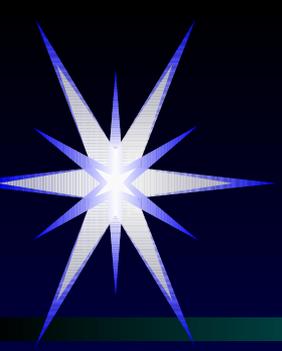
# Characteristics of the Church

## For Israel

- ▶ Brothers (fleshly)
- ▶ Delivered (from Egypt)

## For the Church

- ▶ Brothers of Christ (2:11-12)
- ▶ Delivered (from Satan; 2:14-15)



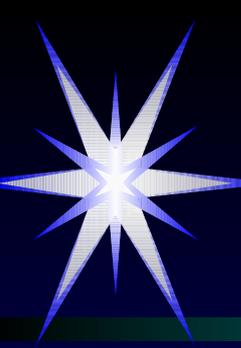
# Delivered

Christ our  
deliverer  
(Heb. 2:14-15)

Delivered from  
Egyptian  
slavery

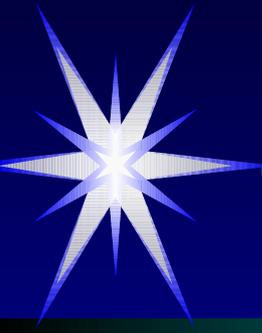


you (church)  
are delivered  
from death



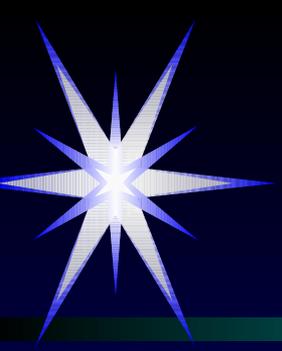
# Characteristics of the Church

- ▶ Brothers (fleshly)
- ▶ Delivered
- ▶ God's household
- ▶ Type of the church
- ▶ In the wilderness of Sinai
- ▶ Brothers of Christ (2:11-12)
- ▶ Delivered from Satan
- ▶ God's household in Christ (Heb. 3:5-6)
- ▶ Church as antitype (fulfillment), Heb. 1:2
- ▶ In the wilderness of the world (Heb. 4:11)



C. Greater Priest

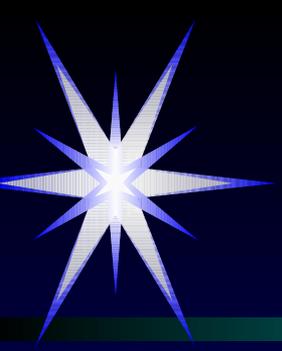
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# Hebrews 7:23-24: Priesthood in Christ

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.



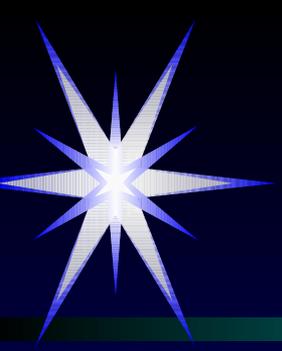
# Priesthood in Christ

Christ as Great  
high priest  
(Heb. 7:23-24)

Aaron as priest

you (church) as  
priests  
(1 Pet. 2:5)





# Hebrews 10:19-20: Access Opened

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,



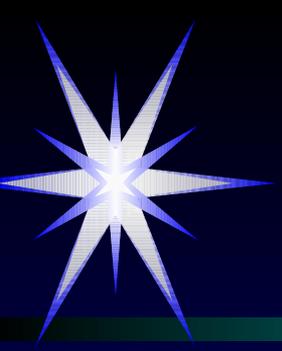
# Access in Christ

Christ entered  
heaven  
(Heb. 10:19-20)

curtain closing  
the way to the  
ark



you (church)  
enter  
(Heb. 10:22)



# Hebrews 12:22: Final Assembly

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,



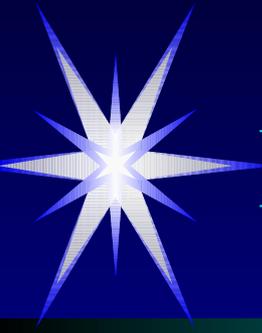
# Assembling in Christ

Christ is head in  
heaven  
(Heb. 12:24)

assembling at  
Sinai

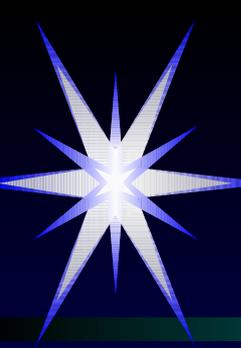


you (church)  
assemble  
(Heb. 12:22)



## D. Exhortations and Warnings

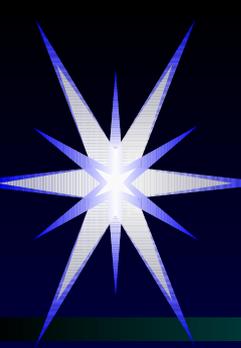
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# Hebrews 4:14: Persevere

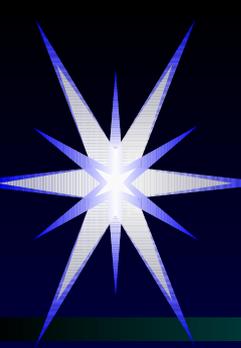
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Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God let us hold fast our confession.



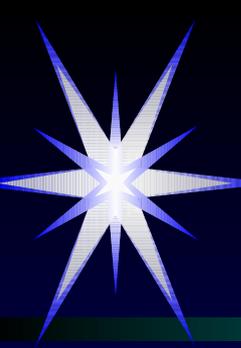
## Hebrews 4:1: Warning

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.



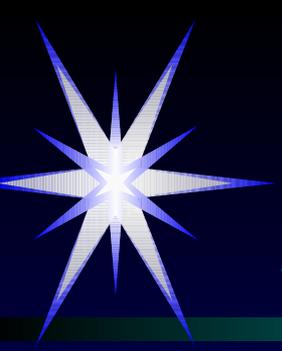
## Hebrews 6:4-5: Apostasy

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,



## Hebrews 6:6: Apostasy

and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.



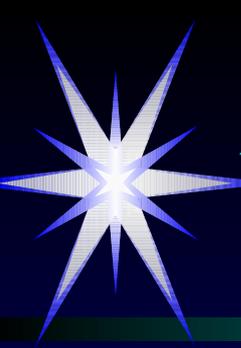
# Assembling in Christ

Christ above Moses  
(Heb. 3:5-6)

covenant people  
rebellious in the  
wilderness



you (church)  
beware  
(Heb. 6:4-6)



# Nature of Apostasy

- ▶ Participating in the covenant community
- ▶ Experiencing through the community the presence of God and his gifts and powers
- ▶ But without a circumcised heart
- ▶ Those who fall were never renewed inwardly



# 1 John 2:19: Not Belonging

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.



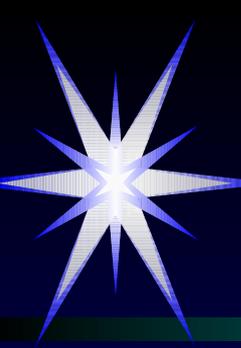
# Hebrews 12:1: Reality of Christ

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,



# Hebrews 12:1-2: Reality of Christ

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



# Enduring in the Church

- ▶ Assurance in Jesus, Heb. 12:24
- ▶ Empowered by Jesus, Heb. 12:7
- ▶ Enduring in Jesus, Heb. 12:1

final  
perfection