

THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE LETTUCE DIET FROM HEBREWS -- I

First Person Plural Subjunctives

by David K. Spurbeck

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Introduction

- A. The Intention of the Writer of Hebrews for Involving the Christian Readers in Specific Activities
 - 1. The Significance of the "Let Us" Occurrences
 - 2. The Sharing of the Author with Those Willing to Join with Him – "We"
 - 3. The Seeking of a Response on the Part of the Readers
 - 3. The Structure of First Person Plural Subjunctives Is Found 12 Times in Hebrews
 - a. Encouraging Participation
 - b. Expected of Christians in the Context
- B. The Importance of Pronouns
 - 1. As Pronouns by Pronoun Form
 - 2. In Predicated by Form
- C. The Identity of Antecedents in Hebrews 3 and 4 as Illustration
 - 1. They / Them – of Israel (3:10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 4:2, 5, 6, 8)
 - 2. You ("Ye") – Children of Israel (3:7, 8, 9, 15)
 - 3. We, Our, Us – Christians (3:1, 6, 14; 4:1, 3, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
 - 4. You – Christian Brothers (3:12, 13; 4:1)
 - 5. People of God – Christians (4:9)
 - 6. He, His – Individual Christian – (4:10)
- D. The Involvement of the Readers with the Writer – "Let us"
 - 1. The Grammatical Terms Involved

- a. Hortatory – Exhort
- b. Volitive – Encourage Volunteerism
- c. Subjunctive – Mood of Possibility or Probability or Mild Contingency
2. The Meaning
 - a. There Is No First Person Imperative Mood in Greek
 - b. First Person Plural Subjunctive
 - c. The Writer Encourages Himself and Others to Join Him in an Action or Course of Action
 - d. "Let Us . . ." → Join Me in a United, Corroborated Activity
- E. The Isolation of Forms in the Context of Hebrews { 12 occurrences in Hebrews }
 1. Four Times in Chapter Four (4:1, 11, 14, 16)
 2. One Time in Chapter 6 (6:1)
 3. Three Times in Chapter 10 (10:22, 23, 24)
 4. Two Times in Chapter 12 (12:1, 28)
 5. Two Times in Chapter 13 (13:13, 15)

I. "LET US FEAR" – THAT WE MIGHT MISS THE PROMISE OF GRACE REST AT THE RIGHT HAND – Hebrews 4:1

- A. The Persistent Corporate Failure of the Sons of Israel
Unpersuaded and Unconvinced (3:18; 4:6, 11) → Unbelief (3:12, 19)
- B. The Corporate Fear for Christians Concerning Spiritual Rest
 1. The Idea of a Point or Points of Fear – 1st Aorist
 2. The Identification of the Promise of Entering into Cessation from Labor
 3. The Individual May Come Up Short of Christian Rest
- C. The Centrality of the Promise of a Means of Entering Rest for Christians
- D. The Concentration of the Believer's Faith on the Promises of Individual Rest – 4:1, 2

1. Mixed Together with Faith
2. Have Believed Enter into Rest

II. "LET US BE DILIGENT TO ENTER REST" – THAT WE MAY ENTER INTO SPIRITUAL REST – Hebrews 4:11

- A. The Encouragement to Be Diligent – 1st Aorist Active
 1. To Be Concerned and Eager
 2. To Be Ready to Exert Oneself
- B. The Entry into Provided Spiritual Rest – 2nd Aorist Active Indicative
- C. The Example of Israel's Unwillingness to Be Persuaded or Convinced
 1. The Possibility of Falling (or Failing)
 2. The Problem with Assent

III. "LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION – THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED REST IN CHRIST AT THE RIGHT HAND – Hebrews 4:14

- A. The Authority of the Word of God and Rest – 4:12
- B. The Divine Attribute of Omniscience and Rest – 4:13
- C. The Affirmation of Jesus the Son of God as Full Deity at the Right Hand of the Heavenly Throne – 4:14
- D. The Association with the Holding Fast of Our Confession "Let Us Hold Fast our Confession"
 1. Manifested or Visible Power – κράτος (*kratos*)
 2. Confession → ὁμο- (*homo*) = same thing + λέγω (*lego*) = to say therefore to agree
- E. The Affirmation of Our Sympathetic High Priest in His Human Nature – 4:15

Conclusion

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE LETTUCE DIET FROM HEBREWS – II

