

Bible Study – Hebrews chapter 1:1-4 **The Supremacy of God's Son**

The book of Hebrews was written to encourage the early Christians, especially those who were facing persecution or a crisis of faith. The writer starts off by showing why the central figure of their faith, Jesus Christ, is superior because of who He is and what He has done in His earthly ministry.

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

The writer summarizes how God spoke to the people of Israel, first through the prophets and in these days, through his Son, Jesus Christ. He goes on to describe the nature of Jesus and his power. Then he goes on to say how he has been exalted to the right hand of God, making him much more superior to angels.

Q. (v.1-2a) In what ways did God “speak” to his prophets, who then spoke God's message to the Old Testament believers (e.g. fathers) (cf. Numbers 12:6-8)? How was God revealed through the prophets (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)? What is the writer implying when he writes “ ... these last days he has spoken to us by His Son”? How is Jesus superior to all the prophets of old?

Q. (v.2b-3) There are seven (7) facts in these verses that stress the Son's unique greatness and the culminating character of His revelation. Expound on the following and write down its significance to support his greatness or superior character.

1. Heir of all things (cf. Philippians 2:9-11)
2. The Son made the world (cf. John 1:3; Colossians 1:16)
3. The radiance of God's glory (cf. Matthew 17:1-2)
4. The exact representation of God's character (cf. John 14:9)
5. Upholds all things by the word of His Power (cf. Colossians 1:17; Genesis 1:3)
6. Made purifications of sins (cf. Mark 1:44; 2 Peter 1:9)
7. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (cf. Ephesians 4:10; Philippians 2:9; Luke 22:69)

Q. (v.4) What was the name given to angels in the Old Testament? (cf. Job 2:1; 38:7) What is the name given to Jesus and what connotation comes with it? (cf. Matthew 17:5; Isaiah 7:14) What do you think the term 'more excellent' (or better) implies and what is the implication of that?

Q. In these short verses, the writer has given a succinct summary showing why Jesus Christ is worthy of worship and honour. If you are seeking, does this give a reason to believe? If you are a believer, does this give you encouragement in your own walk, knowing that Jesus can help in your time of need? Does this also want you to tell this message, the hope that is in you, to your friends and family who do not believe?

The writer of Hebrews starts off this epistle by showing the revelation of God, starting with the prophets of old and culminating in His Son, Jesus Christ, which is the ultimate and perfect revelation of who God is (John 14:9-11). In this short passage, the writer shows us that Jesus is Creator, a High Priest, a King, and a Saviour, having made purification for our sins. The writer is also laying the foundation for the rest of the epistle, as to why Jesus is superior to all other perceived mighty beings and why He is only one worthy of worship and the only we are to put our hope in.