

Hebrews 1:1-4 The Supremacy of Christ

Intro: Today we are beginning a study in one of the most Fascinating books in the N.T. –

A) It is a book that Presents Christ to us in a very Unique way

B) The Gospels present Jesus in His first Coming as the Perfect servant / as the Lamb of God / as the Perfect man / The way to God

1) The focus of the Gospels is on what Jesus did for us!

C) Books like Daniel & Rev. Present Jesus as the Conquering King – the Lion of the tribe of Judah –

1) The Focus is on what He is going to do when He comes a 2nd time to set up His Kingdom on the earth

D) But the book of Hebrews is Unique in this – A great part of the focus of this book is to Reveal what Jesus is doing now – **As our High Priest**

1) It Uniquely reveals WHO JESUS IS what HE HAS DONE and the role that HE desires to play in our lives RIGHT now!

Respected Christian theologian R. C. Sproul

“If I were cast into prison and allowed but one book, it would be the Bible. If I were allowed only one book of the Bible, it would be the Epistle to the Hebrews... because it contains our most comprehensive discussion of the **redemption wrought** for us in the sacrifice of Jesus.”

Hebrews is:

A Book of EXALTATION: Magnificently portrays Christ -

A) Over 20 titles are used to describe His attributes and accomplishments!

B) Starts at the very beginning – if this was a Rock Concert – incredible Guitar solo.

Or an incredible **lead vocal** - stunning – goose bumps

1) That only builds as the concert goes on. –

C) That is how the book of Hebrews opens { RD V.1-4

D) This book seeks to reveal Jesus in the fullness of His glory for a reason.

Hebrews is a Book of EXAMINATION -

A) Specifically written to Jewish believers who for one reason or another began to neglect their salvation being tempted to go back into Judaism

B) Some struggled in letting go of their traditions

1) They had grown up in a system of Worship that was given to them by God / **hard to see it differently**

C) Sometimes that is our struggle as well – we come to Christ with baggage from our previous religious experiences – some good and some bad.

1) Sometimes hard to lay preconceived ideas aside.

Really believe what the Bible is saying.

Hebrews was written to reveal that all of those **RITUALS & TRADITIONS** part of Judaism – were pictures & Shadows of the real thing – **CHRIST**

A) Shadows don't have any substance - Ice cream

B) Again one of the reasons many struggle in their faith today is they are constantly being bombarded by our world to latch on **to things that have no substance.**

C) Now For some of the Jews the struggle was because of persecution.

1) their coming to Christ caused their families to turn on them – forsake them – ostracize them.

D) Again sometimes that happens to us – We turn to Christ and friends and family members TURN FROM US. – label us - **FREAKS – KOOKS** –

Hebrews is a book of **EVALUATION** it calls us to consider: **What are we really trusting in/ and what are our lives built upon !!!**

A.) Words **BETTER, PERFECT, & ETERNAL** used repeatedly: Christ brought *better hope* -

B.) He Established *a better Covenant/* a better promise, a better sacrifice, a better country, a better resurrection, a better everything.

1) **Jesus Christ is presented here as the supreme Best.**

C) They are reminded that they were losing nothing for which they were not getting **something infinitely better.**

A lot of believers today experience a lack of stability and confidence in their walks with the Lord.

A) Part of the problem is they really don't know who they are **in Christ** and who Jesus desires to be **in their lives.**

B) The book of Hebrews aims to fix that problem.

C) About 10 yrs ago – I had hip surgery. – In the first few weeks of my recovery I learned something about myself I didn't really realize.

1) I learned that I really didn't like being dependent on others.

D) That first week at home from the Hospital – *there was very little I could do w/out Denise's Help* / Simplest things were impossible

1) It Drove me Crazy !!!! I wanted to get independent as soon as I could.

Even though Denise was glad to help me!

During that time I will never forget it – Jesus spoke to my heart that I tend to do the same thing to Him.

A) Up to that point I often tried to live independent of His care/ His grace/ His power/ His love.

B) *I Thought –How stupid I can be* – If I only realized **who it is** that has made Himself available to me – *24-7* to help in all things

1) I would lean on him constantly ... smallest of things

That is why Hebrews is also a **A book of EXHORTATION: The Challenge of Hebrews is for all believers to realize what they have in Christ**

A) To understand the privilege of being part of the family of God!

