

Who Wrote the Book of Hebrews?

Out of the 27 books in the New Testament, the Book of Hebrews is the only one where the author remains a mystery. Bible scholars believe one of the following three people are most likely to have written it.

Paul is the possible author for several reasons.

- He wrote 13 books of the New Testament.
- The early church father Eusebius believed that Paul wrote the epistle in Hebrew and left off his name so that it would be received more readily by the Jews who opposed him.
- Paul mentions Timothy 20 times in his epistles. Timothy is mentioned in Hebrews 13:23.
- Pantaenus (died 190 AD), Clement of Alexandria, Jerome, and Augustine all believed Paul wrote the book.
- Over 100 ancient writers ascribe the book to him.
- The book was written from Italy (Heb. 13:24) which means Paul could have written it during his imprisonment in Rome.

Reasons why Paul wasn't the author:

- Paul always stated he was the author of his epistles but no author is mentioned in Hebrews.
- Paul started all his letters using the words "grace and peace" but this phrase is absent in Hebrews. See Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:3, 2 Cor. 1:2, Gal. 1:3, Eph. 1:2, Phil. 1:2, Col. 1:2, 1 Thess. 1:1, 2 Thess. 1:2, 1 Tim. 1:2, 2 Tim. 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philemon 1:3.
- The style of writing isn't anything like Paul's.

Barnabas was an apostle (1 Cor. 9:5-6, Acts 14:4, 14) who could have written it.

- The early church father Tertullian (160-220 AD) quoted from Hebrews and assigned the quotation to the Epistle of Barnabas.
- In the Western manuscript called Codex Claremontanus, the Book of Hebrews went under the name of the Epistle of Barnabas.
- Barnabas was a Levite (Acts 4:36) and had an interest in the Levitical system which is referenced many times in the Book of Hebrews.
- Barnabas had a close relationship with Paul and most likely knew Timothy.

Apollos has found favor with some modern scholars.

- Martin Luther believed Apollos was the author.
- Apollos was "mighty in the Scriptures" and he "refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ" (Acts 18:24-28). This seems to be a description of the Book of Hebrews.
- In Titus 3:13 Paul mentions Apollos

For whatever reason, the Lord wanted the author to remain anonymous but it is clear that whoever wrote it was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

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