

Hebrews 1:1 - 2:9

Day 1

Christ's Supremacy. Read Hebrews 1:1-3

For Your Information: "The book of Hebrews—so rich in its biblical theological exploration of the work of Christ and the gospel—provides very little information about its own origin. In fact, we know almost nothing about who wrote it, its original audience, or the context behind it."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (3)

"**Author.** Origen's famous line about the authorship of this book, Only God knows, is still applicable. This does not preclude, however, a good honest, and educated guess. This writer's theology of inspiration would demand that either an apostle or one authorized by an apostle has written the work. Thus, the combination of Luke and Paul is suggested. Some of the support for this hypothesis is that the two had previously produced two works in the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. In addition, the polished style of Greek would reflect the pen of Luke rather than Paul, whereas the theology and weight of the letter would reflect the thought of the apostle....The author was close to Timothy (13:23). The closing of the book is very typically Pauline: a request for prayer on his behalf (13:18; cf. Ephesians 6:19), the concern for a good conscience (13:18; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19); the reference to the Father as 'God of peace' (13:20; Romans 15:33; Philippians 4:9)."

- Dr. Chris Miller <https://chrismiller.cedarville.org/content/hebri.pdf>

1. How had God's revelations been given in the past? 1:1 (See 2 Peter 1:21) *What are some of the various ways, you can think of, that God spoke to the prophets?*

FYI: "God utilized great devices to instruct his prophets. God spoke to Moses at Sinai in thunder and lightning and with the voice of a trumpet. He whispered to Elijah at Horeb in 'a still small voice' (1 Kings 19:12). Ezekiel was informed by visions and Daniel through dreams. God appeared to Abram in human form and to Jacob as an angel. God declared Himself by Law, by warning, by exhortation, by type, by parable."
- R. Kent Hughes (21)

2. How does that compare to the latest revelation? 1:2a (See John 1:1,17,18)

FYI: "All which has come before has come through human messengers. This latest revelation was delivered by God Himself in the person of Christ."
- Dr. Chris Miller

"In Christ came...the ultimate **speech** of God...Jesus is God's final word. The Greek here is simply *in huios*, 'in Son' – emphasizing that the person of His Son contains everything. He is the ultimate medium of communication. **God has spoken to us** in His Son!"
- R. Kent Hughes (21)

"God is a speaking God...few things are more important than the notion that God has spoken throughout history and has now given His final revelation in Jesus Christ...If God did not reveal Himself to us in His Word, we would have no knowledge of the meaning of the cross and resurrection of Christ, nor would we have any knowledge of the appropriate response to the gospel. In other words, we could not know God without revelation." – Albert Mohler (8)

3. What has the Son inherited? 1:2b (See Romans 8:16,17; 11:36)

- What else is His inheritance? Ephesians 1:18

FYI: "Think of it – Jesus is heir to all the heavens and...world, but we are his treasures. The redeemed are worth more than the universe. We ought to be delirious with this truth."
- R. Kent Hughes (26)

4. How was the universe/world created? 1:2c (Xref. 11:3; See John 1:3)

- From Colossians 1:16, list the things Christ created.

FYI: "These introductory verses set the context for how the author of Hebrews will explain the gospel. It is significant that he begins his retelling of the gospel not with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, but with the creation narrative and the covenants in the Old Testament. Why is this so weighty? Because the Holy Spirit, through the author of Hebrews, is placing the story of Christ within the context of God's entire redemptive plan—a redemptive plan that spans from creation to new creation...The story of God's saving work in Jesus Christ begins...'long ago' in the narrative of the Old Testament...if we do not have the right doctrine of creation, we will not have the right doctrine of redemption. Creation and the gospel are inextricably linked."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (7,10)

"The Greek word *aión*, can be translated either 'ages' (e.g., Ephesians 2:7) or 'worlds' (e.g., Hebrews 11:3). It embraces the idea of time as well as space and matter, thus beautifully reflecting the scientific concept of the universe as a space/matter/time continuum."
- Defender's Study Bible