B) Hebrews is a book for anyone who wants to know Christ better!

1) Anyone Who desires to **take advantage** of and **experience** the fullness of their Christianity!

“The book of Hebrews conveys a double dose of spiritual power. It not only presents the greatness of Christ in ways no other New Testament writing does, but **it repeatedly demands** a heart response from the reader. No one can study Hebrews and not grow spiritually and come face to face in a new way with Christ.” **Pastor and Author R. Kent Hughes**

The book of Hebrews has been called the orphan epistle because scholars are not sure who wrote it.

A) Some suggest Barnabas – because of the vibe of encouragement that is laced throughout it – Barnabas was the son of encouragement.

B) Others suggest Apollos – rich in OT pictures and analogies and it was said of Apollos – He was mighty in the OT scriptures.

C) Others say Paul because the book is brilliant and Paul was mighty with the pen and had such a heart for his countrymen the Jews.

1).....damned if it meant they would be saved.
{ **I believe it was Paul.**}

D) In reality it doesn't matter – because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1) What is most important is not who wrote it but what it says.

Today our focus is to consider this opening statement: **“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,”**

God has spoken!

A.) Speaking is a major way whereby we get to know someone/ fellowship is developed and friendships are established / **Instruction is Given.**

B) God's purpose in speaking was to reveal Himself to man / His Ways / His Heart / His will.

C) Now when I speak to someone I appreciate their undivided attention

- 1) I hate it when I am talking to my wife & she gets up & goes into the other room or the Kitchen (**Hey get back here – I am talking**)
- 2) Amy @ Breakfast – Her text.

When God speaks He also enjoys it when People listen: We give him our undivided attention.

A) To get people's attention – He spoke through various ways.

Bb) Moses a burning bush / Balaam a donkey. –

Balaam spoke back

Elijah a whisper on a hillside. / Abraham thru an Angel

B) Israel with thunderings / Daniel through visions / Joseph through Dreams

But most of time God spoke through men. Men called prophets. They were the mouth piece of God.

A.) They would pronounce blessing;/ warn coming judgment; give teaching; instruction; as well as rebuke!

B) They Utilized nearly every method to communicate their message – Amos gave direct oracles from God/ Malachi used questions & answers

1) Exkiel used symbols / Haggai preached sermons / Zech. Employed mysterious signs / Daniel saw visions /

C) Hosea was told to marry a prostitute to depict the unfaithfulness of Israel / Isaiah walked around naked – depicting the nakedness of Israel

1) This **wide variety of communication methods** – dramatically demonstrated God's loving desire to communicate w/ His People.

Now The Purpose of the Prophetic Ministry was two fold –

A) 1st it was to **Awaken man** to his need to God / 2nd to Prepare the People for the coming God's greatest gift! His Son - the Messiah

B) The most important thing the Prophets did was foretell the Coming of Christ

1) And they Did that a lot - over 300 prophecies - in O.T. foretelling coming of Messiah / all fulfilled by JC

C) So for 2,000 yrs God was speaking to Man through various people and in various ways.

D) **But in these last days** He has chosen to speak through and by His Son.

1) This beats all those other expressions

2) This is His most comprehensive way of communicating. **CLEAREST EXPRESSION.**

Jesus Christ is the revelation of God climaxed. Final Word- FULLEST REVELATION

A) All those other ways are insufficient in Comparison to Jesus & His Word

B) God sent His son in Human flesh to Reveal Himself to Humanity.

John 1:1-3,14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

A)When I met my wife –over 25 yrs ago – after one conversation we had this instant connection.

B)I will admit that I was drawn to her – first thing that impressed me was her love for Jesus.

1)**Worship** – She glowed – Phil Price Dude.....
Her love for Jesus was radiant in her worship.

C)But lets pretend that I didn’t meet her – I only saw her across the room – worshipping – and thought I have got to meet that girl. - **Ok single guys**

So wanting to meet Denise – here is what I decided to do – before cell phones – so I send message via Morris code.

A)Hi my name is Rob – I was blessed watching you worship – do you want to get some coffee.

B)Does she even Know **MORRIS CODE!** –

1)The message doesn’t mean much – it is impersonal & Abstract.

2)She is probably thinking – **Great a Stalker!**

C)When that doesn’t work **SENSITIVE SIDE** – I leave a Hallmark card on her car- I write the same message

1)Now she is **CURIOUS**. {A little impressed by the card

So then because I really want to get to know her and I want to impress her – I rent a Banner Plane.

