

Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

The Son – God’s Ultimate Communication to Man

Hebrews 1:1-3

Introduction:

Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish Christians who were being persecuted and were contemplating renouncing their faith in Jesus as their Messiah and reverting to Judaism. (See Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 10:23.)

We don’t know who wrote Hebrews.

This book is about the superiority of the Son – Jesus.

A. What do the first two verses tell you about God? (Heb. 1:1-2a)

1. He spoke long ago.
2. God loves to communicate. Is God an extrovert or an introvert?
3. How does He talk?
4. How frequently does He talk?
5. He spoke long ago to the fathers. These fathers are not limited to the forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They are Jewish people down through Israel’s history.
6. God spoke to them through the prophets. Who are some prophets?

7. In these last days God spoke to us through His Son.
8. Jesus is the superior way God has spoken to us in these last days.
9. Of course, the Scriptures, written by the prophets, are important. They are the only way we can know about the Son! But Jesus is God's ultimate speech / message.

B. What is special about the Son? (Heb. 1:2b-3)

1. He is appointed heir of all things. What does that mean?
 - a. Suggestion from audience: The Father has given all things into His hand (i.e. the Son's hand). (John 3:35)
 - b. Suggestion from audience: You have to go through Jesus to get to God. (John 14:6)
 - c. See Psalm 2. Someone in this psalm receives an inheritance.
 - 1) vv. 1-3. The nations are in revolt.
 - 2) Against whom? The Lord and His Anointed (Messiah) – ultimately Jesus.
 - 3) U.S. Chaplains can't pray in Jesus' name anymore. Our government has joined the revolt.
 - 4) God laughs at them v. 4.
 - 5) Our country gets mad at Israel when they build in Jerusalem.
 - 6) What does God say? V. 6. I have installed my King on my Holy Mount (Jerusalem). No Muslim mosque will stop God.

- 7) In Ps. 2:7-9, the Son speaks of the decree of the LORD. He said to me, “You are My Son. Ask of Me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance!”
 - 8) Part of what the writer of Hebrews meant when He said the Son gets an inheritance is that Jesus will be granted authority over all the nations!
 - 9) Part of Jesus’ being God’s Son is His being the Son of David.
- d. In 2 Samuel 7:1-17 David wanted to build God a house. At first Nathan agreed. When God talked to him, he later said, “No.”
- 1) God said, “I’ll build you a house” (i.e. a dynasty). Every king wants a dynasty.
 - 2) Your descendant will be king. I’ll be a Father to him and he will be a son to me.
 - 3) One son of David, Jesus, God has a special relationship with.
 - 4) When Jesus got baptized (Matt. 3:13-17), God anointed Him with His Spirit. He became the Messiah at that point. He was anointed to be King of Israel, Prophet of Israel, and Priest of Israel. But primarily King.
 - 5) Immediately after Jesus’ baptism, God said, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” This is Messiah talk. (It goes back to 2 Sam. 7:1-17.)
- e. What does Romans 8:17 tell us? How does Jesus’ inheritance affect us? (Audience – “There is a trickle-down effect!” If we are children of God, we are heirs also. Jesus is the big heir, but we are heirs along with Him.
- 1) Any suffering in this life is a reminder that we are one of God’s heirs.
 - 2) Just as a will is activated when the one who makes the will dies, so the inheritance is activated when Jesus died.

Jesus died on behalf of God. You can't separate God and Jesus. In Acts 20:28, elders are to guard the church which God purchased with His own blood.

- 3) Jesus, at His death, became qualified to be heir.
 - 4) Galatians 2:20 – When Jesus died, we died with Him. Our heirship was obtained when we died with Jesus.
 - 5) Romans 1:4 – Jesus was declared the Son of God by virtue of His resurrection from the dead.
2. Through Jesus God made the world. (Heb. 1:2). Part of Jesus' being appointed heir is that He created the world. If He created everything, He has the right to inherit it all.
 3. He is the radiance of God's glory. However glorious God is, you can tell it by looking at Jesus.
 - a. For the most part, when Jesus was on earth, His glory was veiled.
 - b. The book of Revelation is about the "revelation" = literally, "unveiling" of Jesus' glory. (Rev. 1:1)
 4. He is the exact representation of His nature. "Exact representation" = the Greek word "character" – an engraving tool that makes an exact likeness. Jesus is the exact likeness of God. He is fully God come in the flesh.
 5. He uphold all things by the word of His power.
 - a. What keeps the moon orbiting around the earth?
 - b. What keeps the earth orbiting around the sun?
 - c. Jesus keeps everything going.

- d. If Jesus ever quits doing that, the whole universe will go up in a blinding roar. (2 Pet. 3:7-12)
 - e. Jesus is the “glue” that keeps everything operating and functioning smoothly.
6. When Jesus had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
- a. When did he do this?
 - b. When He was anointed (to be Messiah), He was anointed to be Prophet, King, and Priest. As Messiah He wears a Prophet hat, a King hat, and a Priest hat.
 - 1) When He made purification for sins, which hat was He wearing?
 - 2) When he sat down at the right hand of God, which hat was He wearing?
 - a) Which job has He finished? (He has finished His Priest job – insofar as making a sacrifice)
 - b) He made a one-time, once-for-all sacrifice (Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 28; 10:10)
 - c. Psalm 110:1-2 – Jesus is sitting down at the right hand of God waiting until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. He is waiting to become King. He is not King yet. The job He has finished, and the reason He is sitting down is that He has completed the sacrificial portion of being a Priest.
 - d. Jesus was Prophet primarily, when He was here. Now He is seated as Priest, primarily. As priest, He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). When He returns to this earth, it will be primarily as King.

C. What can you take home with you today?

1. God loves you very much because He has communicated with you by His Son.
2. If you put your trust in the Son, and you are suffering, you are demonstrating you will be a co-heir with Jesus

An Interactive Bible Study on Hebrews 1:1-3

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