

SOMETHING BETTER

By Henry T. Mahan

Hebrews 1:1-4

TV-500b

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I'm going to speak to you today, from the Book of Hebrews. **Hebrews, Chapter 1.** Now, I'd like to make a few comments before beginning to read the scriptures. And the first comment is this; this is one of the most important passages of scripture in the Word of God. And this Book of Hebrews brings together the Old Testament and the New Testament, better than any other book, or any other epistle, if you would enter into the treasures of God's promises, in the Old Testament, the prophecies of the Old Testament, the types and pictures and stories of the Old Testament. If you would enter into what they mean, as they point to our redemption, and have reference to the New Testament, you need to read the book of Hebrews. It brings together the Old Testament and the New Testament.

You see; the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. Everything in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to the Book of Revelations; everything in the New Testament is in the Old Testament. Christ is in the Old Testament, in picture, in promise, in prophesy, in pattern, in type, in story, and shadow. That's what the Old Testament is about, it says, "someone's coming," and this is what He will be like. This is what He'll do. This is how He will save sinners. That's what the Old Testament says, someone's coming." He'll be a Prophet like Moses and a Priest like Aaron and Melchisedec, and a King like David. And He'll be the Passover Lamb, the Brazen Serpent lifted up, and the Bread from heaven and all these things. And then, in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, it says, "*Behold the Lamb of God,*" He's here. And the epistles tell us what manner of men we ought to be, waiting for His return.

Let's look at **Chapter 1 of Hebrews**, just a few verses. You follow along and I'll read and make some comments. **In verse 1**, it says, "*God who at sundry times and in divers manners, (or different ways), spake to our fathers, by the prophets.*" In other words, there were years of silence. There were times when God did speak. When God spoke from heaven, God spoke to the fathers by the prophets; God spoke through the prophets. He gave His Word, and His message and His gospel to the prophets; and the prophets spoke to the people. He took God's Word to the people. In other words, our Lord Jesus said, "*Abraham saw my day; Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw my day and was glad.*" God spoke to Abraham. God spoke to Abraham when He took him out under the stars and said, "*Look up, and count the stars.*" Abraham said, "*They're innumerable.*" And God said, "*So shall they seed be.*" I'm going to send the Son through Isaac; and that seed

through Isaac is Christ; and your people, those like you, believers, and children of God, who are the sons of Abraham. There will be as many as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore. God said that to Abraham, and Abraham told that to his son and to the people. These are God's people.

And then, one day, God took Abraham up on Mount Mariah and spoke to him there. He said, "Abraham, take that son, that promised son, that miracle boy that I gave you through Sarah in your old age; take him up on the mountain, and sacrifice him to me as a burnt offering." And Abraham took a three days journey and went to Mount Mariah and took that son up on the mountain, bound him and put him on an altar, a pretty good size boy. He was going to do what God commanded him, because he believed God. He believed God would raise him from the dead. Because he knew what God told him, "*that in Isaac shall thy seed be called.*" And he knew Isaac couldn't stay dead, if his seed was going to be in Isaac. He wasn't going to have another son. And so he would have sacrificed Isaac, but God stopped him and said, "*Abraham, don't touch the lad.*" And Abraham turned, and there was a lamb. He was caught in the thorns, by a thicket. God told him to take that ram and put it on the altar in Isaac's place and sacrifice the blood of the lamb; and burn it's body as a sin offering. Abraham saw the day of Christ right there. When our Lord God took us off the altar of sin, off the cross of Calvary and put His Son in our place; the Lord Jesus Christ is our lamb slain. He's the ram who took our place. He took our sins. Do you see that? God showed Abraham the gospel of Christ.

Then Christ said, "*Moses wrote of Me.*" Moses wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, the first five books of the Bible. They are just full of Christ. God took Moses one day and said, "Moses, Pharaoh will not let the people go. I will bring plague upon plague and I'm going to come through the land of Egypt tonight at midnight. I'm coming through and I'm going to destroy the first born in every home from the cattle on the hillside to the house of Pharaoh, the first born in every house will die. Now Moses, you and the people of Israel take a lamb, one for each house, the firstling of the flock, put it up four days and observe it. It can't be a sick lamb, it has to be without spot or blemish. You slay that lamb, roast its body and eat the flesh, and put the blood on the door. And Moses, when I come through that night and I see the blood, I'll pass over you."

