

# Hebrews: Growing Deeper with God

Sunday, February 22, 2015

## Hebrews 1:1-3

### I. Introduction

**A) Date of Writing** - The epistle seems to have been written prior to the destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem which took place in A.D. 70. The epistle is written to Jews - descendants of the children of Israel. We are not told where these particular Jews lived.

**B) Theme** - The theme of this epistle is the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ.

**C) Warnings** - The book of Hebrews contains five warnings to the Jewish Christians. They are warnings to beware of certain spiritual failures.

1. Danger of Neglecting Salvation (2:1-4).
2. Danger of Not Entering into Rest (3:7 - 4:13).
3. Danger of Not going on to Maturity (5:11 - 6:20).
4. Danger of Insulting the Spirit of Grace (10:26-31).
5. Danger of Indifference (12:18-29).

### D) God -

1. God Exists.
2. God Has Spoken.
3. God Spoke in many Portions and in many Ways.

The final and complete communication of God was accomplished through His Son.

### II. THE PREMINENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

The message of Hebrews is that Jesus is better. As the book opens, we see that Jesus is better than the Old Testament prophets. This is seen in seven ways.

#### 1) Jesus is supreme as the heir of all things (v.2)

Heir - Kleronomos - something parceled out, allotted is literally a sharer by lot. signifies not only one who inherits or obtains a portion but also signifies one who takes into possession of the portion.

*Psalm 2:8 – “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.”*

#### 2) Jesus is supreme as the creator of all things (v.2)

The world – *aion* - does not mean the material world but “the ages” and here refers to the whole created universe of time and space.

*“The Son is the Divine Agent not only in the original creation of the physical universe, but also in the operation and management of that universe and all its creatures all down the ages of time. And that makes Him better than the prophets. Wuest, K. S. Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek NT Eerdmans*

### **3) Jesus is supreme as the radiance of the Father's glory (v.3)**

Radiance - *apaugasma* means to emit light or literally means "off-flashing" and then the brightness beamed forth; to shine forth and thus radiant splendor or brilliance emanating from an original light body.

*"Where there is light there is radiance, and where there is radiance there is also light, and thus we cannot have a light without radiance nor radiance without light, because both the light is in the radiance and the radiance in the light."* Ambrose

### **4) Jesus is supreme as the exact representation of the Father's nature (v.3)**

Exact representation - to engrave; was used in classical Greek of an engraver who mints coins or an engraving tool, a die, a stamp, a branding iron, a mark engraved, an impress or a stamp on coins and seals. This impression or mark with its particular features was considered to be the exact representation of the object whose image it bore.

*"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."* Col. 1:15

### **5) Jesus is supreme as the sustainer of all things by the word of His power (v.3)**

Not only did all of the ages come into being through the Son, but they also are maintained through His power.

*"And he is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."* Col 1:17

*"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."* Romans 11:36

### **6) Jesus is supreme as the One who made purification of our sins (v.3)**

*"The Creator and the Sustainer became the Sin-bearer. In order to create the universe, He only had to speak. In order to maintain and guide the universe, He only has to speak...but in order to put away our sin once for all, He had to die on the cross of Calvary. It is staggering to think that the sovereign Lord would stoop to become the sacrificial Lamb. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all," as Isaac Watts' hymn says." James McDonald*

### **7) Jesus is supreme as the One who sat down at the right hand of Majesty (v.3)**

Jesus sitting signifies the completion of the work of redemption. The work of our salvation has been completed. As He hung upon the cross, He cried out, "IT IS FINISHED!" That cry signified that the payment for our sin was completed. The work is done. The ultimate sacrifice has been offered.

This is important for you to know. Many people have the mistaken idea that they must add something to the work of Christ in order to be saved. They think that the work of Christ was not sufficient in itself that they must add something to the payment that Christ made on the cross. But there is nothing that you can add to the work of Christ. It is a completed work. You cannot add anything to it. You can only accept it.