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Introduction

- A. The Continuation of the "Let Us" in Hebrews Four
 - B. The Communication of the Believer Is Encouraged by the 1st Person Plural Subjunctive – "Let Us Approach"
 - C. The Confidence of the Spiritual Believer Living His or Her Position in Christ
 - 1. Throne of Grace
 - 2. Receive Mercy
 - 3. Find Grace
 - D. The Concern for Christian Maturity
 - E. The Condition of the Hebrews Who Were Christians in Jerusalem
- I. "LET US APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE" – THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE – Hebrews 4:16**
- A. The Believer's Coming in Privileged Approach to the Throne of Grace
 - 1. To Come, to Approach, to Go
 - 2. Literally "to come – ἔρχομαι (*erchomai*) facing – πρός (*pros*)
 - B. The Character of the Throne → Divine Favor or Grace
 - C. The Confidence = With Boldness
 - 1. Confidence or Boldness
 - a. πᾶν (*pan*) = All
 - b. ῥῆσις (*hresis*) = speech
 - 2. Freedom and Lack of Fear or Timidity

3. In Speaking

D. The Consequences of Coming to the Throne

1. In Order That We Might Receive (2nd Aorist Active Subjunctive) Mercy
2. In Order That We Might Find (2nd Aorist Active Subjunctive) Grace

E. The Certainty of Help

1. Aid, Support, Help
2. Well Times, At the Right Time, Suitable

II. "LET US BE CARRIED OR BORNE UNTO MATURITY" – LEAVING THE ABCs CONCERNING THE CHRIST – Hebrews 6:1

A. The Reasons for the "Let Us" Encouragement

1. The Hebrews Christians Had Become Sluggish of Hearing – 5:11 (cf. 6:12)
2. The Hebrews Christians Had Been Saved Long Enough to Be Teachers – 5:12
3. The Hebrews Christians Need to Be Taught Again (πάλι) the ABCs – 5:12
4. They Need Spiritual Milk Rather Than Solid Food – 5:12
5. They Were Spiritual Babes = Inarticulate Babblers – 5:13
 - a. The One Partaking Milk
 - b. Is Untested in the Word of Righteousness
 - c. In the Time They Had Been Saved They Were Old Enough to Speak but Could Only Babble Baby Talk
6. Solid Spiritual Food Is for Mature Ones – 5:14
 - a. Organs of Perception Are in a State of Being Exercised
 - b. Distinguish Both Obvious Good and That Which Is Lacking in Character

B. The Request That the Hebrews Saints Join Him in Being Borne Along to Spiritual Maturity – 6:1

1. Their Condition Requires Abandoning Early Behavior and Appropriating the Way to Maturity
 - a. Leaving the Word Concerning the Christ

- b. Not Building Christian Faith from the Old Foundation
 - (1) Repentance (to change one's mind") from Dead Works
 - (2) Faith toward God
 - (3) Doctrine of Immersions ["baptisms"] – 6:2
 - (4) Laying on of Hands
 - (5) Resurrection of the Dead
 - (6) Eternal Judgment
- 2. "Let Us Be Borne On to Maturity" – Spiritual
 - a. Present Tense – Continuous Action
 - b. Passive Voice – Someone Else Accomplishes – Put Yourself at the Disposal of Someone Else
 - c. Subjunctive 1st Person Plural – "Let us"
 - d. The Verb φέρω (*phero*) – Passive "to be borne, conveyed, carried, made to go forward or to go on"
- C. The References to Spiritual Maturity in the Context
 - 1. AV "Full Age" – 5:14 (adjective – masc. pl.) – τέλειος (*teleios*)
 - 2. AV "Perfection" – 6:1 (fem. neut. noun sing.) τελειότης (*teleiotes*)
- D. The Restrictions to Spiritual Maturity for Christians Trying to Live by the Mosaic Law
 - 1. Heb. 7:11 – Maturity Is Not through the agency of the Levitical Priesthood
 - 2. Heb. 9:9 – Gifts and Sacrifices Could Not Make the Levitical High Priest Mature
 - 3. Heb. 10:1 – Sacrifices Offered under Law Could Never Make Anyone Mature
 - 4. Heb. 7:19 – The Law Made Nothing Mature but a Better Hope Did
- E. The Hebrews Christians Had Fallen Away from Growth toward Christian Maturity
- F. The Christians Response Permits the Godhead to Lead Him or Her to Maturity

"Let us be borne on unto maturity."

Conclusion

A.

B.

C.