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. That is what Paul said in **First Corinthians**, "*Christ our Passover.*" He's the sacrifice for us. When our Lord Jesus met with His apostles, it's what they call the Last Supper. That was the Passover. They were observing that Passover that had been observed clear back to Moses, and back to Egypt. And this was the last one, because Christ our Passover was sacrificed on that cross, outside Jerusalem, 2000 years ago and that was the end of the Passover. He's the Passover. You see; God spoke to the people through Moses.

God spoke to Israel through the Brazen Serpent. Do you remember them murmuring against God and Moses prayed for them? God sent the fiery serpents among the people; they had bitten the people and they were dying. God said, "*Moses, take a serpent of brass, just like those serpents that have bitten the people, and put it on a pole, and whoever looks, will live.*" And when our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, He said this, "*As Moses*

hath lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."

You see, that serpent of brass was made in the likeness of those serpents that had bitten the people, and when Christ came; He was made in the likeness of our flesh. That's our problem; it's the flesh. That's where sin comes from, the flesh. "*Flesh shall not enter the Kingdom of God.*" So Christ was made flesh for us and died in the flesh on the cross, bearing our sins and we look to Him. When Moses smote the rock and water came out, that's Christ. The Bible says that in the New Testament, "Christ is that Rock." God spake to Jonah. What was Jonah all about? The fish swallowed him, and he was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights and then was out on dry land. He died in that fish's belly. Death was about him, and on him and God raised him. And Christ said, "*As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth and resurrected.*" Some day, you're going to die, and I'm going to die. Jonah tells us we're going to be raised, as Christ was raised. Do you see that? "*God spake to the fathers by the prophets.*" He always spoke to them about Christ, the gospel, and how God saves sinners.

Now, look at **verse 2**. "*God who spake to our fathers, by these prophets, Moses, Abraham, Jonah, Elijah, and all these men, "hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Jesus Christ.*" He's the fulfillment of all the promises. God now speaks to us through the fulfillment of the promises. From the woman's seed to Emanuel, to the messenger of the covenant, to the babe in the manger, to the Christ of the cross, to the ascended, victorious Lord, He speaks to us though His Son. The Son fulfills all these promises and these types, and all these ceremonies, and all these sacrifices and all these patterns; He fulfills every one of them and puts them away. He abolishes them, because He's the fulfillment of them.

"*Christ is our Sabbath.*" We no longer keep the Sabbath day. Christ lay in the tomb, during the whole Sabbath day. He rose on the first day of the week. Every day is the Lord's Day. He fulfilled it. He's our rest. We don't sacrifice animals; we don't keep certain days anymore. Christ is the fulfillment of all these things. Listen, we don't have a Priest on this earth that goes about through ceremonies, burning incense, smoking flax, with sweet odors, and all these things. Christ is our High Priest, at the right hand of God.

Listen to this hymn, by one of the old writers. "The true Messiah now appears, the types are all withdrawn, so flies the shadows and the stars, before a rising sun." You know, when the sun comes up in the morning; the stars are still there, but you can't see them. The moon is still there but you can't see it. The sun is so bright and so brilliant, and when Christ comes, all the types, and the shadows and the pictures and patterns, just fade away. The holy days, and special days and Sabbath days, with touch not, taste not, handle not, diets and so forth, are fulfilled in Christ. There's no need for them now; the sun shines. No more types, no more bleeding lambs nor goats nor bullocks slain. There are no more incense, spices of costly names. They'll all be burned in vain.