A)**Church night at the beach** - Banner flies over – Denise I think you are amazing – Rob

B)She still has no idea who I am – and is probably getting a bit creeped out at this point.

1)Maybe a little intrigued by the creativity and expense

C)Well because I really want to get to know her I finally get up the nerve to just go and talk to her –

1)Let her see me – and get to know me.

Well Because God really wanted us to know Him –he put on flesh and blood and came in the person of JC.

A)The message **that Hebrews Boldly Proclaims** is don’t be looking for God in Burning Bushes /In Signs / thru Angels /

B)**The REASON ? God Has clearly revealed Himself in His Son.**

1)**In these last days He has spoken by His Son!**

“Each word carries with it all the life of God all His saving power and love God speaking in His Son Surely they who have begun to know Him will be ready to cast aside everything for the sake of hearing Him.**Let all who thirst for the living God, draw near & listen'** – Murray

C) **God has spoken but is anyone listening!**

Now V. 2,-4 Give us a 7 fold description of Christ – that we are going to break down next week

A)But for the remainder of our time today I want us to Briefly Consider 4 ways that God was speaking thru Christ

B) How did God speak through His Son?

#1 God spoke through Christ deeds.

A) John 14:9 “He who has seen me has seen the father.”

B)You want to know what the Father is like? – What is on His heart? How He responds, thinks, feels?

1)WATCH ME – what have you seen in me.

C)How can you say Show us the Father – For three years I have been demonstrating Him to you.

Through Christ deeds God was communicating – I am powerful – but I am also approachable.

A)Sickness, disease, natural elements and even demonic forces don’t control me or limit me – I am over them above them.

D)But I am also approachable – My heart goes out to the weak and weary, the outcast .

1)The broken and the sick – that is who need a physician

What radical contrast to the way that God was portrayed by the religious establishment in Jesus day: God was anything but approachable

A)Anything but knowable.

B) JESUS COMES & Touched the untouchable /He Loved the Unlovables / He called the unwanted / 1)He recruited the unworthy. He was patient w/ the unforgiving / He was faithful to the faithless

C) Many people go thru life thinking – they have messed up too many times to be close to God – He doesn’t love them / given up on them / never use

1) The ACTIONS of Jesus dispel that idea – He loves working w/ Misfits

D)WHY - The common people were drawn to Him – people loved to be around Him - He wasn't stuffy, distant and pompous like religious leaders their day

1) He was kind; compassionate; /understanding; considerate; /loving / Down to Earth – relatable

John - said best John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, {Kabod His weight substance} the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

E)Do we believe that He is approachable – to the point where we are constantly coming to Him – believing He wants to spend time with us

1)He is interested in even the smallest {also powerful

#1 God spoke through Christ deeds

#2 God spoke through Christ words:

John 14:10 The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

A)Through the teachings of Jesus – God was saying – I want you to know who I am – I want you to know my heart.

B)I want you to know my compassion and my understanding of your struggle.

C)Through his teachings – Jesus made it very clear that God was more interested in where our hearts were at – than what our actions showed.

1)You have heard it said:Adultery I say looks at a woman to lust after her – to desire her sexually.. Adultery.

Cc)Starts in the heart.

D)Through His teachings Jesus made it very clear who God wanted to be in the lives of his people.

Their life/ provider / healer sustainer / savior.

Question: Are we listening: Do we understand God to the point where we are willing to trust Him in every area of our lives.

A)So God spoke to man through the words of His Son.

So He spoke through His deedswords

- #3 God spoke Through Christ Cross.

A)God was saying at the Cross Here is how much I love you and desire relationship with you.

**B) I am sending my son – to pay your price
Take your punishment –**

1)Experience your pain / shame.

C)I want you to know– Redemption and forgiveness are possible.

D)You can be set free – to live in relationship with me.

1)It is finished – the price is paid – the victory is WON!

Question: Are we resting today in the finished work of Christ or are we still trying to earn God's favor through our works and efforts?

So He spoke through His deeds words, through His words - Through Christ Cross. #4 God spoke through Christ Resurrection.

A)There God was saying – I want you to experience my life and power working in you and through you.

B)Question: Are we living in the life and power of that Resurrection.