

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Hebrews Part-1 (chapter 1:1-3)

5.29.2024

SUPERIORITY OF JESUS CHRIST

1:1-3

INTRODUCTION: Who is the author? When was it written? Who is the intended audience? What is the focus?

REVELATION OF GOD (1-2): How did God speak in times past and in these last days? Why is revelation through Christ superior? How does God speak to us today?

JESUS versus Prophets (2-3): How is Jesus superior to the prophets?

Reminder
*What must we
do with the
Word of God?*



Read



Meditate, Understand, Guard the Word



Apply in life to see transformational changes



Testify of life changing power of God's Word
(through words and lifestyle)



Are we
retaining and
applying what
we are
learning?

- Acts | Philemon | Colossians | Ephesians |
- Sermon on the mount | Daniel | James | Disciplining in Love |
- I Thessalonians | II Thessalonians | Deuteronomy | Malachi |
- I Timothy | Titus | II Timothy |

Introduction to Hebrews

Who is the author?
When was it written?
Who is the intended
audience?
What is the focus?

Introduction: Author & Time

Author: Unknown

But all scripture is divinely inspired and is profitable
(II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21)

Time: 60-70AD (as temple sacrifices were present; Temple
was destroyed in 70AD)

Time of persecution, and Lack of spiritual progress
(5:12-6:3)

Introduction: Theme

Main Theme: JESUS CHRIST IS SUPERIOR/BETTER

(to prophets, angels, Moses & Joshua, Aaronic priesthood, old testament sacrifices)

Other related themes / teachings:

How is NT covenant superior to OT covenant?

How does gospel fit in the context of Old Testament?

Why is Old Testament relevant to today's believers?

How to connect Old Testament to New Testament?

How can believers diligently 'press on'?

Introduction: Audience

Main audience: Jewish converts ... so that they may
take pride in teachings of Christ,
defend their new faith with conviction,
be willing to suffer for their faith,
diligently press on and not turn back to old
rituals / traditions of Judaism

Other audiences:

Professing converts (but not truly saved)

Unbelievers

Today's believers

So Hebrews is relevant for **everyone!**

Hebrews outline

I. Superiority of CHRIST (1:1-10:18)

- Superior to prophets (1:1-3)
- Superior to Angels (1:4-2:18)
- Superior to Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
- Superior to Aaron's priesthood (4:14-8)
- Superior to sacrifices (9:1-10:18)

II. Warnings & Exhortations (10:19-13:25)

Revelation of God (1-2)

How did God speak in
times past and in these last
days?

How does God speak to us
today?

Revelation of God

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, ...

Revelation of God

God has been revealing himself from the book of Genesis.

Prophets pointed to Christ and their role diminished after the arrival of Christ.

Revelation of God intended to reveal more of Himself and His message. Revelation through Jesus was the final revelation.

Any new revelation (outside of Bible) will be false teaching.

Revelation of God: God speaks

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Various times (From Job, oldest book, to Nehemiah ... 39 books spanning nearly 2000 years and many locations)

Various means (prophets, angels, scriptures, visions & dreams, symbols, even animals)

**God speaks
... Idols &
gods of this
world don't**

PSALMS 135: 15

The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; ¹⁷ They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

HABAKUK 2:18-20

¹⁸ What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols? ¹⁹ Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it. ²⁰ But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Revelation of God: God speaks

² has in these last days spoken
to us by *His Son*,

Before Christ: Revelation through prophets was
partial/progressive

After the birth of Jesus Christ in last days, God spoke through
His son, Jesus Christ to reveal himself and his message

- For Jews, last days associated with the coming of Messiah (as prophesied in Jeremiah 33:14-16, Micah 5:1-2, Zechariah 9:9)
- Messiah has now come (second advent) so we are in last days. Many Jews are still waiting for the Messiah.

After Christ: With the teachings of Christ and teachings of
apostles, revelation is now complete. Revelation through Christ
is superior as it is complete

Revelation of God: God speaks

² has in these last days spoken
to us by *His* Son,

Why did God speak through His son?

God spoke through Christ to reveal **Himself and His message**

How does God speak today?

Revelation of God: God speaks today

Today, God speaks through

- Holy Bible (OT and NT)
- Holy Spirit
- Other Believers
- Circumstances
- Nature:
 - Romans 1:²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
- Dreams

TEST to check if God spoke: When God speaks to us, it will NOT contradict the full teachings of the Bible. We should not take verses out of context or without prayer to justify our decisions.

- **When was the last time God spoke to you?** How did He speak? How do you know for sure that it was God who spoke? How did you respond to Him?