Aaron must lay his robes away, His miter and his vest, when God Himself comes to be our offering and our Priest. We don't need Aaron. We have the great High Priest. We don't

need Aaron's robe; we have the robe of His righteousness. When God Himself, comes to be our offering and our Priest, He took our mortal flesh to show the wonders of His love. For us He gave His life below; He prays for us above. You see, "*God who at sundry times,*" many times; not all the time. There were years of silence and years of revelation. Times of revelation, "*hath in these last days, spoken to us by His Son.*"

Who is this Son? Now you watch these next verses. I tell you, this is loaded. Who is this Son by whom He speaks? It says He has spoken to us by His son. He said, "*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; this is my Son, hear ye Him.*" His Son, listen to **verse 3**, "*Whom He hath appointed heir of all things. God loves the son and hath given all things into his hand.*" That's what I said last week. Everything that God has for this old sinful world is in the hands of Christ. Everything that God has for you or for me is in Christ. That's right. It says, "*He hath appointed Him, the heir of all things, and we're joint heirs with Christ.*" He's the heir. "*His Son, by whom He made the worlds.*"

John wrote, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made, and we beheld His glory*" (His Son by whom he made the world). Look at that next verse. "*His Son, who is the brightness of His glory. The Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as only of the begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*" Do you know where a man sees the glory of God? Do you know? Can you quote the scripture? "*God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness.*" Back yonder when God created the worlds, "*the world was in darkness and darkness was upon the face of the deep,*" (I mean darkness)! And God said, "*Let there be light.*" And the same God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to reveal unto us, His glory, in the face of Jesus Christ. That's where it is; "*The glory of God is in the face of Jesus Christ.*" That's the Son I'm talking about, His Son, Who is the brightness of His glory, His Son, Who is the exact image of His person.

The disciples said, "*Well, show us the Father, we'll be satisfied.*" Show us the Father. He said, "*Have I been so long time with you and you don't know me. Phillip, he that hath seen Me, hath seen my father; I and the Father are one.*" "*His name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father.*" That's right, He's the exact express image of God's person, Jesus Christ, and He's spoken to us by His Son. Listen, "*His Son who upholds all things by the word of His Power.*" I hear preachers who sound like Jesus Christ is some little feminine, weak sister, some little failure, and some little fellow that can't get the job done. Listen to me, Jesus Christ owns everything. "*He has all authority and power over all flesh that He should give eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.*" He said to His disciples, "*All authority in heaven and earth is given to me.*" Now, you go preach the gospel. Our Lord is the King of King, and Lord of Lords, and the sword of His Word, goes out of His mouth, and He has on His vesture, King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He has on His side, the keys of hell and death. He's the conquering King. "*He upholds everything by the Word of His Power.*"

Jesus Christ said, *“Don’t weep for me.”* That was as He was going to Calvary, bearing that awful cross and the women were weeping and lamenting. He turned and said, *“don’t weep for me, weep for yourselves and for your children.”* That’s where the tears need to be shed, not over the remedy, over the disease, not over the cure, over the cause, not over the King, over those who will feel His wrath. Listen, *“When He by Himself purged our sins.”* Who purged our sins? (He did). How did He do it? *“By Himself.”* Alone, without any help from you or me or anybody else, by Himself. And by Himself, by the sacrifice of Himself, He put away sin, by Himself, (purged them). *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin.”* In Christ, there is no sin.

The moment a person believes totally and completely on Christ, looks to Him, receives Him, rests in Him, trusts Him; that moment his sins are all without exception, put away. He stands before God as if He had never, never sinned. Actually, he’s better off than if He had not sinned, because if he had not sinned, he sooner or later, would. But now, he has a righteousness, which he cannot lose, which cannot be forfeited, which cannot be taken away, it’s Christ’s righteousness. You can’t lose what’s not yours. It’s His, not mine, it’s His righteousness. It’s His faithfulness, His blood, His holiness, His intercession, and His salvation. That’s what it is; He gave it to us. You see that? *“By Himself, He purged our sins, and He sat down.”* Where is He? *“He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High.”* Oh my soul! And God said, *“Let all the angels of God worship Him. And God has given Him a name above every name, it’s the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, that He’s Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

