

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF HEBREWS?

Did you ever wonder who wrote the Book of Hebrews? A few weeks ago, our pastor was preaching in Hebrews 13. During the sermon my mind wondered, and I continued to read the rest of the chapter. All of a sudden, God showed me something wonderful. He showed me who wrote the Book of Hebrews. It was so obvious I don't know how we missed it. I always believed Paul wrote Hebrews and God confirmed it.

The first part of the puzzle was at the end of Hebrews 13. It was in the closing where Paul always says his good byes to everyone and requests prayers. This is in the closing of all his letters, and these verses i rarely read. It's the fluff that contains no useful Bible knowledge. Here, it did!

Hebrews 13:18(KJV)

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

As soon as I read this, my mind immediately thought, "wow," that this sounds like Paul in his letters. Instantaneously, a small voice whispered "that's because he wrote it."

The verse also said another very important thing. If this was Paul, he was not alone, Using the word "we," someone was with him.

As I read on, I was astonished at what God was showing me.

Hebrews 13:19(KJV)

But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

It hit me: this man is writing this letter from prison.

Hebrews 13:23(KJV)

Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

Yes, Timothy had just been set free from prison, and Paul wants him to come and visit him in prison. But we can also see that Paul is not only asking Timothy to come, but to bring an unnamed person with him.

If we want to prove this is Paul writing in Hebrews to Timothy, maybe we can find the confirmation in one his letters to Timothy. And sure enough, there it is

2 Tim 4:

9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Here in 2 Timothy Paul confirms that only Luke is with him (in Rome) and that he sent for Timothy to bring Mark with him (to Rome). Luke is the unnamed person with Paul in prison in Hebrews 13:18 ("pray for us").

If there were any doubts, Paul confirms he is in Rome when he closes his Hebrews letter.

Hebrews 13:24(KJV)

Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of ITALY salute you.

Paul could just as easily have said, "They of **ROME** salute you."

In order for our conclusions to be true, Paul's second letter to Timothy would have to be his last letter and line-up with the dates of the writing of Hebrews, Paul's execution and Nero's death. This would confirm that his letter to Timothy noted in the last of Hebrews was made from prison just prior to his execution by Nero. I found the first confirmation at the beginning of 2 Timothy in my Scofield Bible.

Quoting Scofield, "*The second epistle to Timothy, probably the last letter by Paul, was written toward the end of Nero's reign.*"

We know that Nero died in AD 68. Hebrews was written in Rome in AD 68. Paul was executed in AD 68 in Rome. 2 Timothy was written in AD 67. We can confirm that 2 Timothy was Paul's last known letter because all other letters of Paul were written before 2 Timothy:

Galatians AD 49 or 52

1 and 2 Thessalonians AD 51

1 Corinthians AD 56

2 Corinthians AD57

Romans AD 57 or 58

Ephesians AD 60

Colossians AD 60

Philippians AD 60

1 Timothy AD 64

There is no doubt that Paul wrote Hebrews. Here in Hebrews and 2 Timothy, he told us he did. It was just hidden away in the closing that one rarely reads. Paul wrote Hebrews from prison in Rome. This explains why Hebrews is not written like his other letters. He knows he is about to be executed. This would be his last letter. In it he would state his proof of Jesus' fulfillment of the law and that it always pointed to

salvation for all men through the redeeming blood of Christ. It was the confirming justification of his ministry for the gospel of grace through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Things concerning God are never without form or purpose. God wanted us to know His servant Paul wrote Hebrews but wanted us to study enough to discover it for ourselves. God gave us a great clue. He had the Book of Hebrews placed at the end of Paul's letters. Why? It was Paul's last letter; and as his last work, it rightly belongs at the end of his letters. After Paul's letters, we then find the letters of the other apostles.

Praise God that He still shows us hidden things in the fullness of time. How many times have we read these words and didn't comprehend their meaning? God is so good! Hope this blesses your day as it has mine.