

December 21 Answers

- 1) Hebrews was an **anonymous** letter to the Christian community in **Rome**, who had recently gone through a time of **persecution**. Many of them were discouraged and in danger of **falling away** from faith in Christ. Knowing this, the author of Hebrews warned his readers of the peril of **unbelief** and urged them to endure to the end by **faith**. He did this by proving the **superiority** of Jesus and his covenant, and then calling the disciples to remain firm in their **commitment** to Christ. The author began by showing that the OT proclaims the Messiah to be the **Son** of God (Ps 2; 45; 110). This means that Jesus is **better** than the angels, for they are ministering spirits sent out to **serve** for the sake of the saints (Heb 1:14). This teaches us that we should pay *very close* **attention** to what Jesus has said, lest we **drift** away from it. The author continued by showing that the OT also proclaims the Messiah to be the son of **man** (Ps 8:4–6; Heb 2:9). As man, Jesus was made **lower** than the angels for a little while, but **now** he is crowned with glory and honor, and all things will be put in **subjection** under his feet. His incarnation means that he is **flesh** and blood just like us, and his obedient suffering **qualified** him to be our High Priest. He made **propitiation** for our sins, and because he himself **suffered** when tempted, he is able to help us when we are tempted. The author then showed that Jesus is superior to **Moses** (Heb 3:1). Moses was a faithful **servant** in God's house, but Jesus was faithful *over* God's house as **Builder** and **Son**. If we remain **faithful**, like Moses, then we will be a part of Jesus' house. But if we **fall away**, like those Moses led from Egypt, then we will not enter God's **rest**. This teaches us to fear the danger of **unbelief**.