5. What two phrases describe Christ's likeness to the Father? 1:3a. (See Colossians 1:15,19)

- How was this radiance seen at the transfiguration? Matthew 17:2 (See also Daniel 7:9)

FYI" Radiance/brightness Strong's NT:541 *apaugasma*; "to emit light or splendor" - Zodhiates

"Brightness" is from a Greek word used only here in the New Testament, literally meaning "off-flashing." In context of both this passage and modern astronomy, it could well be understood as "radiation...Just as the Father dwells "in the light which no man can approach unto" (I Timothy 6:16), so can no man gaze long at the sun without being blinded. Yet, physically speaking, as the sun's radiation provides both light and life to the world, so the Son is spiritually both the "light of the world" (John 8:12), and the "life" of the world (John 1:14; 14:6; Acts 17:28). See also notes on Psalm 19:1; 65:8; Micah 5:2."
- Defender's Study Bible

6. What else is Christ doing with creation and how? 1:3b (See Colossians 1:17)

FYI: "Note the remarkable relationship here between 'thing' and 'power,' or in modern scientific jargon, between mass and energy. The atomic structure of our very bodies is being held together (or "sustained"—see Colossians 1:17) by mysterious nuclear forces or binding energies that keep the atoms from disintegrating into chaos. Scientists do not yet understand such energies or their origin—they merely name them! The fact is that we (and all things) are being upheld by the out-radiating energy of the Son of God, so that He is 'not far from every one of us' (Acts 17:27), whether we believe in Him or not."
- Defender's Study Bible

7. List the phrases that describe the work Christ did and does for us. 1:3c (Cf. 10:14)

Digging Deeper

What does it mean for us that Christ is seated on high?
Romans 6:3,4

Ephesians 1:18-22

Applying the Word: How does reading these initial descriptions of Christ in Hebrews make you feel? Which of the descriptions impacted you the most?

Day 2

Christ's Superiority to Angels. Read Hebrews 1:4-14

8. How does Christ's position in heaven compare to angels? 1:3b,4a

FYI: "To be at someone's *'right hand'* is to be in a place of favor and authority. For Christ to be at the right hand of the heavenly 'Majesty' means He is above all powers and He rules over the cosmos." - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (12)

"There was a dangerous tendency to worship angels developing in the early Church (Colossians 2:18, Galatians 1:8), and Hebrews shows that Jesus is high above any angel.... The Jews venerated angels because of their place in the giving of the Law (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19)."

- David Guzik

"Some of the Jewish believers to whom [the author] was writing were in danger of compromising Jesus' superiority and lapsing into Judaism. They were under pressure first from the imminent threat of Nero's persecution for being Christians, and secondly, they were pressure because of ostracism by their Jewish countrymen in the synagogue. They were being tempted to compromise. If they would simply agree that Jesus was an angel, perhaps even the greatest of angels, but not God, they would be accepted into the synagogue and escape the awful pressure. Such a prospect was tantalizing because it did not require an outright denial of Christ, but only a different affirmation of Him and His greatness as an angel."

- R. Kent Hughes (35,36)

9. How is Jesus' name superior to the angels? 1:4b,5

FYI: "**The Son:** Jesus is greater than the angels, because no angel was ever given this great name. Though the angels may *collectively* be called *'sons of God'* (such as in Job 1:6), but no angel is ever given that title *individually*..."

Today I have begotten You: God the Father also spoke to God the Son and described Him as **begotten**. The word **begotten** speaks of the equality of *substance* and *essential nature* between the Father and Son. It means that the Father and the Son share the same *being*."

- David Guzik

"1:5 said he. This is the first of at least forty quotations in Hebrews from the Old Testament Scriptures. A perennial objection of the Jews to Jesus has been that God has no son, since He is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), so Paul (assuming he is the writer) begins by showing that their own Scriptures prove God to be both Father and Son. This particular reference is from Psalm 2:7, referring not only to God's Son, but also to His coming resurrection, as the first begotten from the dead (Acts 13:33; Colossians 1:18)."

