

“Jesus is in the house” Hebrews 1:1-4

What have you done for me lately is not just the words from a song. It has become a way of life. We see it in every sphere of our life from politics to sports, from business to education. And it appears to me that our memories of the past are becoming more and more short-lived. And so, when the book of Hebrews starts out with “In the past” my natural inclination is to say, “oh boy. Let’s not talk about the good old days.” But that is not at all the intent. Will you take your Bible’s and turn with me to Hebrews 1. And while you are doing that could I encourage you to bring your Bibles during this series. I want to encourage you to write in them, underline verses, and make notations. It will help solidify in your minds what we are learning together. READ 1:1-4. In these few short verses the author begins to build the foundation upon which all the rest of the letter will lie. It is this: when the going gets tough our only strength is Jesus Christ and so again and again the author will come back to creative descriptions of Jesus that leave no doubts in the readers and our minds that trusting in Jesus is superior to anything and anyone else. And in our verse today we find 8 declarations regarding the superiority of Jesus.

Jesus is God’s prophetic voice. Jesus bridges the gap in that he is the last in the long line of prophets that declare the Word of the Lord. He is also the beginning of a new method of God’s communicating with his creation. Think for a moment how Jesus bridged those differences. Ezekiel portrayed the glory of God but Jesus Christ reflected the glory. Isaiah taught again and again about the nature of God but Jesus expressed it in human form. Jeremiah described the absolute power of God but Jesus Christ displayed it on a daily basis. What we would describe as progressive revelation in the Old Testament becomes fully formed in the Jesus of the New Testament. Yes, God spoke his word through men of old but now he speaks first person.

Jesus is God’s Son. I increasingly hear Jesus described in far different terms. In fact it seems to me that the world is less likely than ever to acknowledge his goodness and impacting teaching. I believe

Jesus has slipped more and more into the background because there is less and less interest in patterning our lives after anyone. We all rather do our own things because we must be true to our own values and ideals. The author of Hebrews has no such struggle. As bluntly and directly as he can express it and from the very get go he establishes his presuppositions. Jesus is uniquely God's Son.

Jesus is God's appointed heir. As is often the case in Scripture our language and understanding limits the extent of our comprehension. These words that the author chooses under the inspiration or God directed work of the Holy Spirit use earthly images and systems to say something important about Jesus. The earth and the entire universe belong to Jesus. He is the one appointed to have dominion over all that has been created by God the Father. There is no other partial heir. There will be no dispute or contested terms. The rest of Scripture tells us that on the day of the Lord every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And I might add, that He is the legitimate Lord. There have been no last minute adjustments of the legal documents. No secret codices.

Jesus is God's creative agent. God has just declared that all this belongs to Jesus but He also declares that by the direction of His word Jesus then became the creative agent through whom and by whom all things were created. This Jesus that walked the earth was not just a Galilean teacher but rather co-laborer in creation. What the Son will possess he has been instrumental in making. Can I add something here? Remember this was written to believers going through tough times. Jewish believers who knew the Scriptures. Who knew that Genesis talked about the Spirit of God moving over the chaos and bringing forth creation. If he can bring forth out of that chaos creation what can he bring about through my personal chaos and difficulties. I think He is one who can be turned to with confidence. And the author keeps on going as he builds this varied and rich picture of Jesus.

Jesus is God's personified glory. Think back to the times when the glory of God was experienced. During the plagues and the giving of the law, and the dedication of the tabernacle and the temple. And the response of the people was always fear and a sense of terror. Jesus was the visible and outward expression of the majestic presence of God. Isn't that what His glory signified. That God was present and at work. The author of Hebrews declares that in Christ All the majesty of God's splendor is fully revealed.

Jesus is God's perfect revelation. "The exact representation of his being". Notice two things about this. Jesus said that if you had seen him then you had seen the father. That is what the author is getting at here. And yet though Jesus is the perfect image of the Father he is not the Father. We have his oneness yet his distinctiveness.

Jesus is the cosmic sustainer. God's people believed that God kept the universe in order. Our text tells us that Christ not only was the active agent of creation but that he also maintains it by his word. Again, to those suffering and struggling because of their faith. Because they had been brought to their knees in front of the one who created and sustains the world they can then rise to their feet and stand in front of the world no matter what it may set against them. Unlike the images of the Greek and Roman world Jesus is not an Atlas who holds the world on his shoulders but rather he is a power which holds the internal functioning of the cosmos together with the implication that it would otherwise fall apart and disintegrate.

And then last and certainly not the least is that **Jesus is God's unique sacrifice.** In his own person he died on the cross. The word choice here is very specific. Jesus shed his blood at a point and time in history and there is no repetition needed. He did not need to nor will he ever choose to shed his blood again. He has provided past tense and completed his shed blood that provided purification for our sins. And after he did that. He sat down. Now if we were describing that event today we would say that Jesus is in the house. The image of the biblical writer is that when Jesus had accomplished

all that he had come to do and be he walked into the throne room and sat down. And as we consider Jesus today we need to consider him from that perspective. Having accomplished all that needed to be accomplished Jesus now rules and reigns because **Jesus is in the house.**

And so today if you feel God is far away I want to tell you that though God used to speak through his prophets he now speaks through his Son because Jesus is in the house. And in a world that simply want to call him a good man and a powerful teacher we know that He is God's Son and Jesus is in the house. And in a world that honors those who possess great financial resources we know one who is the appointed heir of all creation and his name is Jesus and Jesus is in the house. And though we like to honor those who build wonderful business and raise up great schools of education we serve one who created all the different flowers in the world and designed the intricacies of the human eye and we declare this same Jesus is in the house. And we honor those who possess beautiful physical beauty and perform great feats of athletic skill but we know one who shines forth God's splendor and this same Jesus is in the house. And we respect those that can teach us truths with great skill and accuracy but we know one who perfectly reveals the being and character of God almighty and this same Jesus is in the house. And we wax forth eloquently for those who personally sacrifice for others but we know one who gave his life for a world that hated him and paid the penalty for their sins and this same Jesus is in the house. And when Jesus is in the house, and when Jesus sits down on the throne, and when Jesus rules and reigns at the right hand of the Father then we, the people who belong to Jesus do not need to fear, we do not need to be worried, we do not need to be confused or perplexed or discouraged or defeated. Because when Jesus is in the house everything is going to be OK. He has won the battle. He has defeated the enemy. And he has assured us a place with him forever. Amen.