

What A Savior!

Hebrews 1 – Lesson for Sunday, August 22, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

- Teacher: Go to YouTube and type in “The Bible Project Hebrews” for a brief overview.
- Have the class divide into groups and work on putting together the context for this book.
 - Who wrote it, why, when, etc.?
 - Have them try to identify the central purpose/verse of the book.
- One of the great themes of Hebrews is: Jesus is better! And the author (who is unknown) begins in chapter 1 making this point.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Jesus Christ Out-Speaks the Prophets (vs. 1-3).
 - a. Everyone has an opinion about God.
 - i. Atheist: God does not exist
 - ii. Agnostic: Not sure if God exists
 - iii. Deist: He exists but has walked away
 - iv. Christian: He exists and He is everything!
 - b. The author believed God not only created the universe, but also made Himself known to His creation! This is clearly stated in the first two verses of this chapter.
 - c. First, God has spoken to us in His partial word.
 - i. Note the author’s focus on “in times past” (v. 1). To what does the author of Hebrews refer? He spoke “by the prophets.” Clearly, the author is alluding to the Old Testament Scriptures.
 - ii. Over a span of some 1500 years, with at least 40 authors, God progressively revealed Himself with more and more light. Because the revelation was progressive in nature, it stands to reason at no time could the prophecies be considered full and complete.
 - iii. In addition, the partial revelation was also a varied revelation, or, in the author’s words, “many ways.” He spoke to Abraham in visions, Moses and Elijah in voices, and Joseph in dreams.
 - d. Second, God has spoken to us in His final word.
 - i. Observe the author’s phrase, “in these last days” (v. 2). God’s full, complete, final word was in His Son, Jesus Christ!
 - ii. God’s supreme self-revelation was not in a book; instead His supreme self-revelation was in a Body!
 - e. Furthermore, in the final word, the author piles one magnificent statement upon another concerning Who Jesus is as God’s final word (vv. 2-3):
 - i. “Heir of all things”—Jesus is the consummation of all creation, inheriting claim to all things.
 - ii. “Made ages”—He created the universe and all it takes to make it function.
 - iii. “Radiance of His Glory”—Jesus’ glow cannot be quenched.
 - iv. “Express image”—He is the exact reproduction of God’s nature.
 - v. “Upholds...power”—Jesus holds the entire destiny of the universe in His hands.
 - vi. “Made purification...our sins”—the author gives us the first glimpse of Calvary, moving directly from creation to the cross.
 - vii. “Sat down at right hand”—the Old Testament High Priest never sat down. But Jesus did. Now, Christ sits on His heavenly throne in all the glory of heaven.
 - f. What a beautiful picture of Jesus! We serve an awesome Lord!
2. Jesus Christ Out-Ranks the Angels (vs. 4-9; 13-14)
 - a. The ancient world focused much on angelic beings. In fact, it could be said that while they made too much of them, we actually make too little.

- b. Angels are real; angels exist today. In the Old Testament, there are 108 references to angels compared to 165 in the New Testament.
 - c. In these verses, Christ out-ranks angels in two important ways.
 - d. First, Jesus Christ out-ranks angels with His excellent name—His “more excellent name” (vv. 4-8).
 - i. As we already mentioned, angels are servants of God. However, while Jesus came to serve and give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45), Jesus is much more than a servant. Jesus is the Son of God (cp. v. 5; Ps. 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14).
 - ii. The author’s point is clear: angels are before the throne; Jesus is on the throne! (cp. v. 7 with Ps. 104:4; v. 5, 8-9 with Ps. 45:6-7).
 - e. Second, Jesus Christ out-ranks angels with His exalted nature (vv. 9, 13-14).
 - i. Jesus is the “anointed one.” He was anointed on earth by the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Ultimately, everything in the universe will be subjected to Him (cp. Ps. 110:1).
 - iii. All enemies will be crushed under His feet, a promise no angel received.
3. Jesus Christ Out-Lasts the Universe (vs. 10-12)
- a. Presently, the universe is upheld by the very Word of Jesus Christ. There is coming a day, however, when the creation will collapse. All the work of His hands “shall perish” (v. 10; cp. Ps. 102:25-27).
 - b. Jesus created the earth and the heavens, and created both out of nothing. He merely spoke and it came into being.
 - c. Furthermore, He continues creating today. However, His creative powers are at work making new people in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). Those who place their faith in Jesus become “new creatures.”
 - d. In addition, one future day, the creation will wear out. And, like a worn-out old sweater, it will be tossed outside.
 - e. Yet, while creation is set to collapse, Christ promises to continue! Stars may come and go but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (cp. 13:8)
 - f. “Thou remainest” the author assures us (v. 11). Jesus is never subject to change. Billions of years from now, the Lord will remain the same for the Lord is holy, perfect, and complete.

APPLICATION:

- If everything we have reviewed about Jesus Christ in Hebrews 1 is true, what does that mean for you and me?
 - Is there a problem too big that He can’t solve it?
 - Is there a burden too large that He can’t carry it?
 - Is there a sinner so sinful that He can’t save them?
- What are the practical realities that flow from this description of Who Jesus is?