

### Introduction

- It was written sometime between 75-90 AD or 132 AD.
- It refers to the temple being recently destroyed.
- The author is anonymous and we do not know who but the recipients did know.
- The church 100 years later believes it was written by the apostle Barnabas.
- I think it was Barnabas, but I wish that it was not.
- Heavily allegorical and seems to be early attempts to interpret the OT.
- The point of the letter is that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

### Law Outdated (1-4)

- God never needed sacrifices but wanted Israel's obedience.
- The true sacrifice God wanted is obedience.
- He quotes Isaiah 58 to show we do not need to fast or be slaves to the law (3)
- Some try to claim we are still under the old covenant obligations (4:6)
- But Christians do not need to follow the commandments of the law.

### Living in Last Days (4)

- Emphasis on holy living now because the end is coming.
- They cannot be content in their sins or they may be lost.
- Not sure this is talking about losing your salvation. It does mean our being saved needs to lead to holy living.

### Revelation of Christ (5-6)

- Jesus died to save us from our sins and this was prophesied beforehand (5)
- He quotes Isaiah and the prophets pointing towards Christ.
- Christ's death and suffering was promised and prophesied.
- Land of milk and honey refers to Christians and salvation (6:8).
- We have been born again and recreated through Christ.

### Atonement (7-8)

- Jesus died and suffering in order to bring us salvation.
- Jesus is like Isaac's sacrifice.
- Wine and vinegar given to Christ foreshadowed His death.
- The scapegoat and even the extra Jewish traditions pointed to Christ.
- The church must suffer as Christ suffered (7:6)
- The red Heifer and each part of the ceremony points to Christ(8).
- The true meaning was obscured but now is only obtainable by believers.

**Circumcision and Food (9-10)**

- God circumcises our ears that we may hear the gospel.
- Circumcision was a symbol that has been abolished and done away with.
- He points out other nations and priests practice it but are not part of the covenant.
- An evil angel has blinded some (2 Corinthians 4:4) into continuing the practice.
- He sees the number of people Abraham circumcised as pointing to Christ.
- He calls this allegorical reading "a more reliable word"
- The animals are symbolic of a certain kind of people we are to avoid.
- Moses never meant for Israel to take it literally (10:9).
- These commandments can only be understood by those truly circumcised by Christ.

**Baptism, Cross, and Covenant (11-14)**

- Prophets prophesied Israel would reject the true baptism.
- Moses makes symbol of cross with his arms
- Moses makes wooden snake pool as symbol of cross.
- Joshua is symbolic of Jesus as his name is Jesus.
- As God has blessed the younger sibling, the church receives the true covenant.

**Sabbath and Eschatology (15)**

- Jesus will return in 6000 years after creation.
- This appears to be a premillennial eschatology.
- Christians are not to rest of the Sabbath, but they do celebrate on Sunday because of the resurrection.
- Christians did not observe the sabbath until after the Reformation.

**Temple and Two Ways (16-21)**

- Jesus has currently destroyed the temple as he promised.
- The true temple is in the hearts of believers.
- They must walk in the way of light obeying God instead of the way of death.

**Concluding Thoughts**

- The letter holds perfectly orthodox theology with some wacky exegesis.
- I would not want to be in the first generation to interpret the Old Testament in light of Christ.
- The methods we use to interpret the Bible has changed over time but apostolic doctrine has never changed.