

Paul's Authorship of Hebrews

23 Fingerprints of Paul

1. Check the ones you can categorically debunk with Scripture which clearly contradicts.
Write the Scripture verses in the margin.
 2. Put a ? next to the weaker points.
1. Early support for Paul. No other name comes up as often by early writers. The early Church embraced Pauline authorship right away.
* Clement of Alexandria, (150 AD), Pantaenus, Ambrose, Rufinus, Eusebius, Council of Hippo, Council of Carthage (*the rest of these wrote between 180-300 AD*)
 2. Nothing incongruent w/ Paul. This cannot be said about other any other NT writer. **pjm**
 3. Pauline style, sometimes chatty, from a pastor's heart, deep concern, fine rhetoric
Matches Paul's style in other books: methodical, logical, quasi-friendly, filled with salvation, especially eternal security, heavy on Jesus Himself. (*Only thing incongruent is lack of signature.*)
 4. Pauline theology, basic apostolic teaching, church focused
 5. Paul loved lists more than any other New Testament writer,
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com, Paul's 14 Books, a Survey & Comparison, p.#52
 6. No other writer has similar style:
example: "It is written" & "He [God] says"
I Cor 6 I Cor 15 II Cor 3 II Cor 6 Eph 5
 7. Hebrews 2.3 "salvation. . . spoken by the Lord" [*Damascus*]. Saved through Jesus' words, Acts 9?
 8. Hebrews 2.3 not one of "the 12" Obviously an apostle. **pjm**
 9. Hebrews 13.2 "I have written to you in few words," typical Pauline understatement
 10. Hebrews 13.23 "brother Timothy" Certainly many other first century believers embraced Timothy but we don't know of anyone who knew him better. Tim is mentioned more often by Paul than any other friend.
 11. Hebrews 13.23,24 chains. It seems Timothy spends time with Paul in jail later in Rome, either as a cell mate or a frequent visitor.
 12. Hebrews 13.19 anticipated release. We simply know he expected a quick resolution from his [*Caesarean?*] incarceration and didn't know that it would be two years before his trip to Rome began.
Of course, this same argument could be used to support his prison term if it were in Rome, but it can't be denied that it does substantiate his detainment if it were in Caesarea's seaside penitentiary.
 13. Hebrews 13.25 benediction, "grace" Paul's trademark signature, *see I Thes 3.17,18 and other epistles*
 14. Hebrews 13.18 "pray for me" Pauline, no other author asks for prayer 13.18 "pray for me" Certainly fits Paul's emphasis of recruiting prayer partners. I can think of no other writer who asks his readers to pray for himself. See: Eph 6.19,20 Col 4.3,4 I Thes 5.25 II Thes 3.12 Phlm 22
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com: Paul's /28/ Prayers for His Churches
 15. II Pet 3.15 Peter mentions that Paul had written to the Jews.
Heart for lost Jews, *see Rom 9.1 & 10.1* Paul's MO, go to synagogues first
Acts 13,14, (16?)17,17,17,18,18,19,23
 16. Habakkuk 2.4 is quoted only by Paul and appears in 3 Pauline books: Romans, Galatians, & Hebrews.
"the just shall live by faith."
 17. Neither Paul nor Hebrews quotes much from the Gospels?
 18. Extensive use of OT quotations. 32X Doesn't prove it was Paul, but it is one of the characteristics of his.
What other author quotes OT nearly as much? (*some would say there are quotes 65X, including allusions*)
see www.PhilMyersBlog.com OT Quotes in the NT
 19. Unique vocab: hapax legomenon [*words unique to the book*] = 131X, Pauline vocab Someone counted 1,028 lexically distinct words in Hebrews. If Paul had wanted to "sign his name" in code, his best friends would recognize his grasp of the Greek language through this.
 20. Temple is still standing. No mention of Temple destruction = must be pre-70 AD, still offering sacrifices.
Certainly written within Paul's lifespan.
 21. Isn't it interesting that all discussions of Hebrew's authorship always include Paul, 100% of the time?
 22. If it had his name at the beginning, no conservative Bible students wouldn't bicker about his authorship.
 23. Who else could have written this authoritatively [*without a signature*] and received such universal adoption?

Blogs from my website www.PhilMyersBlog.com are listed in alphabetical order.

n.b. = nota bene, [note this well]

1. Reason for absence of Paul's signature? *I don't know*
I find it strange that some people are positive they know exactly what the "non-signature" indicates.
2. Paul was not the apostle to Jews, but to Gentiles [*Rom 11.13*].
3. All other non-Pauline suggestions have only 1 or 2 arguments and their only support is that they "don't fit" Paul, such as:

a. classical Greek	b. LXX	c. allegorical
d. conjecture without evidence	e. circumstantial reasoning.	
4. I cannot think of any other book in the Bible which has as much support for authorship as Hebrews.
5. We can be more sure of Paul's authorship as we can of any of the 21 unsigned book.
12 OT unsigned books: I, II Sam, I, II Kings, I, II Chron, Esther, Job, Song of Songs, Daniel, Jonah, Lamentations
9 NT unsigned books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, I, II, III John, Hebrews
* Go ahead. Check 'em out.
5. The only valid argument against Paul's authorship is that Paul wasn't the apostle to the Jews.
6. The name "Epistle to the Hebrews" is not part of the text, but it was early on entitled "The Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews" [*300s AD*] and is so included in many Bibles.
7. Yes, there are differences between Hebrews and many of Paul's writings, but that is true of many writers both biblically and secular. It is certainly true of my own writing. How about yours?
I've written for children as well as scholars.

Was it written from the prison in Caesarea? Acts 22-26, two years

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- Paul hadn't spent any time in Israel for 30 years, and now he's in prison back in Israel. *see Sir Wm. Ramsay*
- Many scholars will agree that the book of Hebrews was written specifically for the Hebrew people living in Jerusalem and throughout Israel, *perhaps including the Diaspora*.
- Hebrews may have been written to the nearby Israeli people by Paul during his years in the Caesarean prison.
- He had not had the opportunity to spend any significant time back in the land of the Jews for quite some time since 50 AD at the Jerusalem Council, Acts 15.
- Now, in Caesarea there were hundreds of thousands of Jews outside his cell walls and he had nothing to do but sit in prison and think about touching their lives.
- His ministry seems to have been cut short by his insistence on going to Jerusalem after a prohibition by the Holy Spirit then with [*grudging*] permission by the Spirit with a warning of imprisonment if he went.

The strongest argument against a Caesarean writing desk is the writer's comment in 13.24,
"They of Italy salute you."

Just 3 comments on that point.

* "Those of Italy greet you." When Paul wrote the letter to the Romans (*from Corinth?*) we're aware that he already had 29 friends in the church in Italy (*Romans 16.1-23*). This is perhaps another coded message he's sending. "I'm coming to Italy, soon," in chains (*Heb 13.24*).

* Paul went to college in Judea and became famous there.

* If he's in Caesarea and is writing to the Hebrews who live in Israel, perhaps the epistle went out through the prison windows by carrier pigeon in installments.

n.b. (CAUTION) I've discovered no one else who embraces this view.

Beware of disagreeing with historical orthodoxy.

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