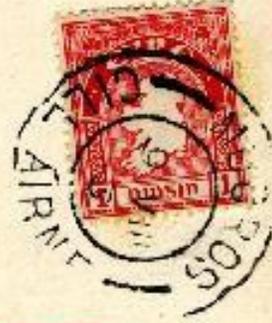


The Letter to the
Hebrews



Wednesday Series
June – August 2020



The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

- Contents are deep & challenging ...
Readers are:
 - **Reminded** of how blessed they are to have trusted in Christ
 - **Impressed** with the superiority of Christ
 - **Warned** of the dangers of apostasy



The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

- Theme of the book: **3:12-13**
 - *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*



The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

- **Recipients:**
 - Jewish Christians
- **Purpose of the epistle:**
 - To prevent the readers from abandoning their faith **2:1-4**
 - To encourage the Jewish brethren not to go back to the old law



The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

■ “Better” in the Epistle:

- 1) Christ **BETTER** than angels **1:4**
- 2) Confident of **BETTER** things concerning you **6:9**
- 3) The lesser is blessed by the **BETTER** **7:7**
- 4) A **BETTER** hope **7:19**
- 5) Surety of a **BETTER** covenant **7:22**
- 6) Mediator of a **BETTER** covenant **8:6**
- 7) Established on **BETTER** promises **8:6**
- 8) **BETTER** sacrifices **9:23**
- 9) A **BETTER** and enduring possession ... in heaven **10:34**
- 10) A **BETTER**, that is, a heavenly country **11:16**
- 11) A **BETTER** resurrection **11:35**
- 12) Something **BETTER** for us **11:40**



Jesus is Better (1:1-3)

- 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,**
- 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**
- 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

Jesus is Better (1:1-2)

- **Jesus is:**
- **God's final spokesman**
 - *“at many times and in many ways”*
 - Emphasizes incomplete nature of previous revelation
 - *“these last days”* – final revelation by His **Son**
 - Lit *in Son*; or in the person of a Son
- **Heir** to all things
- **The Creator (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17)**

Jesus is Better (1:3)

- **Jesus is:**
- ***“the radiance of the glory of God”***
 - a light flashing forth (from), radiation, gleam
- ***“the exact imprint of His nature”***
 - conveys the reality behind the image
- **Upholding the universe by His power**
 - God’s creative **“word” (Ps. 33:6; 2 Pet. 3:5-7)**
- **Purified us of our sins**
 - (Better than animal sacrifices... more to follow)
- **Reigning at God’s right hand**

Jesus is Better (1:1-3)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

Prophet

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact **Priest** of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his **King** power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Jesus is Better (1:4-7)

- Jesus is better than the angels:

Jesus is Better (1:4-7)

4 having become as **much superior** to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

Jesus is Better (1:4-7)

- Jesus is better than the angels:
- Why the comparison with angels?
 - Jews believed angels delivered Law of Moses
 - **Deut. 33:2** “*holy ones*” / “*angels*” LXX
 - **Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19**
- God “made a *name* for Him”
- Not “a” son, Jesus is the Son, **“My Son”**
 - “*begotten*” born to reign; “coronation” (**Acts 13:33**)
- Angels worship Him
- Angels are God’s servants

Jesus is Better (1:4-7)

8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

Jesus is Better (1:8-12)

- **Jesus is better than the angels:**
- **He rules on a throne**
- **The Son is God**
 - **Divine attributes: *“loved righteousness” “hated lawlessness”***
- **His kingdom is eternal**
- **He is the architect and builder of the earth and heavens**
 - **They will perish; wear out**
 - **He will discard them like a “change of clothes”**
- **He will exist forever**

Jesus is Better (1:4-7)

13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Jesus is Better (1:13-14)

- **Jesus is better than the angels:**
 - No angel was ever invited to sit at the right hand
- **He sits at God's right hand**
- **His enemies will be:**
 - conquered, defeated, subjugated
- **Angels are simply servants**
 - *"The prophets and the angels were servants who delivered a message that has found its fulfillment in the Messianic people of God, the church."* – **David McClister**

Jesus is Better (1:1-14)

So we better pay close attention
to what you have heard
about Him!



The Book of Hebrews

**Next Week:
Chapter 2**