- Defender's Study Bible

"1:5-14 begins a list of Old Testament quotations which set out to show the extent of the Son's superiority...The writer takes words which applied originally to an Israelite king and applies them to Jesus Christ...(there are other examples...Matthew 2:5f. and 22:44 are instances where Old Testament passages are cited Messianically)...The idea of an immediate and a remote fulfilment is common and this explains how a prediction which had relevance in the past could have a more complete fulfillment in the future."

- Donald Guthrie (71,72)

10. What honor is Christ given by angels? 1:6 (What happened at His birth? What is happening now and in the future? Revelation 5:11-13)

Digging Deeper

For more on Christ being the "first-born" (*preeminent*), see Colossians 1:15,18; Romans 8:29.

11. What role do angels have? 1:7 (Cf. 1:14)

FYI: "The commercialized, cute, chubby, cupid-like angels seen in get-well cards could not be further from the biblical portrait of angelic beings. When an angel shows up in Scripture, people fall down in sheer terror. Just think about the response of the shepherds to the angelic visitation in Luke 2:9." - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (19)

12. List the phrases in 1:8,9 that describe:

- Christ's throne:

- Christ's scepter:

- Christ's anointing:

Digging Deeper

For descriptions about God's attitude toward righteousness and wickedness, see. Psalm 33:5; 5:4-6

13. What distinctions are made between things created and the Creator in 1:10-12? (Cf. 13:8) To whom is this description given in Psalm 102:24-27? (See also Isaiah 45:12,18)

FYI: wax old/wear out "This revelation, originally given in the Psalms and now doubly verified, as it were, by being quoted in the New Testament, makes it clear that the universe is not evolving, but running down. This revelation anticipated the discovery of the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which it illustrates, by almost three thousand years. Also called the law of increasing entropy, this law is considered one of the most certain, best-proved laws of science, specifying as it does the observed fact that everything in the universe has a tendency to run down or deteriorate and eventually die. The universe as a whole is heading toward an ultimate heat death, with all the stars burned out and the whole cosmos at a uniform low temperature." - The Defenders Study Bible

14. What honor or position is never given to an angel? 1:13

- Instead, what is their function? 1:14 (See Psalm 103:20)

15. What reasons are given in Colossians 2:18,19 for people focusing on angels?

FYI: "Both the Old and the New Testament make clear that angels are creations of God. While they may have distinct privileges and even extraordinary powers, they are by no means divine...Angels are indeed remarkable. But they pale in comparison to the glory of the Redeemer, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is superior to every angel – indeed to the entire angelic host." - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (19)

16. How would you summarize what the writer is communicating about Christ in Hebrews 1? Why would the use of so many different Old Testament passages be an effective way of communicating to Hebrew Christians?

Applying the Word: *Why do you think someone might find it easier to focus on and worship angels, other people, or things rather than Christ?*

Day 3

Do Not Neglect His Salvation. Read Hebrews 2:1-4

17. Because of Christ's superiority, what is the first warning/application given? 2:1

- What does hearing the Word imply? See James 1:22

Digging Deeper

What pressures were the believers in this church facing that would make them want to "drift away"? Hebrews 10:32-34

FYI: "**For this reason**" forms the perfect transition. Because our salvation is a free gift from God and because such a gift tends to be taken lightly, a warning needs to be sounded. " - Charles Swindoll (26)

Pay attention/Give heed NT:4337 *prosecho*; (figuratively) to hold the mind towards, i.e. pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to

"As a nautical term, it means to hold a ship in a direction, to sail towards. To hold one's course toward a place." - Zodhiates

Drift away Strong's NT:3901 *pararrhues*; to flow by, i.e. (figuratively) carelessly pass (miss): KJV - let slip.