D.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE LETTUCE DIET FROM HEBREWS – III

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Introduction

- A. The Absolute Change of Direction by the Work of Christ for Christians
 - 1. The Mosaic Law Is an Old and Dead Way for Christians
 - 2. Christ's Cross-Work Provided Christians a New and Living Way
 - 3. The Change Involves the Potential for Individual Direct Access to God the Father on the Throne in the Third Heaven
- B. The Counting of the Believer's Position in Jesus Christ the High Priest
 - 1. Ease of Approach for Spiritual Christians
 - 2. Expectation of Appropriation of the Provisions of Grace in Christ
- C. The Confession of Hope Based in the Work of Christ and His Promises
- D. The Concentration of the Christian's Mind on One Another
 - 1. Stir Up Love into Action
 - 2. Stir Up Obviously Good Works

I. THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW AND LIVING WAY BY THE CROSS WORK OF CHRIST – THE PROVISIONS OF THE CROSS WORK OF CHRIST – Hebrews 10:18-20

- A. The Forgiveness of Sins and Lawlessness Removes the Need for an Offering for Sin – 10:18
 - 1. Future Divine Intervention for Israel (10:16, 17)
 - 2. Absolutely Will Never Ever Remember Them Any Longer
- B. The Possession of Boldness by Christians – "Brothers" – 10:19
 - 1. Having (present active participle) Boldness
 - 2. Brothers – by Regeneration (Spiritual Birth)

3. To Enter in – εἰς (*eis*) + ὁδός (*hodos*) = Way Into
 - a. Feminine Noun
 - b. Entrance, Access
 4. Into the Holies – neuter plural adjective
 5. By (instrumental)
 6. The Blood of Jesus = Physical Death and Human Nature
- C. The Provision of a New and Living Way (anarthrous) – 10:20, 21
1. He Dedicated or Inaugurated – ἐγκαινίζω (*egkainidzo*) – 1st aorist active indicative
 2. For Us – Christians
 3. A New and Living Way
 - a. New – πρόσφατον (*prosphaton*) = Freshly Slain / Fresh
 - b. Living – ζῶσαν (*zosan*) – Present active participle
 4. Through the Veil That Is of His Flesh = Physical Death
 5. Having a High Priest over the House of God – 10:21

II. "LET US APPROACH OR DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE HEART" – JOINING IN THE APPROACH AT THE HEAVENLY RIGHT HAND – Hebrews 10:22

- A. Let Us Come Near or Draw Near (cf. Heb. 4:16)
1. πρὸς (*pros*) = Facing or Toward
 2. ἔρχομαι (*erchomai*) = To Come or Go
 3. To Approach Facing One or To Move into Face to Face Proximity
- B. The Hortatory Subjunctive Exhorting Us to Join Paul on the Journey
1. Present Middle Subjunctive 1st Person Plural – "Let us approach"
 2. Co-Participation in the Approach to Our High Priest
 - a. With a True Heart in Full Assurance of Faith
 - b. Our Hearts Having Been Sprinkled (Perfect Passive Participle)

- c. From a Malignantly Evil Conscience
- d. Our Hearts Having Been Washed (Perfect Passive Participle)
- e. In Clean Water

C. The Position of the Believer as Having Been Made Near – Eph. 1:13
^{NKJ} But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

III. "LET US HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE" – STEADFAST HOPE IN THE PROMISES – Hebrews 10:23

A. Let Us Hold Fast – κατέχω (*katecho*) – Present Active Subjunctive

- 1. Present = Continuously
- 2. Subjunctive Mood = Encouraged as Possible

B. The Confession – Say the Same Thing, Agree with God

C. Of Our Hope

- 1. Normal Order: Promise → Hope → Faith
- 2. Hope Defined: Rom. 8:24, 25
- 3. Faith Defined: Heb. 11:1

D. Without Wavering – Being Unmoved and Steady

E. The Reliability of God the Promise Maker (1st aorist mid. part.)

IV. "LET US CONSIDER OR KEEP THOROUGHLY IN MIND ONE ANOTHER – STIRRING UP LOVE AND GOOD WORKS – Hebrews 10:24

A. The Idea of Focusing the Mind

- 1. Present Active Subjunctive – Encouraged to the Possibility of Thoroughly Directing the Mind
- 2. Composition: κατὰ (*kata*) – Intensifies, Thorough + νοέω (*noeo*) – To Use the Mind
- 3. Heb. 3:1 – Consider Jesus
- 4. Heb. 10:24 – Consider One Another of the Same Kind

B. The Incitement (Stir Up) of Love and Good Works

C. The Importance of Gathering or Assembling Together – 10:25

Conclusion

A.

B.

C.

D.

THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE LETTUCE DIET FROM HEBREWS – IV

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Introduction

A. The Pairs in Chapters Twelve and Thirteen

1. Let Us Run

Chapter 12

2. Let Us Have Grace

3. Let Us Go Out

Chapter 13

4. Let Us Offer

B. The Practicality for the Spiritual Life of the Christian

C. The Progress of the Spiritual Life by Faith

D. The Possession of Grace by Which Christians Function as Priests

E. The Position of the Christian with Christ Outside of the Camp

F. The Potential for Offering Spiritual Sacrifices to God (of Six)

1. The Sacrifice of Praise

2. The Sacrifices of Doing Good and Fellowship

I. "LET US RUN THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US" – A TESTIMONY TO ACTS OF FAITH AND THE REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES – Hebrews 12:1, 2

A. Sharing in Running the Race – 12:1

1. Present Tense – Continuous Action

2. Passive Voice – Someone Else Does the Work and Enables

3. Subjunctive Mood – Potential or Possible Action

4. Joining with the Writer and Other Saints Running

B. **Having** a Surrounding Cloud of Witnesses (Their Acts of Faith Should Affect Us)

C. **Putting Away**

1. Every Weight / Burden / Impediment
2. The Sin Easily Besetting (Obstructing, Constricting) Us

D. Possessing Patience to Run the Race Set Before Us

E. **Looking Away** (Fix One's Eyes on) – 12:2

1. Unto Jesus the Author Even Finisher (G#) of Our Faith
2. For the Joy Set Before Him
 - a. Endured the Cross
 - b. Despising the Shame
3. In the State of Being Seated at the Right Hand

II. "LET US HAVE GRACE TO SERVE ACCEPTABLY IN THE HEAVENLY TABERNACLE" – TAKING FOR OURSELVES AN IMMOVABLE KINGDOM – Hebrews 12:28

A. The Reception of an Immovable Kingdom

B. The Response in Having a Quality of Fear – "Let Us Have"

1. Present Tense – Continuous Action
2. Passive Voice – Subject Acted upon by Another
3. Subjunctive Mood - Potential for Joining in Action
4. Grace = Quality of Unmerited Favor

C. The Result Coming from Grace

1. Through the Agency of Whom
2. We May Continually Do Priestly Service to the God
 - a. Present Active Subjunctive 1st Person Plural
 - b. Acceptably = in an Acceptable Manner
 - c. With Reverence or Awe (εὐλάβεια)

- d. With Timidity (a kind of fear)
- e. Textual Problem: Modesty (Respect or Reverence – αἰδώς)

III. "LET US GO OUTSIDE OF THE CAMP" – THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRISTIANS TO CHRIST OUTSIDE OF THE CAMP – Hebrews 13:13

- A. The Bodies of Sacrificed Animals Were Burnt Outside of the Camp – 13:11 (c. Ex. 29:14)
- B. Jesus Suffered Outside of the Gate – 13:2
 - 1. The Purpose: That He Might Sanctify the People
 - 2. The Provision: With His Own Blood
- C. Christians Are Set Apart to Go to Christ Outside the Camp – 13:13
 - 1. Let Us Go Forth or Let Us Go Out of
 - a. Present Tense – Continuous Action
 - b. Middle Voice – Personal Action on One's Own Behalf
 - c. Subjunctive 1st Person Plural
 - 2. Bearing (Present Active Participle) His Reproach
- D. The Christian's Situation concerning a City – Explanation – 13:14
 - 1. We Have a Continuing City
 - 2. But We Are Continually Seeking One About to Come

IV. "LET US OFFER THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE TO GOD CONTINUALLY" – THE BELIEVER'S RESPONSE TO THE CHARACTER OF GOD FOR A BENEFIT – Hebrews 13:15

- A. The Possibility of Joining in Offering the Sacrifice of Praise
 - 1. "Therefore" Ties to Seeking a Coming City
 - 2. Present Active Subjunctive 1st Person Plural
- B. Persistence of Offering the Sacrifice of Praise = Continually = "through all"
- C. The Problem with the Definition of Praise Because of the AV Mistranslation
 - 1. AV – "Giving Thanks to His Name"

2. Greek (with no textual problem) = Confessing → ὁμο- (*homos*) (same thing) + λέγω (*lego*) – to say

D. The Place of Thanksgiving and Praise

1. Thanksgiving = An Expression of Appreciation for a Benefit that Is Provided by God
2. Praise= An Expression of Appreciation for the Character of God Manifested in the Benefit

E. The Presentation of the New Testament Definition in Heb. 13:15

1. The Fruit of Our Lips = Capable of Verbalization i. e. It Makes Sense
2. Confessing = Agreeing with God Concerning His Character
3. His Name = His Character or Person {attributes reflect His character}

F. The Presence of Two Other Sacrifices in Heb. 13:16 (Eight Types of Communication for Christian Are Identified in Grace Revelation)

1. Doing Good
2. Fellowship

Conclusion

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.