

Commentary on Hebrews CH 1

Review

Introduction to The Book of Hebrews

One of the main themes of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as revealer and as mediator of God's grace. The prologue (1:1-4) presents Christ as God's full and final revelation, far surpassing the limited preliminary revelation given in the Old Testament.

Hebrews could also be called "the book of better things" since the two

Greek words for "better" and "superior" occur 15 times in the letter.

Background

1- Date

- a. AD 68 or 69
- b. Probably about 35 years after Pentecost, a few months before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 by Titus.
- c. Jews were still practicing the sacrifices of the Law of Moses (Hebrews 10:11)

2- Audience

- a. People of Jewish background
- b. They had heard the Gospel preached during the early days of the church and had witnessed the miracles of the Holy Spirit
- c. Some were genuinely converted, some professed to be Christians but were not regenerated and some flat out rejected the message of salvation.

3- Historical setting

- a. Those who professed to be Christians faced bitter persecution. They needed encouragement to continue onward with full hope restored in their endurance.
- b. Those who were nominal in their faith were in danger of apostasy.
- c. Some were turning back to ritualistic religion, wanting to fit it.

So we can see the Hebrew author making the case that **Jesus of Nazareth Is the True God**. In order to convince the Jews of the truth of this proposition, the writer uses these three general arguments throughout the epistle:

1. Christ is superior to the angels.
2. He is superior to Moses.
3. He is superior to Aaron.

Continuation

Hebrews Chapter 1 – The Superiority of Jesus – The Deity of Christ

I. **Prologue: The Superiority of God's New Revelation (1:1-4)**

- A. God yearns to communicate with His creation (v 1)
- B. God is always speaking
- C. Only God can REVEAL

D. God chose the most special instrument to reveal in these last days (v 2)

1. Christ the Spokesman
2. Christ the Conqueror
3. Christ the Creator and Sustainer
4. Christ the God (v 3)
5. Christ the Priest
6. Christ the King
7. Christ the Worshipped (v 6)

E. The Seven Credentials of the Son (v 2)

1. Appointed Heir of All Things
2. Creator of All Things
3. The Radiance of God's Glory (v 3)
4. The Exact Representation of God's Being
5. Sustains All Things by His Powerful Word
6. Provided Purification From Sin
7. Is Seated at the Right Hand of Majesty

II. The Superiority of Christ to Leaders of the Old Covenant (1:5-7:28)

A. Christ Is Superior to the Angels (1:4-2:18)

1. His Name is Superior to theirs
2. He is God's Son (v 5)
3. He is Worthy of Worship (v 6)
4. He is Ruling Majesty (v 8)
5. He Loves Righteousness and Hates Wickedness – He is Above His Companions (v 9)
6. He is the Creator of the Universe (v 10)
7. He is Master, Above all Creation – He will Always Remain (v 11)
8. He Sits at the Right Hand of the Majesty (v 13)
9. He is Victorious Over All His Enemies

B. Scriptural proof of superiority – the Testimony From the Old Testament (1:5-14)

1. Testimony Confirming the "Son" Being "Heir"
2. Testimony Confirming the Father and Son Relationship
3. Testimony Confirming Jesus as the Firstborn (v 6)
4. Testimony Confirming Jesus' Relationship to Angels (v 7)
5. Testimony Confirming His Eternal Throne (v 8)
6. Testimony Confirming His Righteous Nature and Exaltation (v 9)
7. Testimony Confirming the Eternity of Messiah (v 10)
8. Testimony Confirming the Complete Victory of the Messiah (v 13)
9. Testimony Confirming the Involvement of Angels (v 14)

Sources

The Word of God, Sunset in-depth commentary on Hebrews, James Burton Coffman Commentary on Hebrews, Wayne Jackson's "Notes from the Margin of my Bible", Pedro Gelabert's Commentary on Hebrews.