

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – The Book of Hebrews
September 22, 2020 – Lesson 1 – Hebrews Chapter 1

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for He is faithful that promised). – Hebrews 10:23*

Jesus Is the Ultimate Revelation of God

Now we begin to study the *Book of Hebrews* in depth beginning with Chapter 1. Today I will give an overview of the chapter with a few details on some of the amazing doctrines we find here. Shirley's introduction gave us great background – if you have not heard it, go back and listen to it wherever you can find other of our Calvary Chapel El Paso sermons and studies online.

A note on the teachers' printed lessons: Sean will soon begin making them available online in PDF form hopefully the day before each teaching. In the meantime, we can also get them by emailing Denise at wmdevos@calvarychapelel Paso.com and requesting the lesson from her (be sure to specify the date and morning or evening). After Sean gets the PDF availability going, all the lessons from the start should be available there.

AND if you are not on the email list to receive the devotionals from our women's ministries, this is where to email her to request being put on the list.

Chart handed out last week: it is interesting, but very “busy,” so let's take a quick look at it as a visual overview. (We're using the chart, but not the ministry that made it since we are not familiar with their doctrine.)

Verses 1-10: Jesus is superior

Verses 11-13: Challenge to remain faithful to Jesus despite persecution

We can see that the *Book of Hebrews* is laid out somewhat like a case in a court of law – the Jews (Hebrews) thought so much in legal terms, so Paul had to prove to them the case for the superiority of Jesus Christ.

Opening – dignified, elevated language

Stressed the continuity and flow between the Old Testament revelation and the new faith in Christ

Many quotes of and allusions to Old Testament scriptures

Superiority of Jesus Christ

Verse 1: sundry times – various times } in times past –
 Diverse manners – various people and ways; angels } incomplete

Verse 2: “last days” – Jesus' resurrection started the end of time; His Second Coming will complete it

Verses 2-3: Now God speaks to us by His Son. Many had heard Him speak to them while he was on earth, and now He speaks to us through His apostles (*Heb.2:3*). Why could Jesus now speak in these last days directly to us?

Who He is:

Verse 2: God's Son

Heir of all things

Maker of the worlds

Verse 3: The brightness of God's glory

The express image of God's person

What He did and does:

Verse 3: Upholds all things by His Word of His power – *because* –

Purged our sins

Sat down on God's right hand

Verse 3 details:

Jesus is the *brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person:*

Brightness of His glory = “off-flashing,” radiation – of God's glory; this is the power of God working in Jesus

“Express image of His person” – He shows the exact image of the Father, as a seal does when imprinted

These two characteristics give us a glimpse of the nature of the Godhead – the Three-in-One God – as seen in the Father and the Son:

The *brightness of His glory* shows that Jesus is one with the Father

The *express image of his person* shows that though they are one, they are distinct

Jesus is *upholding all things by the word of His power* – actually a statement of a foundational scientific principle: “things” are mass, and “power” is energy; basic understandings of our universe are based on this relationship and formulas about them. And Jesus upholds it all!

Colossians 1:17 – *And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.* – “consist” has the meaning of being held together, sustained. So Jesus Christ holds the whole universe together with the Word of His power. If not, things would just fly apart. ☺

Jesus *sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.* This is now Jesus' position because he *had by Himself purged our sins.*

He finished the redemptive work for all who will come to Him for salvation. Later in the *Book of Hebrews* Paul contrasted this with the daily sacrifices of the Old Testament Law of Moses.

Jesus Christ – So Much Better Than the Angels

The rest of this Chapter 1 and some of Chapter 2 discuss the angels' relationship to Jesus. He is superior to them, but they are important. The angels' main purpose is to worship God; they also have important functions in serving God's purposes in

creating and redeeming men and women. NOTE: There are a number of Old Testament passages cited in verses 4-14. Paul wrote much here about the angels because during the first century much significance and power were given to angels, even among Christians. The Jews also over-emphasized their importance.

Reasons why Jesus is so much better than the angels:

He has a better name and inheritance (v.4)

He is worshipped by the angels (v.6)

He made the angels (v.7)

He reigns forever (v.8)

He loved righteousness and hated iniquity (v.9) (angels cannot love and hate in this manner)

He made heaven and earth (v.10)

He alone will never end, but the world will end (v.7,11-12)

He sits at God's right hand (v.13)

The angels are ministering spirits for those whom Jesus saves (v.14)

Verses 10-12 details:

Past, Present, Future: Jesus Christ created the universe; He now upholds it (v.3); and it will perish (v.11) (be changed v.12) in the end.

Jesus upholds it all now, but it is winding down and getting old: "law of increasing entropy." Everything in the physical universe will end as it is, it will be changed and made new.

Verses 13-14: Paul again emphasized that Jesus sits at the right hand of God, and the angels are ministering spirits to do the work of Jesus.

Verse 14: Here we get a glimpse of the special, individual care and protection that our Lord Jesus has for each of us His children. Here is a tender example:

Matthew 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. – Why are the angels looking at the Father's face? For instructions to help us!

There is SO much in this first chapter of the *Book of Hebrews*. Perhaps this quick look at some of it will whet our appetites for the wonderful truths to come. For:

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

– *Hebrews 2:1*

