

"The Superiority of Jesus Christ over the Prophets"

Hebrews 1:1-3

Part 4

Introduction: Tonight we come back to our study of the book of Hebrews and as we do we are stepping back into the first the section of the book which deals with the superiority of Jesus Christ over the prophets.

Notice Hebrews 1:1-3

The writer has taken us right into the meat of the book in these opening verses. Let us remember that he is writing to a group of Jewish believers who are facing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. They have been ostracized from their Jewish communities and some of them were considering going back to Judaism. The Temple was still standing and the sacrificial system was still in operation but they could have no part in the Temple system due to their faith in Christ. Therefore the writer of Hebrews is writing to them to do all he can to pull them along in their faith. We can see the writer's desire in Hebrews 6.

Hebrews 6:1-3

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

² Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

³ And this will we do, if God permit.

We see in Hebrews 5 that these believers had been saved long enough that they should have been teaching others but because of their reluctance to let go of family traditions their growth had been hindered.

Hebrews 5:11-12

¹¹ *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

¹² *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

So these believers were in need of someone to press them so as to get them to move forward in their spiritual walk. The writer of Hebrews takes upon himself this very task and he starts immediately as we step into this letter.

In Hebrews 1:1 the writer points to the Old Testament and how God used the prophets to speak unto the fathers of these Jewish believers. But the main point he is making is that the Old Testament was fragmented in that there was not a complete picture of Jesus Christ. The writers were inspired but each one revealed something different about the coming Messiah.

Then in Hebrews 1:2a the writer points directly at the Center focus of the letter and that is Jesus Christ. God had spoken in times past through the prophets in the Old Testament but now, in the "last days" God spoke through His Son. The writer shows a contrast here between the Old Testament and Jesus Christ. The Old Testament was fragmented and Jesus Christ is complete. He is the very Messiah which the prophets had pointed to. Jesus was the fulfillment of all the

writings of the prophets. These believers were contemplating going back to the Old Covenant but under the Old Covenant everyone was looking for the coming of the Messiah and now He had come. If they were to go back there would be nothing to look forward to.

Now as the writer moves on he will list 6 points about who the Son is in order to show the readers that Jesus is better than the Old Testament prophets.

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

Notice Hebrews 1:2

We looked at this point when we were together the last last time. Jesus Christ will be the Heir of all things. This is seen in the book of Revelation.

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.

Now let me just remind you that the writer of Hebrews is pointing to these 6 points in 1:2-3 in order to show the Jewish believers he was writing to that Jesus was not just another "prophet". These 6 points are to help them to see that Jesus is far superior to the prophets.

Now I point this out for a very important reason. These Jewish believers as I had said before would have known the Old Testament. With that said let me show you something which Moses had recorded.

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18

¹⁵ The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

¹⁸ I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Moses had prophesied about the coming of Jesus Christ and here in this text he referred to Him as a Prophet that would come from among the people of Israel. This prophecy would have been known by the Jewish believers in the book of Hebrews and I say this because many of the Jews of Jesus day pointed back to this prophecy.

John 6:11-14

¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Many believed Jesus was the Prophet Moses spoke of but they did not understand who He was and by that I mean they did not understand that Jesus was God in the flesh. This thought is in the mind of the writer of Hebrews and therefore He is pointing to these 6 points to show that the Son was not just another "prophet".

2. **All things were created by Him.**

Notice Hebrews 1:2

Here the writer tells his readers that the "worlds" were made by Him. The word "worlds" means "ages". The word refers to the "present age" and the "future age" that is yet to come. The entire point which is being made here is that Jesus Christ existed before the world and all the ages were ever created and when they were created they were created by Him. This thought speaks of 2 points about Jesus Christ:

- a. **His eternity** - He existed in eternity past. He had to exist before the beginning of time in order to be the Creator of the ages.
- b. **His deity** - He had to be God for it is only God who is able to create.

The Bible speaks over and over about Jesus Christ being the Creator of this world.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² *The same was in the beginning with God.*

³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

1 Corinthians 8:6

⁶ *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

Ephesians 3:9

⁹ *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

Colossians 1:12-16

¹² *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

¹³ *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

¹⁴ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

¹⁵ *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

¹⁶ *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

There is no doubt from the Scriptures that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. This connects with what we looked at the last time when we saw that Jesus has been appointed the Heir of all things. He was appointed the Heir of all things before the foundation of the world because He would be the Creator of all things. This connects with Revelation 5 where we looked at how Jesus is worthy to open the scroll which is the title deed to the earth.

Revelation 5:2-5

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.*

The book or scroll is the title deed to the earth and here we see that the earth will be delivered back into the care of the Original Creator/Owner.

Application:

What would this mean to the Hebrew Christians and what does it all mean to you and me?

Let us remember the persecution which these Hebrew Christians were facing and the cost of the persecution. They had been viewed as social outcasts therefore I am sure many of them suffered financially. They most likely struggled to make ends meet at times and this was one of the reasons they were considering going back to Judaism.

I will get to the encouragement for these believers in a moment but I want to consider our lives for a moment. There may be times when you struggle to make ends meet also. There may come a day when because of our faith life will become very difficult. The Bible tells us that difficult days for believers are coming in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Remember what Jesus said about the tribulation period?

Matthew 24:7-10

⁷ *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

⁹ *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

¹⁰ *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

Matthew 10:21

²¹ *And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.*

²² *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

These verses pertain to the tribulation but we can clearly see these days are beginning to develop and unfold in our day. There is a very real possibility that we will see these days before the rapture. There is no promise of ease as we wait for the rapture. God is concerned more about our growth than He is our comfort. On Sunday night we looked at 1 Corinthians 10:13 and we talked about the importance for the trials and the testing's that come into our lives. They make us more dependent on the Lord and are a major part of our testimony.

"God is in this life preparing his people for a better world and part of that process is effected by trial and affliction, so that it frequently happens that the godly are in adversity while the wicked are in prosperity." C. Spurgeon

So the point is we could possibly go through some very trying times. That is where Hebrews 1:2 provides encouragement. Jesus is the Creator of all things. Let me show you a verse.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Our Lord spoke this world into existence. That means His wealth is beyond anything our minds can begin to comprehend. Think about how wealthy someone would be if they could just speak things into existence. That gives us an idea of the wealth of our Lord. Now let me show you some promises:

Psalm 34:9-10

⁹ *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*

¹⁰ *The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*

Psalm 84:11

¹¹ *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

³² *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

³³ *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Romans 8:32

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Conclusion:

The Hebrews believers could rest in the wealth and the promises of their Lord and so can we. No matter what we face our Lord is obligated to provide for us as His children.