
1. Romans 15:4, Hebrews 1:1-3:

- a. The Book of Hebrews begins with the writer telling us about “TIMES PAST” when God spoke to His people and the world through prophets, who were His messengers!
- b. God hath in THESE LAST DAYS SPOKEN TO US through (or by) His Son, whom He has appointed “The Sole Heir” of all things. The last days were THAT TIME when this was written, but the LAST DAYS are also now.
 - i. The prophets were God's messengers who pointed Israel to their promised Messiah, now, Pastors are God's messengers who point the world, (saints and sinners) to the victorious, risen & ascended Christ.
- c. It's still amazing to consider that God “robed Himself” in the flesh of humanity and descended into the world, not only to save sinners but (in those 33.5 years) to personally interact with sinners, to teach and befriend them, love them, and then to show His love by suffering and dying for their/our sins!
- d. THIS JESUS is not only the Savior of the world, but He is also the Creator of all things! Hebrews 1:2: “By whom also He made the worlds!”
 - i. John 1:1-3, 10, Ephesians 3:8-9, Colossians 1:16
- e. (V1-2): We read of (2) Distinct Persons ~ (2) Divine Speakers: The prophets spoke God's message to Israel for God, but in God's Son, God spoke for Himself, both to Israel and to the world!
 - i. Vast difference between a prophet, apostle, angel, or pastor speaking, and God speaking for Himself! (V3), sets the table for the entire letter to the Hebrews! It begins with the Divinity of Christ, His Oneness with the Father, but also, that He is a Distinct Person in the Trinity.

2. Although God the Father and God the Son are (2) Distinct and Divine Persons, they are “One in Essence”. Moses was God's prophet ~ Jesus was God!

- a. (V3) begins with “WHO” or “HE IS” The brightness or radiance of God's glory. This is like saying “The Son” is One in essence with God, and yet, He is DISTINCT as a Person of God.
- b. When I say “one in essence” the meaning is.... although Jesus is a distinct Person from the Father, YET in His being and nature, He is fully and essentially God! John 10:27-30, John 14:6-10, Colossians 1:13-15
 - i. God the Father and God the Son are One in essence (essentially and substantially) yet, they are distinct as Persons!

3. In the reading of (V3), there might be a “natural” tendency to see the Lord Jesus as inferior or as One who was lesser than the Father.

- a. “He is the brightness or radiance of His glory”. This is where we must understand that words are oftentimes insufficient.... not good enough to describe the nature, character, and being of God, much less God manifest in human flesh!
- b. Christian, this is WHY it is so important for you to read the scriptures by faith, depending on the Spirit of God to uncover and reveal His truth to you!
 - i. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. Hebrews 1:3, the Son is described in the imagery of the radiance or brightness of God the Father's glory!
- c. I know you know this, but light rays coming from the sun are NOT the actual sun, like when the sun's warm rays shine through a window in the morning.

- d. Jesus was not a warm light ray from the Father. In His humanity, He was the radiance and brightness of God's essential glory because He IS GOD. To help us understand this, THINK of the SUN in the sky! Malachi 4:2
- e. It wasn't that THE SUN was in Him, He was/is actually THE SUN, or He was/is actually God! So, Jesus, in the days of His humanity was like "THE SUN" robed in the garment of humanity!
 - i. "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the Incarnate Deity, Please as Man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!"
- f. The Lord Jesus was not a lesser reflection or ray of light coming from the sun, He was God veiled in the flesh of humanity! John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

4. Next: Jesus was/is the express image of God the Father.

- a. He was not "a chip off the old block", He was/is "exactly" the same as God the Father in His divinity, character, and nature ... once again, MEANING He was substantially, essentially, and exactly God in His humanity.
 - i. Remember John 14:6-10, and then Colossians 1:15: "He is the image of the invisible God". That word image is the Greek word "eikon" or visible representation! Our English word is "icon".

5. The writer's emphasis (in His exaltation of the Lord Jesus) was to Jewish Christians/Believers, who had one foot in the old covenant and one foot in the new, who wouldn't let go of Moses and trust Christ, and Christ alone.

- a. It was as if the writer was RE-DECLARING the proclamation of God the Father on the Mount of Transfiguration, but NOW to the Hebrew Christians:
 - i. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him."
- b. Peter, James, and John SAW "the brightness of His glory" His visible radiance and splendor on that day on that mountain. 2 Peter 1:16-18
- c. The Book of Hebrews taught Jewish believers that Jesus was not a contemporary (or rival) to Moses or any of the prophets, He was/is God, which is what God taught the (3) apostles on the Mount of Transfiguration!
- d. And then, Jesus upholds and governs ALL that He created.... All things in heaven and earth are being "governed and held together" by the Word of His power! Colossians 1:16-17.
 - i. No prophet, no, not Moses, nor any of the angels can govern the creation by their words, only Jesus "The Creator" can do that!

6. And then, there's the climax: I love the final words of Hebrews 1:3, the writer continues to exalt Christ:

- a. "WHO" is the brightness/radiance of God's glory, "WHO" is the express image of God, "WHO" upholds all things by the Word of His power, and then:
 - i. "WHO" when He had BY HIMSELF purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high".
- b. "By Himself" children of God, BY HIMSELF, He purged our sins! He suffered the wrath of Almighty God, in your place, "By Himself"!
- c. When He struggled and agonized in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with what He was about to experience from His Father because of our sins, He struggled and agonized "ALONE"! When He was taken away, all His disciples scattered from Him, for thus it must be.... He must not and could not be assisted or helped in any way, but this cross was appointed to Him to bear alone for the sins of the world! John 16:32

- d. BY HIMSELF, He purged our sins, which none of the Levitical earthly high priests could do. Those “lesser sacrifices” that were brought to them every year were never designed (by God) to be final and complete, they were designed by God to provoke faith (in the hearts) of the people who brought them.... To LOOK BY FAITH TO CHRIST, who would be the final and complete sacrifice for sinners, the Only Sacrifice that could satisfy and please God!
- e. Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself was the end of the OT sacrificial system. What the blood of bulls and goats could not do, was done by the blood of Christ!
 - i. Hebrews 9:13-14: Purge: Cleanse, wash, purify! If you’re in Christ, you’re completely washed, cleansed, and purged from all your sins!
- f. This TRUTH STAMPS OUT the heresy of an after-life purgatory. If you need purging from your sins after your death, you have died in your sins, you are hopelessly lost for eternity.

7. When the Lord Jesus finished His work of redemption, shedding His blood for the sins of the world, “He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

- a. In that, He is seated in heaven.... He FINISHED His work! Understand that He is NOT just sitting there on His throne doing nothing, He is seated and reigning, He is actively governing the creation, He is sustaining, interceding, giving life, taking life, saving lost sinners, and building His church. Oh, and don’t forget this.... His foot is on Satan’s head.
- b. “The right hand of the Majesty on high” communicates to us that Jesus, not any of the prophets, apostles, or angels, the Lord Jesus is resurrected and ascended to the place of Highest honor and glory! Revelation 3:21
 - i. Majesty signifies God Himself!

8. The Lord Jesus is the Sole Heir of God the Father

- a. He is the radiance and brightness of the Father’s glory, the Express Image or Exact Representation of His Person, He is the Image of the Invisible God, and He is the Creator, Governor, and Sustainer of ALL THINGS in the creation!
- b. He is now seated, ruling, and reigning at the right hand of the Father.... He is the Giver of eternal life!