

Author: unknown (Paul, Barnabas, Apollos)

Audience: Jewish believers – specifics unknown

Theme: The supremacy of Jesus Christ

Purpose: A call to persevere in the Christian Faith and not return to the OC system

Genre/Style: A sermonic epistle or theological treatise with application

Various: – "high Greek", stylistically polish - One of the most OC filled books in the NT - A significant contribution as a "bridge" between the testaments, showing how OT "shadows" are fulfilled in Christ – The use of the word "better" to contrast what has been brought about by Christ and other things

## I. THE REVELATION OF GOD

### A. In Times Past – v.1

- God is not unknown, but speaks and reveals Himself
- Progressive revelation, piece by piece – various ways (visions, writings, dramatic performance, song, story)
- Revelation in history to a specific people, the Jewish fathers
- Through fallen human instruments, the prophets

### B. In These Last Days – v.2

- The last days, last phase, of God's redemptive revelation
- The final, complete and perfect revelation of God is through the person and work of Jesus Christ
- Where the good news of Christ is preached God is speaking
- This is a kind of expansion of John 1, opening up what the Word reveals about God

## II. THE IDENTITY OF THE SON – v.2 [14 Claims]

### A. Heir of All Things

- Appointed by God to be the One who inherits all things as a firstborn son receives the family inheritance

### B. Creator of the Ages

- In Hebrews, aion related to time – Jesus is the creator of all the ages of time

### C. The Brightness of God's Glory – v.3

- The one who radiates the glory of God

### D. The Image of God's Person

- Exact likeness, full expression, precise representation of God's character

### E. Sustainer of All Things

- Carrying, bearing up, carrying along all things by His powerful Word

### F. Purger of Sins

- Cleansed, purified – cleansing away of impurity, i.e. sins

### G. Seated at God's Right Hand

- Sharing in rule, awaiting His enemies to be overthrown, interceding for His people

### H. Better than the Angels [free quotation of OT Scriptures to prove the point]

- Angels conceived to be the greatest of created beings – the Son through His incarnation, perfect obedience, death and resurrection became something in His humanity that He had not been [though He had as God]

#### 1. Inheritor of a Better Name – v.4

- Name is reputation, authority – He earned that authority as a man above what the angels have

#### 2. Son of God – v.5 [Psalm 2:7 2Samuel 7:14]

- Begotten - particularly related to the resurrection - Acts 13:33
- Promise in Davidic Covenant

#### 3. Object of Angelic Worship – v.6-7 [Psalm 97:7]

- Looking forward to the future coming of Christ, and the call for angels to worship Him
- This in contrast to the angels who are ministering spirits [Psalm 104:4]

#### 4. Supreme Ruler – v.8-9 [Psalm 45:6-7]

- The throne of the Son is forever, His scepter is of a righteous Kingdom, hating lawlessness and loving righteousness
- Because of this He has been anointed (Messiah) with supreme gladness

#### 5. Eternal Creator – v.10-12 [Psalm 102:25-27]

- This Psalm speaking of Jehovah – used as an argument about the Son
- In the beginning He laid the foundations of the earth and created the heavens
- Though created things will perish and grow old, rolled up like a garment, the Son does not change and He will not fail

#### 6. Ruler of All His Enemies – v.13-14 [Psalm 110:1]

- Sitting at the right hand of God until enemies are completely subdued
- While the angels are ministering spirits as helpers for those who will inherit salvation

## APPLICATION – 2:1ff

- v.1 – this being so, earnest heed is to be given to the good news of Jesus Christ
- He is unlike any other, claims far above and beyond anyone else – it doesn't get any better
- Christianity has a view of its originator far above any other religion, and even superior to the OC
- Complete attention and focus should be given to what this means for our life and for our death and future
- The danger is to just drift away, instead of staying moored to Jesus Christ
- This is done by merely losing our attention - it is to Him we must stay fixed, finding our securing in Him
- v.2 – the reason given is seeing that the consequences were so great in what was spoken through angels (in the OC)
- If we simply neglect so great a salvation (in the identity of Jesus Christ), what escape will there be from the consequences of those sins?
- There is no salvation story greater than this one, and because of this we have more to lose
- v.3 - This message was first spoken by the Lord Himself in the historical reality of the Gospels, and was confirmed by 1<sup>st</sup> hand witnesses
- v.4 - God also gave witness through the various signs and wonders and gifts of the Spirit according to His will
  
- This is the essence of the letter, a call not to drift away or neglect so great a salvation as is found in the person of Jesus Christ
- Are you drifting from so great a salvation? Are you neglecting this good news in your life and the Word spoken?
- We will see that there are various pressures pressing in on the readers that are tempting them to drift from Christ
- The pressures may not be the same for us, but we can learn much about the peril of turning away from what we know about the Gospel and its implications on our lives