

## Hebrews

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April 5, 2023



Hebrews 1:1-3

Vss. 1-3

- In the Greek language this is an eloquent and brilliant introduction. The author has begun with every rhythm and crafted word the language has to offer. The greatest Greek writers, such as Demosthenes, often would brilliantly weave play-on words into an opening to show from the start that what was to follow was important. The writer of Hebrews wanted to speak of the ultimate revelation of God, so he too wanted to send a message at the start: "Pay attention! I am about to tell you of the deep things of God!"
- And let us read between the lines. This opening is indeed brilliantly written. Any Greek writer would have been proud to say they penned it. So here we have a writer who is well educated and highly skilled. In a sense we have The Little Drummer Boy. Do you recall the Christmas song? "Come, they told me...A newborn King to see...Our finest gifts we bring...To lay before the King." But what did he have but his drum and the talent to play it well. This is what our writer has done and the example we are to follow. When you become a Christian, you do not discard the education and talents you had previously. You lay them down at the feet of Jesus, whether those feet are in a manger or on a cross.
- The writer contrasts Jesus with the prophets of old. In the Jewish mind, time is divided in two parts: the present age (which is completely evil) and the day to come (which is the Golden Age of God) and in between we have The Day of the Lord (a day of terrible judgement). To the Jewish Christian of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, the Age of God has begun with the coming of Christ, so moving forward after The Ascension of Christ, these ARE the last days. Eternity invaded Time when the Word became flesh and the world will never be the same.
- Verse 1 says the prophets spoke "in many portions and in many ways". Each of the prophets had their specific message. Amos was concerned for social justice. Isaiah wanted people to better understand the majesty and holiness of God. Hosea wanted

people to better appreciate the power of God's forgiveness. Each one was given a portion of the Truth of God. Jesus was different. Jesus was the whole Truth of God. In Christ we see not just a portion of God but God Himself. Second, the prophets used many ways, many methods. All of them used powerful speech. When speech failed, they used powerful actions such as Jeroboam's actions against King Solomon in 1 Kings 11, or Elijah when he defeated the pagan priests in 1 Kings 18. Jesus used both speech and actions, but He was able to reveal the Truth of God best simply by being who He was, God incarnate. Jesus' revelation of God was complete. It might be said that the prophets were true friends of God, but Jesus was the SON of God, an extension of God Himself.

- The writer says in Verse 2 that Jesus is both heir of all things and the instrument of Creation. As heir, Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God, meaning that Jesus shines the glory of God into the hearts and minds of whomever He meets.
- Jesus is also "the exact representation" of God's nature. He was the character of God's deep essence. The word here for representation means a "seal" and/or the exact form on the seal. Just as a man would take wax and seal a letter or document with it, he would press his signet ring into the wax to literally put his name to it. In Christ we see then the very image of God pressed into human form, with all of the authority of the originator and author behind it.
- So we see in these three verses 1) that the glory of God rightly belongs to Jesus, but not the glory of earth shattering power, but the glory of death shattering love 2) that the coming kingdom belongs to Jesus. He won the victory outright. The power of sin is broken and the claim of death is destroyed 3) that the One who created the heavens and the earth is also the One who has redeemed it 4) that the sustaining power of Creation's redemption comes from the Risen Christ.