

"The Superiority of Jesus Christ over the Prophets"

Hebrews 1:1-3

Part 3

Introduction: Tonight as we come back to our study of Hebrews we again step into the first 3 verses of chapter one. The writer of Hebrews opens this letter by taking us right into the deep water. There is no introduction in this letter but instead the writer has opened by getting right to the point. In these first 3 verses the writer is addressing the Hebrew Christians to explain to them that Jesus is superior to the Old Testament prophets.

In Hebrews 1:1 the writer points the Jewish believers back to the Old Testament and reminds them it was fragmented.

Notice Hebrews 1:1

There are 2 statements here that help us to see that the Old Testament writings were fragmented.

1. **Sundry times** - This tells us that the Old Testament was written in "many parts" or "many portions". The idea is that the Old Testament was fragmented in the way that it presents Jesus Christ.
2. **Divers manners** - This is speaking of the different ways in which the writers of the Old Testament presented Jesus Christ. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and in each of the writings we can see "glimpses" of Jesus Christ presented in different ways. The idea is that in the Old Testament we never get a complete picture of Jesus Christ.

But while it is fragmented it is still from God and the writer makes that very clear from the beginning. He is very careful in his writing not to offend the Jewish reader.

Notice Hebrews 1:2a

Here the writer takes his readers from the Old Testament and points them right to the CENTER focus of the book and that is Jesus Christ. The writer of this letter also presents a contrast with this statement and the contrast is between the Old Testament and Jesus Christ. The Old Testament was fragmented and Jesus Christ is complete.

In this verse the writer uses the phrase "these last days" which would have had a special meaning to the readers. These Jewish believers were thinking of going back under the Old Covenant and under the Old Covenant the people of the Old Testament lived in expectation of the coming of the Messiah. The writer of Hebrews is reminding them that Jesus is the fulfillment therefore if they were to go back under the Old Covenant what would they then look for? Jesus had come and He was full of Grace and Truth therefore the writer wanted them to endure the pressure they were under and continue to press forward in their new life in Christ. The days were winding down and the Kingdom was fast approaching.

This now brings us to where we are tonight. The writer is going to now address who the Son is. For the average reader to pick up this letter and read it they may pause at what is said in verse 2 and ask, "Who is the Son?" Is He just another "spokesman" for God? Is He just a "religious leader" who has taken upon Himself to speak a word of prophecy? How do we know that the Words of the "Son" are the Words of God?

In the second half of verse 2 and then in verse 3 we find several points about "the Son" which the writer lists to show exactly who the Son is.

1. **He has been appointed Heir of all things.**

Notice Hebrews 1:2b

This is such an interesting thought when we search it out. But before we do let me share with you something I read this past week on the book of Hebrews. It has been said that Hebrews is a book for Christians who are discouraged. This book is full of encouragement for those who are saved. That we shall see in this very point.

The writer of Hebrews is speaking of something here that the Old Testament speaks of and that the New Testament speaks of. Let me show you some verses and then we will go to the book of Revelation to see something very interesting.

Psalm 2:6-8

⁶ *Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

⁷ *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

⁸ *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

Here in this Psalm when God speaks He speaks of Jesus as His BEGOTTEN SON. This has within it many meanings but one of the meanings speaks of Jesus' right to be the Heir of God.

Psalm 89:27-29

²⁷ *Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.*

²⁸ *My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.*

²⁹ *His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.*

This Psalm points to David but in these verses 27-29 the Holy Spirit speaks of Jesus Christ. Let me show you the words of Matthew Henry on verse 27:

"I see not how this can be applied to David; it is Christ's prerogative to be the firstborn of every creature, and, as such, the heir of all things..."

The title of "Firstborn" would have meant the Messiah would be the Heir of God. From Psalm 2 and Psalm 89 the Hebrews would have known that the Messiah was to be Heir of all things.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

¹⁵ *If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated:*

¹⁶ *Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn:*

¹⁷ *But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.*

Let me show you something which Elisha said.

