

November 23, 2025
Carmen Bendevis
Evangelism
Hebrews:
A Lesson from the Author

Cultural Issue

Understanding cultural context in making disciples Don't Shrink Back!

As globally minded followers of Jesus, we need to put some effort into understanding the cultural narratives / background of the people we work with, volunteer with, are neighbors with and go to school with.

Ancient History Recap: A.D. 30 - A.D. 70

- · Jerusalem is occupied by Roman Empire
- Jesus' death and resurrection (A.D. 30 33)
- Early Jewish Believers identify as sub-sect of Judaism (Followers of the Way)
- Non-believing Jews strongly oppose and persecute the Jesus movement.
- Claudius is Emperor in A.D. 49 Expels all Jews from Rome
- Belief in Jesus spreads throughout Rome / Gentile people
- Around A.D. 49, Jewish Leaders agree that Gentiles do not need to become Jewish in order to be followers of Jesus.
- Belief in Jesus spreads throughout Rome / Gentile people
- Nero becomes Emperor in A.D. 54
- Nero was an extremely tyrannical, selfish and unstable person.
- NEXT level persecution: Death & torture
- IDENTITY CRISIS: WHO ARE WE? IS THIS WORTH IT??
- A.D. 64 70: Jewish Revolt ends with Romans destroying the Jewish Temple

(Pre-70 AD)			
Jewish Temple System Still Active	Sacrifices and priesthood were still operating in Jerusalem.	Hebrews shows Christ as the true High Priest and final sacrifice — preparing believers for a world without the Temple.	
Pressure to Return to Judaism	Jewish Christians were pressured to return to Temple worship & the Law (especially in Jerusalem).	Hebrews warns against "going back" — Christ is superior to Moses, angels, priests, sacrifices, and the Law.	
Messianic Expectations	Many Jews expected a political Messiah who would overthrow Rome.	Hebrews presents Jesus as a suffering Messiah and heavenly King — not a political revolutionary.	
Fear of Persecution	Roman suspicion of Jews + growing tension = rising persecution.	Hebrews encourages endurance through suffering — pointing to a heavenly reward.	
Identity Crisis	Some questioned if Christianity was truly the fulfillment of Judaism.	Hebrews argues that Jesus is the <i>fulfillment</i> of the Old Covenant — not a departure from it.	
Action to consider:			

Relevance to Hebrews

Description

Visit <u>Pioneers.ca</u>, click on GO! Edge (8-12 week trip)

Venture (up to 1 year internship)

Life-changing opportunity to learn about how Jesus speaks through different cultural lenses and be mentored by long term missionary teams. Minimum age: 16.



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