

Christ is the Ultimate Revelation of God to Mankind

Hebrews 1:1-3

Hebrews 1:1-3 - *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

Background Notes

Possibly the biggest question about the epistle to the Hebrews is, “Who wrote it?” No author is named at the beginning of the letter. In fact, Hebrews actually begins more like a formal sermon than a letter. However, Hebrews ends like a letter, so it is an epistle. But who is the author?

Various authors have been suggested down through the years. The apostle Paul is a likely suggestion, and some translations even place Paul’s name in the title. However, Paul’s name is nowhere to be found in any of the Greek manuscripts of this letter. But the biggest point against Paul’s authorship is that there is no salutation or greeting from Paul at the beginning of the epistle, which is very unlike the apostle Paul’s other letters.

Furthermore, in Hebrews 2:3, the author of Hebrews indicated that he did not receive the gospel directly from the Lord Himself, but rather from the disciples, or “those who heard the Lord.” Hebrews 2:3: *“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”.*

But in Galatians 1:12, Paul claimed to have received the gospel directly from the Lord Himself: *“For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* Since Paul claimed that he received the gospel directly from the Lord Jesus Christ, it’s hard to believe that he would later write Hebrews 2:3, saying he received the gospel from “those who heard the Lord.”

Other suggestions for the authorship of Hebrews have included Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Peter, Philip the evangelist, Epaphras, Clement of Rome, and others. But - I’m so sorry, folks - we just don’t know who wrote Hebrews! God has purposely left the authorship unknown - for any number of His own good reasons.

Doctrinal Points

Christ is superior to the prophets.

Last week I sent a copy of Francis Schaeffer's book, [He is There and He is Not Silent](#), to a man I've known for several years, who still questions the existence and character of God. The main point in this book is that there is overwhelming evidence that God **does exist**, and that He has spoken, and that He has revealed Himself. I hope my friend reads this excellent book and becomes convinced, not only on the existence of God, but that God has spoken and revealed Himself.

The point of Hebrews 1:1-3 is that God has been revealing Himself throughout human history, and that the ultimate revelation of God has come in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, don't expect or look for some new, further, or "more advanced" revelation from God! Jesus Christ has come, and **He is the full revelation of God**.

Don't look for something greater in the "last days - the last days are here! The last days began with the coming of Christ. *"God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (v2)*. So if anyone ever asks you, "Do you think we're in the last days yet?" point them to Hebrews 1:2 and tell them, "We are in the last days now." The last days began with the coming of Christ. Christ is the ultimate and greatest revelation of God.

God spoke in past history through the prophets of old, and they revealed His message in a number of different ways – dreams, visions, ceremonies, object lessons, miracles, and certainly the inspired writing of the Old Testament Scriptures. But all these prophecies pointed forward to the greatest revelation to come - the Lord Jesus Christ. So Christ is superior to the prophets.

In these verses there are two obvious sub-points that explain why Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets: He is God, and He is Savior.

1. Christ is superior to the prophets because He is God.

The prophets were great men, and God used them mightily in His service - but Christ is **the Son**, and He is the **heir** of all things. Not only that, He is **the Creator** – He **made** all things. The same truth is taught in Colossians 1:16: *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."* The Bible is not contradicting itself when it says that God created all things and that Jesus Christ created all things, because Jesus Christ is God.

Verse 3 says that Jesus Christ is the brightness of God's glory. He reflects God's glory, and He radiates God's glory - because He is God! He is the "express image" of God's person or essence because He is God, and thus He has the very nature of God. God the Son embodies the same divine essence as God the Father.

Hebrews 1:3 is a great verse for proving the full deity of Jesus Christ. Whenever you're confronted by someone who doubts the deity of Christ, like a Jehovah Witness, you can turn to a great Bible verse like Colossians 2:9: "*For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...*" And Hebrews 1:3 is another great verse that proves the deity of Christ.

As God, Jesus Christ "*upholds all things by the word of His power*"! He not only spoke the world into existence, but the universe is sustained by His word. Colossians 1:17 says that Christ is before all things, and ***in Him all things hold together***. Think about that! Everything in the universe - from the galaxies right down to the subatomic particles - is guided and controlled and sustained and upheld by the power of Christ.

Jesus Christ is the real Secret behind the little-understood forces that hold the universe together! Take the force of gravity, for example. Scientists really don't understand this force. It's there, and it can be calculated - but it's not understood. Why should "two bodies in space be attracted to one another by a force that's proportional to the product of their masses and indirectly proportional to the square of the distance between them"? (That's how you calculate the force between two bodies in space.) Why is that force there? How are these forces to be explained?

We know the answer! ***Jesus Christ is the power that upholds this universe*** - the force that sustains this universe, from the galaxies right down to the atoms! It's taught in Scripture. Christ is greater than the prophets because He is God.

2. Christ is superior to the prophets because He is Savior.

"...when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (v3). The Lord Jesus Christ Himself purged our sins. We were guilty and stained with sin, but we were cleared of our guilt and cleansed from our sin when we trusted in Christ. Christ Himself did for us what no prophet could do for us.

And the efficacy of that sacrifice is good forever, because Jesus Christ ***sat down*** at the right hand of the Majesty on high. The work of our salvation is a ***finished*** work. Let's read that familiar passage in Hebrews 10:11-14: "*And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*"

We're saved forever because Christ's death on the cross is a finished work. The fact that Jesus Christ sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high means that He's been given the highest place of honor in Heaven. The great prophets of the Old Testament will certainly have places of honor in heaven, but the place of **highest honor** is reserved for **Jesus Christ alone!** Christ is superior to the prophets because He is Savior.

Practical Application

Have you experienced the beauty of a "Sonrise?"

I think we've all experienced the beauty of a sunrise. A few years ago I had the wonderful opportunity to watch the sun rise over the Grand Canyon. What beauty, as the colors in the rocks came to life!

But the question here is, "Have you experienced the beauty of a Sonrise?" Have you come to appreciate the amazing truths in Hebrews 1 that lift up and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ? That the Lord Jesus Christ is fully God; that He is the Creator of all things; that He holds the universe together with His infinite power; that He is infinitely holy and perfect. But more than that, that He loved us enough to become Man in order to die for us so we could be saved.

Did you realize that when the Son of God became Man in order to save us, **He became Man forever?** We will see Jesus some day! After the work of redemption on the cross was finished, the Lord did not go back to His pre-incarnate state. No. In the incarnation, when the eternal Son of God took on humanity, He became Man **forever**. When you catch a hold of that wonderful truth, the result should be true worship from the depths of our hearts.

Have you trusted Christ as your Savior? Is the Lord Jesus the Center and Focus of your life? Have you experienced the beauty of the "Sonrise?"