2 Kings 2:9

⁹ *And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.*

When Elisha asked for a double portion he was asking to be treated as the FIRSTBORN of Elijah. He knew what it meant to be the FIRSTBORN. The readers of the book of Hebrews would have known

also that when the Messiah was referred to as the "firstborn" in the Old Testament that it spoke of His right to be the Heir of God. Therefore, when the writer of Hebrews said that the Son was "appointed heir of all things" the readers would have known that the Son was the Messiah.

Satan also knew that Jesus would be the Heir of all things.

Matthew 4:8-10

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

Satan promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would He would worship him. Now let me explain the temptation here; Jesus had been appointed Heir of all things in eternity past. The temptation here was to receive His inheritance without going the way of the cross. But the point I want you to see is that Satan knew that Jesus would be the Heir of all things. The readers of Hebrews would have also known that the Messiah would be the Heir of all things.

But what would this mean to a group of believers such as these Hebrew Christians?

Again I remind you of what they were going through. Some of them had been stoned to death because of their faith in Jesus Christ. They had been banned from the Temple and from any Jewish related activity. Some had been stripped of all their belongings and were left with just the clothing they had on their bodies. These were some of the very reasons they were considering going back to Judaism. But the Truth about the Son being the Heir of God would have been great encouragement for them as they scraped to make it through life in this world. Let me show you why I say this.

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

These people may have lost all they had on earth but in Christ they were rich. They would be joint heirs with Jesus Christ which means that all that belongs to Him would belong to them.

Application:

The same is true for you and me also. You may barely make it through this life at times because your pockets are empty but this is only temporary for when this life is over we will be joint heirs with Jesus Christ. That means that all that belongs to Him will then belong to us.

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

You and I cannot even dream of the riches that await us when we leave this world.

Psalm 31:19

¹⁹ *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.*

Now I want to show you a something that is yet to happen in the future. Years ago I was privileged to study under a man by the name of Thomas Rogers. I was fortunate enough to purchase his study on Revelation and it was a very rich study. My mind went back to that study when I was typing this up and there is something I want you to see in Revelation 5.

Revelation 5:1-10

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

² *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

³ *And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

⁴ *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

⁵ *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

⁶ *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

⁷ *And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*

⁸ *And when he had taken the **book**, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

⁹ *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the **book**, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

¹⁰ *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

I have underlined and bolded the word "book" because it is very important in this passage. In this passage we see that the Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy to open the book. In this passage we see Jesus Christ as the Kinsman Redeemer. Let me take you back to the book of Ruth.

Ruth 3:12-13

¹² *And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.*

¹³ *Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.*

The next day Boaz waited on the near kinsman and he presented him with the opportunity.

Ruth 4:6

⁶ *And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.*

There were 3 qualifications for the kinsman redeemer:

1. They had to be a near relative.
2. They had to be willing to pay the price.
3. They had to be able to pay the price.

This man in the book of Ruth was not willing. Now let us get back to the thought in Revelation again: The **BOOK** in Revelation 5 is the title deed to the earth. The earth was created by God and then was entrusted to mankind. Man fell into sin and now Satan has a tight grip on this world. In Revelation 5 this earth will go back to the original Owner. Jesus is the only One who is worthy to redeem this earth and that is what He will do. The earth will then be under His reign and we will rule and reign with Him. This earth will be a part of the inheritance of Christ and we will be joint heirs with Him. The opening of the seals on the book will start the Tribulation in which time the earth will be purged and then the Kingdom will be established.

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

This is a glimpse of our inheritance with Christ.

Conclusion:

This was what the Jewish believers had to look forward to and so do we. When the writer points to the Son as being Heir of all things this was an encouragement for them to continue to press on in their faith.

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Hebrews Study #4

We may not possess much in this world but there is a day coming when we will be joint heirs with Christ.