

“No One Should be Compared with Jesus Christ”**Heb. 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-20****Bible Teacher, Rev. Alice Tamrie****I. Historical and Biblical Contexts**

The book of Hebrews is one of the eight General Epistles written by Peter. This is addressed to the early Christians to provide guidance, encouragement through persecution, and warnings of false teachings. Peter is emphasizing the superiority of Christ over the Old Covenant, especially in the first four chapters of the thirteen chapters. As we study Hebrews, the main and central thoughts that we should keep in mind is this: Christ is better than prophets, angels, Moses, Joshua, earthly priests, and all Old Testament saints, the Melchizedek priesthood supersedes the Aaronic-The New Testament is better than the Old Testament.

At first Christianity was Jewish, Jesus was Jewish, first converts were Jewish, the disciples were Jewish, so believing in Jesus Christ raised many questions, thus, this Book of Hebrews was written to help us understand and answer questions about the temple, animal sacrifices, the Law of Moses. Because of its heavy emphasis on Jewish topics and themes, it was written to show the superiority of Jesus Christ. Thusly, the Book of Hebrews was written to address the doubts of those who were second-guessing their conversion to Christianity. You began with God’s plan of salvation, that it is important to know that the final sacrifice was made in Jesus Christ. That is as it should be. That was God’s plan. So, do not go back on the steps you have taken! This book establishes supremacy and sufficiency of Christ (1:1-4; 9:11-14). His sacrifice was enough to take away our sin; He is all we need to come to God today!

It is remarkable then that we start with a solid fact, God's supreme revelation is definitely in Jesus Christ and is affirmed in many other scriptural references throughout the Bible. These first four verses in Hebrews introduces us and set us up to the power of God through his representative Son, Jesus the Christ. So, this title in our Sunday Morning Bible Study is so befitting, "No One Should be Compared with Jesus Christ"!

The Book of Hebrews is the 58th Book of the Bible; 13 chapters, a book, and Paul is considered as the author and presents Jesus as God! **No one can be compared to Jesus Christ!**

II. THE LESSON TOPIC: "No One Should be Compared with Jesus Christ"

The Book of Colossians 1:15-20 reverently and adamantly tells us about the Doctrine of Christ – his redemptive work, who He is; his bodily features – that God has a body, a spirit, like angels; his creative work, His pre-existence and power; his preeminence and his mediatorial work. Wow! It's like these expressions were made just for Him and indeed it is! Colossians 1:15-20 summaries Jesus as: The Image of the Invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, invisible and visible, the Only Begotten Son of God; a spirit being who carried out the divine plan of creation. He was a direct agent of God the Father who created ALL THINGS, spiritual, flesh and bone, angels. He is an eternal being. Not only creator of all things but held them all together! He was before all things, and by him all things were made. He mediated all this, of the "church, which is his body" making and reconciling all to be made at peace through the blood of the cross, pleasing His Father in fullness!

1. Verse 1: “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,”

In various times refers to the periods of Old Testament history; the various methods; different means God used to communicate, including visitations, dreams, signs, parables, and events. The 39 books in the Old Testament allude to these various means...The books of Law, History, Poetry/Wisdom, Minor and Major Prophets. God has been addressing a long line of prophets and our ancestors in different ways for centuries!

From all these parts, we get a perfect harmony, as in musical sounds made up of different parts. There is only one plan of God for man. All these means and various ways gave perfect and harmonious testimony that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and Savior of the world!

2. Verse 2. “But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.”

This was done by Jesus Christ, His Only Begotten Son. God spoke and appointed him heir. The emphasis rests on his character of obedience and of revelation. It is a revelation of a Son, a revelation not so much in **what** He has said as in **who** He is and what He has done. He will inherit everything because He is the eternal Son of God. His inheritance is universal dominion: He will rule over everyone and everything. The Son is the Lord of all history. He has managed the universe throughout its history as Mediator under the Father.

Whether long or short times, no matter how it is described it means that Christ was the agent in planning the ages and making God’s plan, but all creations!

In the Old Testament, there were many parts, ways and persons used in speaking to men, but in the New Testament, all is done by the Son who fulfilled the law and the prophets and made the new covenant.

3. Verse 3: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

He is the radiance of God’s glory, which comes from God Himself. This is not emphasizing a reflected brightness like the light of the moon. Instead, Jesus’ glorious brightness comes from being essentially divine. He is the exact representation of God’s being because He is God Himself (Col. 1:15). He is the epitome of God. He not only created, but “carry” as in referring to movement and progress towards its infinite end. So, he not only created the universe by His powerful words but also maintains and directs its course! These thoughts are like too much to explain, carrying with it a mystery that is too much to attain in our mindset! He governs the universe. In other words, The Son of God came down to dazzle us with His splendor but to also to purify/purge us of sins. Then has his formal act of being a priest assuming the office of High Priest, as contrasted to a Levitical priest, who never finished his work and sat down!

So we help but give him the glory (395 times in Concordance), the praise, the honor and the dignity!

- In these verses 1-2-3 we see Christ
- Spokesman for God (v 2)
- Appointed heir of all things (v 2)
- Planner of the worlds (ages, v 2)
- Brightness of God’s glory (v 3)

- Express image of God’s person (v 3)
- Upholder of all creation (v 3)
- Savior of the world purged sins (v 3)
- Ascension and exaltation (v 3)

JESUS IS ALL WE NEED!

4. Verse 4. So, he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

No one is far more than this inheritance that is in Jesus Christ, a more excellent name than the angels! The Son is better than the angels, or higher rank, because He sits at the right hand of God and because of His eternal inheritance. The Son has obtained a greater name than the angels! The Son finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God, far higher than any angel in rank or rule. He said this to no angel. Jesus is superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs because He sits at the right hand of God. What more can be said!

When we receive these affirmative expressions, we are saying, our salvation is sure because:

JESUS	Is the Founder	V 3
1. Better, stronger/mightier!	Price paid	John 3:16; Col. 1:20
2. Greater than prophets/angels/Moses	Scope in time/eternity	Isa. 45:17; Heb. 5:9
3. The High Priest	Benefits body healing	2 Cor. 7:10.
4. Melchizedek	Soul Salvation	Eph. 1:7
5. Abraham	Joy and peace	Ps. 20:5
6. Aaron	Deliverances	Isa. 33:2
7. The Old Covenant	Preservation	Isa. 26:1
8. Parents: He suffered more!	Daily benefits	Ps. 68:19
9. Then OT heroes	Teaches/redeems/exalts	Ps. 98:3
10.Sacrifices	A divine resource	Ps. 25:5
	Confirmation	Heb. 2:3-4
	Grace/faith alone	Tit. 2:11
	Exclusive	Acts 4:12
	Its Utter simplicity of reception	John 3:16

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Summary of warnings of request to God

- Give heed, less we slip away (come to church)
- Don't neglect your soul salvation (be occupied with godly things)
- Remember your house (body) belong to God
- Heed, so you won't depart from the Living God
- Be partakers of Christ to the end
- Exhort one another daily less you become hard-hearted
- Hold steadfast/unwavering faith
- If you fall away, renew, and commit again! Ask for prayer!
- Show your diligence to the end/be encouraged
- Do not be slothful but faithful/patient
- Hold fast to your faith (worship/meditate/pray/congregate)
- Don't cast away your confidence
- Don't let any root of bitterness spring up to be troubled in yourself
- Don't refuse God or turn away from Him

No one can be compared to Jesus Christ!