

Discipleship Series Week 1
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Hebrews Overview: God's Full and Final Revelation in the Son

The overarching theme of the book of Hebrews is SON. God spoke in the past through the prophets—various voices, various ways, each like a color in the rainbow, diffused rays of light that create a likeness of God. But God in Jesus, has taken all of that history and focused it into One Light—His Son. And that Son is God's final word.

It is addressed to the sons of the Son. It encourages us throughout that we are heirs and have an inheritance that must not be neglected.

The end-goal of the book is one thing – Maturity. This series, therefore, is a series on Discipleship, being followers of our Apostle, High Priest, and Lord, Jesus Christ the Son of God.

This book was written to the people that had it all – Jewish Christians – they knew very well the 83 Old Testament scriptures. But they are encouraged in a time that they were suffering and discouraged and losing their breath, not to go back to the old religious form, but to press on into receiving the better things of Christ's kingdom.

The Book is a book of contrasts of the better things of the New Covenant with the Old Covenant. The goal is maturity that brings us into our inheritance, rest, and fullness. That rest is provided in the finished work of Jesus.

Hebrews includes: (see wk 9 Passage Guide notes)

- 5 passages of "solemn warnings" that adjust our view of the "grace" of God
- 7 passages of practical application
- 7 passages of comparison showing Old Covenant inferior to the New Covenant
- 12 "Let us" corporate decisions

Hebrews 1: The Uniqueness of Jesus

Hebrews 1:1-4 DP Greek:

In many parts and in many ways of old, God, having spoken to the fathers in the prophets, at the end of these days spoke to us in a Son whom He appointed heir of all things through whom also he made the eons. Who being the radiant effulgence of his glory and the exact representation of his substance, he carries all things by the word of his power. He made purification of sins; he sat down at the right hand of the majesty in the high places, having become so much superior to the angels, as he has inherited a name that is more excellent than theirs.

1. Whom He appointed **heir** of all things (getting us into our inheritance)
2. Through whom also He **made the universe** (set the ages in motion)
3. Who being the **rays** (radiance, effulgence, raying forth) of the glory of God
4. And **the exact representation** (seal, ring, imprint in the wax an exact image of the seal) of "His nature" (Heb. 11:1, Faith is the *substance*—the Father is the substance shown forth in Jesus as His glory)
5. He **carries (upholds) all things** through the word of His power

6. He **made purification for sins**
7. And **sat down** at the right hand of majesty on high (The Levitical priests never sat down because their job was never done—not so with Christ and His work as our High Priest – Heb. 9:26)

Seven Statements about Jesus from Col. 1:15-18

1. He is the **Image** (icon) of the invisible God
2. He is the **firstborn** *before all creation* (contrast between created and born)
3. **In/by/through Him** *all things were created* visible and invisible
4. He is **before** all things (*externally existent*)
5. All things **hold together** in Him
6. He is the **Head of the Body, the Church**
7. He is the **firstborn from the dead** (when a baby is born, the head precedes the rest of the body—Christ's resurrection is the guarantee of ours)

He is Exalted:

Phil 2:9-10, “*wherefore* God highly exalted him and gave Him **The NAME** which is above every name at the name of Jesus all created things will bow the knee and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord.”

Heb. 1:4 – “as He has by inheritance obtained a better name than they.”

Jesus earned His exaltation—He humbled Himself.

He came into His inheritance by meeting the conditions.

Ps. 45 – Shows the divinity of Jesus in contrast to His “fellows” – disciples.

Hebrews 1:5-14 DP Greek:

For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are my Son, I today have begotten You.” And again, “I will be to Him for a Father, and He will be to me for a Son.” And when He brings back again the firstborn into the world, He says “And let all the angels of God worship Him.” But of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.” To the Son [He says], “Your throne, O God, is for the age of the age, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom. You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; for this reason, O God, Your God, anointed You with the oil of rejoicing above Your companions [or fellows].” And “You in the beginning, O Lord, founded the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old as a garment, and like a cloak [or a mantle] You will roll them up; and as a garment they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will never pass away.” But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at my right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet?” Are they not all ministering spirits, who are being sent forth to serve for those who are due to inherit salvation?