"to float by or drift past as a ship or to flow past as a river. Figuratively to slip away, suggesting a gradual and almost unnoticed movement past a certain point...of persons meaning to glide away, to swerve or deviate from something, such as the truth, law, precepts" - Zodhiates

"Such dangerous drifting is not intentional, but comes rather from inattention and carelessness...The pressured little church had become careless about their moorings in Christ. As first, in calm waters, that was not noticeable. But as the storms of opposition rose, some of them were drifting farther and farther away from Christ toward the shoals of shipwreck...That church's experience 2,000 years ago intersects our lives in this way: *drifting is the besetting sin of our day.*" - R. Kent Hughes (48)

"One doesn't have to *do* anything to **drift away**. Departure from the faith usually comes from slow drifting, not a sudden departure." - David Guzik

"The fight of sanctification is a fight against the tides of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Either we are listening to the Son and walking in his Word, or we are drifting away from biblical thinking and getting carried away by the cultural confusion of our day...'Hearing' the Word of God rightly is a spiritual hearing—one that involves believing, obeying, and submitting to what is heard. Right hearing is more a matter of the heart than a function of the ear. We must hear with our hearts...We avoid the danger of spiritual drift by reading, hearing, meditating on, and obeying Scripture. As B. B. Warfield said, '*When Scripture speaks, God speaks.*'" - R. Albert Mohler (24.25)

18. How critical was it for Israel to follow the law? 2:2 *Can you think of an example of their disobedience receiving a just penalty?*

- What did Moses say to the nation about God's word in Deuteronomy 4:5-9,39-40?

FYI: "The idea that angels had a role in bringing the Law to Moses is found in [Deuteronomy 33:2](#), [Acts 7:53](#), and in [Galatians 3:19](#)." - David Guzik

19. What 'greater' argument is given for following God's word? 2:3a (Cf. Hebrews 12:25)

- What did Jesus say to those who saw His works and did not believe? Matthew 11:20-24

FYI: Escape "In common with other New Testament writing, Hebrews see the non-Christian life as life of continual bondage."
- Donald Guthrie (81) (See 2 Timothy 2:26; 2 Peter 2:29)

"The ancient Greek word translated **neglect** is *amelesantes*, also used in Matthew 22:5 of those who disregarded the invitation to the marriage supper (*they made light of it*). It means to have the *opportunity*, but to ignore or to disregard the opportunity.

The phrase, *so great a salvation* is a striking reminder of what God has provided in Christ. 'The word *so* is similar to the instance in the familiar passage, "God **so loved** the world" (John 3:16), and expresses an unfathomable depth.'
(Griffith Thomas)"
- David Guzik

"Given the superiority of Christ over the angels and his identity as the divine Son of God, Jesus both demands and deserves to be heard. In the Old Testament, messages from angels came with such authority and power that their recipients were often nearly frightened to death. How much more then should we lend our ears to God's words now that "He has spoken to us by his Son"(Heb 1:2)!"
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (24)

"It is more blameworthy to sin against love than against Law, to ignore God's mercy than to break His Law. There is no escape if we ignore such a great salvation."
- R. Kent Hughes (52)

20. What are some things that can make us reject or neglect God's word? Matthew 13:18-22

- What would you name as pressures, distractions or influences today that can cause people to drift away or reject the truth?

21. From 2:3b-4, list how our salvation was:

- Announced/spoken by
- Confirmed by
- Testified/bore witness by

Digging Deeper

For miracles/signs of the apostles, see: Acts 5:12, 15-16; 8:6-7; 9:37-40; 14:3,8-10; 19:11-12; 28:3-5, 8.

22. What did the signs/miracles of the apostles confirm? Mark 16:20; 2 Corinthians 12:12

- What did John say about Jesus words and works? John 20:30,31

23. How powerful a testimony would you say these first believers had been given?

FYI: “If the context of this section (1:4--2:18) is not considered one might mistakenly think that the author's point is simply a comparison between the person of Christ and that of angels. But it...is to demonstrate the finality and **greatness of this most recent revelation** by asserting the superiority of the messenger...The pinnacle of his argument concerns the comparison between ‘the word spoken through angels’ and ‘so great a salvation [grace] which we must not neglect’ (2:2-4).