Did God really speak?

TEST to check if God spoke:

When God speaks to us, it will NOT contradict the teachings of the Bible. We should not take verses out of context or without prayer to justify our decisions.

- *When was the last time God spoke to you?*
- *How did He speak?*
- *How do you know for sure that it was God who spoke?*
- *How did you respond to Him?*

JESUS versus Prophets

How is Jesus is superior to
the prophets?

Who is Jesus Christ? How is He superior to the prophets?

Seven Distinct Superiorities

Why is Jesus Christ Superior? ... 7 reasons!

² has in these last days **spoken to us by *His Son***, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high



JESUS CHRIST

JESUS – human name

Mathew 1: ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall
save his people from their sins.

CHRIST – anointed one



#1
heir of all
things

“... whom He has appointed heir of all things”(2)

(all things were created for Him, Colossians 1:16)

Firstborn (the firstborn over all creation, Colossians 1:15). Appointed by Father – has the approval and authority of the Father

#2 creator

“... through whom also He made the worlds” (2)

Creator

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... ³¹ and God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. ... 2:1 Thus the heavens and earth were finished, and all the host of them.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

3 brightness of his glory

“... who being the brightness of *His* glory”

Jesus reveals the glory of His father (who remains unseen)

Shekinah glory

Exodus 40:34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the **glory of the Lord** filled the tabernacle.

#4 express image

“and the express image of His person”

“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead
bodily” Colossians 2:9

Exact image of His father

Since God is a spirit, it refers to the nature / character
of God and not physical image. Jesus is the only one
who has seen God.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only
begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He
has declared *Him*.

John 14:9 He who has seen me, has seen the father

#5 Sustainer

“and upholding all things by the word of His power,”

He **creates** and also **sustains** by the power of His Word

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

He **knows** his creation by name

Psalms 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by *their* names. Great *is* our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite

He **controls** the creation

Psalms 135:6 Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

#6 Redeemer

“He had by Himself purged our sins”

Purged = purified

Purification achieved through sacrifice on the cross ... **I John 1:7** the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **Revelation 1:5** washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Purification achieved through physical sacrifice, not spoken word.

#7 Exalted one

“sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”

Exalted after resurrection

- Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:20)

Right hand speaks of privileged position of exclusive power and honor. **Sitting** speaks of resting after accomplishing the mission.

Place of intercession ... who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (Romans 8:34)

Jesus Christ is Superior

Heir of all
things

Creator

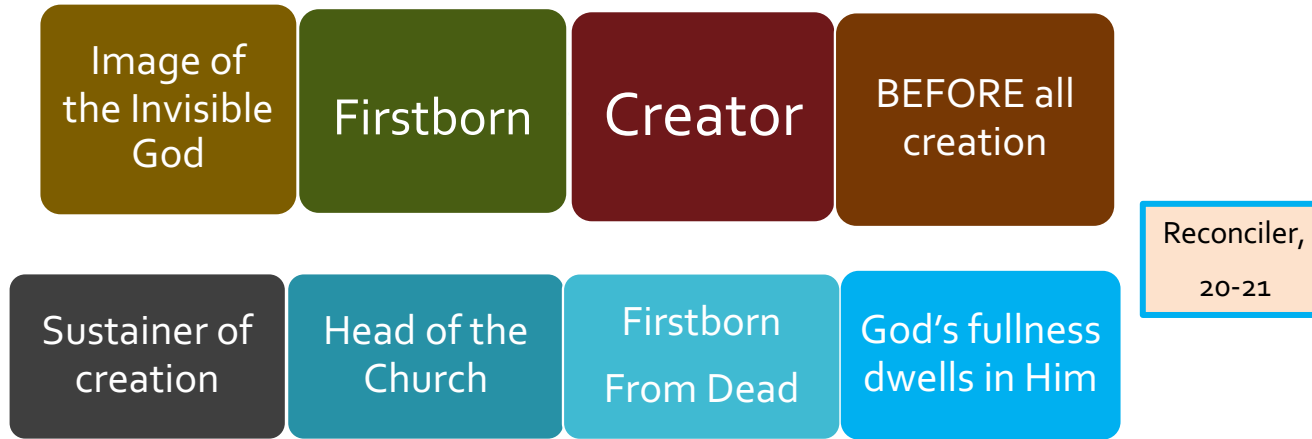
Brightness
of His glory

Express
image

Sustainer

Redeemer

Exalted
one



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Supremacy of Christ, the Son of God (Colossians 1:15-21)

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