V. 5 For to which of the angels did the Father ever say, “You are My Son. Today I have begotten you.”

- a) Never said to any angel “I will be your father/you will be my son:
- b) 2 Samue7:12—“I will raise up your seed after you and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever; I will be a father to him and he will be a son to me”

V. 6 “And when He brings back again the firstborn into the world He says” (referring to the return of Jesus), “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

- a) Deut. 32:43 (Masoretic—handed down by tradition) “Rejoice O nations with His people for He will avenge the blood of His servants. He will render vengeance on his adversaries and will atone for his land and his people. (not angels)
- b) Hebrews quotes from the Greek version of the Old Testament (Septuagint) habitually used in most parts of the ancient world because people couldn’t read the original Hebrew: “Rejoice, O heavens, with him and let all the sons of God worship Him. Rejoice, O nations, with His people and let all the angels of God give Him glory.”

V7 Quote from Psalm 104:4 portraying the glory & majesty of God: “Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire” (angels are servants)

V8 To the Son: (He says) Your throne O God is forever and forever (the age made up of ages which is made up of years) and the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of His kingdom, you loved righteousness and hated lawlessness, for this reason Your God anointed You with the oil of joy above your fellows.”

- a) Psalm 45:6-7, “My heart overflows I address (the Messiah) Thy throne O God—“
- b) God in two distinct Persons speaking as Elohim: the mystery of the trinity in Elohim
 - The king who is anointed is God
 - It’s God who anoints the king
 - One of them will rule with a scepter of righteousness
- c) The Trinity in the parable of the SUN
 - Father the substance not seen by anyone
 - Jesus the light of the Sun we behold
 - The Spirit communicating the rays of the sun to our eyes

As LIGHT: diffused produces three main colors red, green, blue and when recombined together they produce white light.

V13 SON TO THE FATHER: from Psalm 2:7 I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord he has said to Me (never said to any angel) “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”

- a) **Ps 2 is MESSIANIC (“mashiach” Hebrew; “Christos” Greek; “anointed” English) PSALM**
 - v.2 The kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord and against the Lord’s Anointed
 - v. 6 As for Me I have installed my King on My holy hill
 - v.7 You are my Son (ben)
 - “pay homage to the Son” (bar—refers to the messiah)
 - v.11: Worship with reverence, Rejoice with trembling
 - v. 12 “His wrath may soon be kindled”*
 - Contemporary Christians are uncomfortable with the whole truth of Jesus and how He is: “I AM THAT I AM” will be there howsoever I will be there.
 - Contrast with Moses in Numbers 12 and the column of the cloud that descended in a meeting with the three
 - Progression of Psalm 2:
 1. Rejection by earth’s rulers
 2. God’s anger toward those rulers
 3. Messiah anointed (installed) as king on Mt. Zion (heavenly Zion)

4. The acknowledgement of the messiah as God's son "He said to me" today I have begotten you: of the second time He was firstborn: BEGOTTEN AGAIN from the dead the father acknowledges his son through the resurrection
5. Messiah is declared ruler (rod of iron, shepherd) over the whole earth
6. Submit to Messiah before judgment falls on them
7. Blessed are all who take refuge (trust) in Him

Takeaways Week 1:

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT REVIVAL, IT'S ABOUT REFORMATION

HEBREWS ENCOURAGES US TO BUILD A HOUSE, RUN A RACE

Jesus A PERSON—

He GAVE UP HIS RIGHT TO EVERYTHING

HE PUT HIMSELF ENTIRELY BY FAITH INTO THE WILL, WORK, & WAY OF THE FATHER

HUMAN HEART – Our lives are not about a bunch of "do's and dont's" but ultimately it is about unbelief. Our decisions must be founded in:

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

THE CROSS

THE GRACE OF GOD

THE ONGOING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CORPORATE EXPRESSION IN RELATION TO OTHER BELIEVERS