[The writer] moves from that which no one will contest (the superiority of Christ to that of angels) to prove that which has escaped their notice (His revelation therefore demands greater obedience).” - Dr. Chris Miller

Applying the Word: *What causes you to “drift away” from the gospel message? How much do you value your own instincts and human opinions rather than God’s truth?*

Day 4

Mankind’s Struggle and Hope. Read Hebrews 2:5-9

24. What position **won’t** angels have in the world to come? 2:5

FYI: “*It is not to angels*...Some think the readers were being enticed to believe that the future kingdom would be under the rule of angelic beings. Others see the author trying to dissuade his readers from turning back to Judaism.”
- The NIV Study Bible (1860)

25. [Hebrews 23:6- 8 quotes Psalm 8:4-6] What does the psalmist question about God’s relationship with man? Hebrews 2:6 *What prompted that question? Psalm 8:3*

26. From Hebrews 2:7-8a, what phrases describe the position, honor and authority that God gave to man. (See Genesis 1:26-29)

27. What does the double negative in 2:8a emphasize about man’s authority over the earth?

- What problem does the contrasting word “*but*” or “*yet*” in 2:8b point out? Why is this so? (See Genesis 3:17-19; 9:2)

FYI: 2:6-8 “Awed by the marvelous order and immensity of God’s handiwork in the celestial universe, the psalmist marveled at the high dignity God had bestowed on man by entrusting him with dominion over the other creatures...Due to sin, that purpose of God has not yet been fully realized. Indeed, men are themselves ‘in slavery’ (vs. 15)”
- The NIV Study Bible (1860)

“As a result of the Fall, man became the loser in every way imaginable – intellectually, psychologically, morally, physically, emotionally, spiritually. In taking the fruit from the tree, Adam and Eve thought they would become like God. Instead, they became less than what they were...As G.K. Chesterton said, ‘*whatever else is or is not true, this one thing is certain – man is not what he was meant to be.*’”
- Charles Swindoll (34)

“Even the angels are to be in subjection to man (Hebrews 1:14; 2:8; I Corinthians 6:3). The first man, Adam, was given dominion over the earth and all its creatures (Genesis 1:26-28), but sin intervened and it remains for the Son of man, “the last Adam” (I Corinthians 15:45) to regain man’s lost dominion.”
- Defender’s Study Bible

28. To what ultimate solution does the contrasting word “But” in 2:9a point?

- How does Jesus compare with “man” in 2:6-8? How are they similar and dissimilar?

FYI: “The Son of God became Jesus, Son of man, by divine incarnation (Hebrews 2:14-16). He who was ‘better than the angels’ (Hebrews 1:4) was made a ‘little [that is, ‘for a little time’—thirty-three years] lower than the angels.’ He who was the divine Word became flesh (John 1:14); He who was ‘equal with God’ became ‘a servant’ (Philippians 2:7).”
- The Defender’s Study Bible

“By His perfect life, His death on the cross and His exaltation, [Jesus] has made possible for redeem man the ultimate fulfillment of Ps. 8 in the future kingdom, when man will regain sovereignty over creation.” - The NIV Study Bible

29. Although human beings are honored by being created a “*little lower than angels*”, what did it take for Jesus to become human? Philippians 2:6,7

30. Why did Jesus have to suffer death? Hebrews 2:9 (See Romans 8:3;1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

- What did He receive because of this? (See also Philippians 2:8-11)

31. What state are we in through faith because of Jesus’ humiliation, suffering and death?
Romans 5:17-19; Philippians 3:9

FYI: “The Son temporarily became lower than the angels to realign heaven and earth. The son became a man and won the victory over Satan and sin through His obedience, sacrificial death, and resurrection.” - Tony Evans (1453)

Applying the Word: *It’s been said, “When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Jesus packed His bags for Bethlehem.” How would you explain mankind’s fall with the need for a Savior who would die for us?*