

And This Will We Do, If God Permits

An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**

Chapter 3: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Hebrews 1:1-4

18: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 3

WAOY Thursday 01/22/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the Preeminence of Jesus Christ. So let's open our Bibles and read **Hebrews 1:1-4** again together.

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Now, we were discussing last time how every Promise of God that God spoke to the fathers by the Prophets in the Thirty-Nine Old Testament Books revolve themselves around the Person of Jesus Christ. And what that means to us is that all of God's Promises become "Yes"; they become verified, and they become fulfilled in and through and by Jesus Christ. So therefore, those people who belong to Jesus have access to all the Promises of God by virtue of the fact that they are in Christ, while those outside of Christ have access only to torment and pain and misery and suffering... and at the end, eternal damnation. You see, in these last days, God is speaking to us by His Son. Now please turn again and read with me **Mark 9:1-8**:

9 And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

²Six days later, Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John, and *brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; ³ and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴ Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶ For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!” ⁸ All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

Here was Jesus coming in His Kingdom, shining with the brilliance and the Glory that only comes from God Himself. That is because Jesus *is* God... that is why He had this kind of Glory. And here we see that with Jesus was Moses and Elijah, both standing with Jesus and talking with Him. Now this event... whereby the great Lawgiver Moses and the Prophet Elijah are seen talking with Jesus, and God Almighty speaking out of Heaven, **“This is my beloved Son: hear him!”**; this event signified that God is now speaking to the world through the superior way through His own Son. God didn't say, “Here is Moses and Elijah and Jesus; hear *them*!” No, God simply said **“This is my beloved Son: hear him!”** even though Moses and Elijah were with Jesus. So when Jesus came to the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, God identified Jesus as being the only One that God desired them to listen to, even though Moses and Elijah were standing right with Jesus.

Now again, please do not misunderstand this. Moses was great. Elijah was great. But both Moses and Elijah were inferior to Jesus personally and in what they spoke. You see, even though Moses was given the Law of God - which is holy, just, and good - Moses was a sinner who needed forgiveness and Grace to be saved. And even though Elijah was a great man of God, he too was a sinner who needed forgiveness and Grace to be able to go to Heaven.

But Jesus was *sinless*. He never sinned one time. He never had a bad attitude for even one millisecond. He perfectly obeyed the Law that

God gave to Moses, without ever transgressing one aspect of it in thought, word, or deed. Neither Moses nor Elijah could make that claim. So by default, that makes Jesus to be superior in every way to both of these two men.

But that's not the only way Jesus was superior. You see, everything that both Moses and Elijah received from God was true; it was of God; it was right. But everything that God revealed to these two men was in part and was not the fullness that God had for Man. In fact, all that God revealed to both Moses and Elijah pointed to Jesus, to His Virgin Birth, His Substitutionary Death, and His Glorious Resurrection, and to the fact that Salvation is in His Name alone.

So this is in no way a slam to Moses or Elijah. They completely agreed that Jesus was superior to them and they completely agreed that all that God spoke through them was simply a precursor to what God was going to speak through Jesus. So both Moses and Elijah worshipped and adored Jesus, and bowed before Him, and were saved by Him. And we must remember, dear friends, that because God has given Jesus a Name that is above every other name, anything that any man says is *always* and *in all ways* inferior to what Jesus says.

So it was God, not the Apostles or anyone else, who took the emphasis away from Moses and the Prophets and placed it on Jesus when God spoke from Heaven and said,

This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Now, please turn with me to read another very important passage that teaches us how superior Jesus is in **John 2:1-11**.

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." ⁶ Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. ⁹ When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came

from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, ¹⁰ and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, *then* he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ This beginning of *His* signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

When the people came to Mary, she correctly pointed them to Jesus. She didn't want people asking *her*, she wanted all men to go to her Son. She told these people, “*Listen to Him; Follow Him; Obey Him; Serve Him; Jesus is now speaking. Whatever He says, do it.*” Mary never received anyone's prayers or adoration or worship; that would have been idolatry. Mary very simply and very powerfully said,

Whatever (Jesus) saith unto you, do it. (KJV)

So in her godly understanding of Jesus, Mary clearly understood that she was simply a human being born in sin and shaped in iniquity, like every other human who needed Grace and forgiveness just like we do. You see, dear friends, as a human being, Mary was not and is not the dispenser of Grace. No, Mary was the recipient of Grace. Mary has no Grace to give to anybody; she has no merit that can be imparted to anyone. Mary was chosen by God to receive God's Grace, and be so blessed to bear the Son of God in her virgin womb.

So even though some have made Mary to be far more than God or Scripture ever did, Mary herself had a right relationship and a right understanding of Jesus; and when people came to her for her to make intercession for them to Jesus, the Bible says that Mary would have none of it and pointed them to Jesus and said “**Whatever (Jesus) saith unto you, do it.**”

Now let's read again, **Hebrews 1:2&3** again together.

²...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

You see, Christ was much more than a good man. He was both fully human and fully Deity. That makes Jesus the full and final

expression of God in the earth, superior to and exalted above anyone else and everything else. So here in the first few verses of Hebrews, we see that Christ is both the end of all things (“**heir**”), and the beginning of all things (“**Creator**”, **by whom He made the worlds**).

He is also the very brightness of God’s Glory; in other words, Jesus is the epitome of all that God is and all that God has done. The phrase “**the brightness of his glory**” shows us that Christ is the very reason and purpose of all that God has brought forth in the earth. Of all the shining brilliance of all of God’s Glory, Christ holds the preeminent place as being the brightest of all the brightness.

So here in the second half of verse two and all of verse three, God gives us seven different portraits of the **Excellencies of Jesus the Christ**.

1. His Heir-ship
2. His Creator-ship
3. His Radiance
4. His Being
5. His Administration
6. His Sacrifice
7. His Exaltation

And, Lord willing, over the next several broadcast we will go over these seven portraits. But let us remember this day that Jesus is the One to whom we are to listen. So I ask you, are *you* listening to Jesus?

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.