Now, I want you to look **at verse 4**. Here’s the key to this book of Hebrews. I’m going to just hand you the key. I’m going to hand you a key that you can just go through here and unlock the treasures of this book. It says here **in verse 4**, this is the key, look at it; this Son, this Christ, this Redeemer, *“being so much better than the angels, He hath a more excellent name than they. To which of the angels, said God at any time; thou art my Son; this day have I forgotten thee?”* No, to the Son, He’s more excellent and better than all the angels of God. You know, we read in the scriptures about the angels of God. We’re in awe, and we’re in fear in regard to these angels. If an angel walked in, you would be in awe and in fear wouldn’t you? Most people would. In fact John, on the Isle of Patmos said that when the angels spoke to him, he said, *“I fell down at His feet to worship Him, and the angel said,” see that you do it not, I am a fellow servant; worship God.”* And this is what this is saying; our Lord Jesus Christ is better than all the angels and all the heavenly host and all the seraphim’s, and all the cherubim’s. Some people say, “if only I could see a vision, if I could just have a dream, if I could just see an angel.” Let me tell you something, (Christ is better)! *“Being made so much better than the angels.”*

Now watch this, **Hebrews 7: 19**, it says, *“Now the law of Moses made nothing perfect.”* You know, all those sacrifices never put away sin. They were just types. That blood, all the blood on Jewish altars slain; cannot take away one spot, one sin, or one stain. They were pictures of the Lamb of God. They were types of the Lamb of God. And nothing was ever perfected under the law. Listen, *“The bringing in of a better hope did.”* Because Jesus Christ is the surety of a better covenant. Ah, we have an altar; it’s Christ. We have a High Priest; it’s Christ. We have a sin offering; it’s Christ. We have an atonement; it’s

Christ. And it's a better hope, a better covenant, and better promises in our Lord Jesus Christ. Something better! You go back to that old tabernacle in the wilderness and there's Aaron with his miter and his hat and his breastplate. He has his white linen and his robes. All the people are in awe as he takes the blood of the animal and goes into the Holy of Holies and sprinkles it on the mercy seat and the Shechinah glory of God overshadows the mercy seat. And in a few moments, Aaron comes out and the cheer goes up and the people and the atonement has been accepted one more year. But wait a minute, our High Priest; there were many of those priests, He one. They lived and died, He lives forever. They were men, He's the Godman. They offered the blood of an animal, He offered His own blood. They ministered in a tabernacle made with hands; He ministers in heaven. Our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, by one offering, by one sacrifice; brought in a better hope, a better covenant, with better promises. That's what that says; *"Christ is the Mediator of a better covenant, which is established on better promises."*

What did God promise to the nation, Israel? You go back to the Old Testament and think a moment. What did He promise? (Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey, peace with their neighbors, prosperity, and a vineyard with plenty of olive trees). All of these are material things. If Israel would have obeyed God, did what He said to do, He would bless them materially; He would bless them physically; He would bless them with a long life; He would bless them with peace; and He would bless them with a good nation and a good land; but when they sinned, they lost it all; they went into captivity.

But we have in Christ, a better promises. Our Lord promises us, eternal life, and forgiveness of sin, joy, and glory forever. Do you see that? Better than the angels, a better hope, a better covenant, a better promise and a better sacrifice. We have a better Priest, that's better than the angels. We have a Covenant that's better than the covenant with Israel. Upon better promises and better hope; we have a better sacrifice. And then, it says this; watch **Hebrews, 9**. Let me show you this as I close. Our great High Priest made three appearances for us, (special appearances). First of all, in **Hebrews 9, verse 24**, it says, *"That Christ has entered, not the Holy Place made with hands, but into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us."* As our Surety, as our High Priest, as our Mediator. He appears in the presence of God. He's our forerunner; we're in Him. We're seated with Christ at the right hand of God. He appears there for us; He's our representative. We have an Advocate, we have a High Priest with God.

Now, look at **verse 26**. *"Once in the end of the world has He appeared on this earth to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."* Our Lord came down here, into this world, made of a woman and took on Himself flesh and blood and bones. Made in the likeness of sinful flesh, walked this earth, obeyed the law, took our sins, went to the cross, paid the debt, was buried, rose again. He appeared, *"and by one offering he perfected forever them that are sanctified."* He put away our sin. Now watch this, the last appearance. So, *"Christ was once offered, (verse 28), to bear the sin of many and to them that look for Him, will He appear again the second time without sin unto salvation."* Oh, something better! God spoke to the prophets, but in these days, by His Son, of something better.

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