

Hebrews 1:1-3 Unrivaled Revelation - Part 1

INTRO: I really admire those blessed skill to paint or draw! Those who can take canvas & make it come to life.

A.) Incredible talent - (I don't have it- STICK FIGURES) my kids

B.) Equally impressive to me are those who paint with a pen. Writers who illustrate a scene or story, using descriptive words

1) Make you feel like you are right there.
LUCADO/Swindol/ Ravi

C) Here in book of Hebrews the writer - describes for us the greatest Person who ever lived: Our Lord Jesus Christ.---

Now we noted in our study last time that Hebrews was written to Jewish people who had converted to Christ

A) But their Conversion was a COSTLY ONE! – They were blackballed by their leaders / ostracized from their families/ cut off from Worship/

B) Persecution followed and they were tempted to go back!

1) Here is what I want you to understand – this was not some fickle backsliding going on here like we often see.

C) "DO I REALLY WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS OR FEED my FLESH."

D) For these Jewish believers they knew that it was - ALL or NOTHING

1) Their commitment to Christ meant they had a lot to lose.

E) Their Lives were an example of COUNTING THE COST In a way that most of us really will never understand

1) even though in our culture being a follower of Jesus is becoming more and more looked down upon.

So to these Jewish believers struggling with this decision – this book is written.

A) Format – He is going to contrast Jesus with every major facet of Judaism

B) But before the writer begins his contrast – He starts off by painting a picture of Jesus that is so brilliant – majestic. DEITY

1) He wants to get our attention from the very beginning – and then He will build upon it.

Like a painter who is painting a picture of a man – in great detail so that we see His strong Chin / Bright eyes/ Big Hands / Bulging Muscles /

A) And we watch as He goes along – being captured by the Presence the Power the Beauty & the dignity of this man

B) And once the man is done **It is amazing** – the portrait could stand alone but then he begins to paint the empty canvas around the man

C) He puts the man in a room – there is a desk / a chair / flowers in a vase

1) **But is all BACKGROUND** – It all points to the man / We gain insight into His taste / His occupation

D) Everything is seen in light of the man & Connected to the man / only adds to our understanding of Who He is / What He does / Likes

That is what the HS is doing in this book

A) He begins with this majestic picture of Jesus this **UNRIVALED REVELATION** and then he is going to place Jesus in the surroundings of the OT.

B) Everything special / sacred / important – was pointing to Him – fullest understanding in Him.

C) Perfect fulfillment of everything the OT scriptures were pointing to. – See that as the story unfolds

He begins w/ this INCREDIBLE seven fold Description of JESUS. More than intro:

A) Why is this description of Jesus so important?

“The more the soul is filled w/ the glory of Christ / the more confidence we will have to count upon him to do a supernatural work in us.” Andrew Murray

Hebrews 1:1-3

“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, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Have any of you ever been to the Canadian Rockies?

A) Years ago – I spoke at a Couples retreat in Banff – at the base of the Canadian Rockies – Breath taking!

B) I couldn't even begin to try and describe the beauty. Inadequate!

C) That is exactly how I feel about breaking down this description of Jesus – completely inadequate to do it any justice.

1) **By God's Grace** I will make an attempt & bring some application to our lives.

2) I encourage you on your own to meditate on this description.

D) Ponder it for your life personally.

1.) **HIS PROMINENCE**: Heir of all things Prominence
2.) **HIS INGENUITY**: Creator of the worlds.

3.)HIS POWER: Upholds all things word of His of Power

4.)HIS RADIANCE: Brightness of God's glory

5.)HIS REVELATION: Express image of His person

6.)HIS REDEMPTION He by himself purged our sins

7.)HIS REIGN : He sat down majesty on high!

As we consider this description I want you to think of it in terms of a V – starts at the top – in the heavenlies – descends

A)Lowest point of the V is the 6th statement – The Cross – Redemption – the grave – doesn't stay there

B)From there it ascends again – takes us back into Heaven. His Reign –

C)My plan today was to cover all 7- but in light of Fridays events in Japan – only cover the first three.

1)We must consider the question why do these things happen – **if He is upholding all things....**

D)What should be our response

Starting point:

A) #1 He is the HEIR OF ALL THINGS!

B) Jewish culture A person's inheritance was a big deal!

1)A man was measured by His worth – (it would play a part in who He would marry / standing in the community – what His kids would do later.

C)It was the Elder Brothers responsibility to fairly divide the inheritance.

D) Jesus is the Elder brother – and this is what the Father says of His son! “Psalm 2:8 *You are My Son, Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

1) Think about all that Includes / The Nations / the World – All of heaven all of the Earth – BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION {Everything! – mind wander

The greatest prize of his possession is you and me! Jesus told a parable that illustrates this point

A)Jesus described this : Matthew 13:44 “ *the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*”

B)When Christ redeemed the World – there was one treasure in it that He desired – YOU & ME !!!!!

1)We are that Treasure that Jesus came to Purchase!

C)Revelation 5 Scroll title deed – Worthy – Lion / Lamb

Jesus is the rightful Heir – He paid the price! – He bought the field to get the Prize! – We are the Prize!

A)And then Romans 8:16,17 we are told that He not only purchased us but He has made us **Co-heirs with Him!** / All He has is ours too!!!

B)The richest, man who ever lived could not say that all things were his,

1)but the poorest Christian who ever lived can say that.

1 Corinthians . 2:9 “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

So to those who Had lost everything for their faith in Christ / the Father first reveals His Son as the Heir of all things.

A)APP for us – We live in this society that is constantly tell us we need more we need to latest greatest – Apple store line!

B)Father would whisper to our hearts today -Find your sustenance in my Son! –

1)Remember you are Co-heirs with Him

Remember this world is not your home!

C)Your future is Bright – **“We may not know what the future holds, but we know HIM who holds the future.”**

“I have read the last page of the Bible. It is all going to turn out all right.” Billy Graham

D)So first He wants us to see his Prominence - #2 His Ingenuity!

**#2 His Ingenuity - through whom made worlds!
John 1:3 "Apart from Him nothing came into being came into being."**

A.)The term world usually is Cosmos / But here it is different word with broader meaning - not just material world; but the **ages**.

B)Translation: Jesus not only responsible creation physical earth, but time, space, energy, matter!

Colossians 1:16-17

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

C)Now we could spend all day talking about the intricacies of Creation –

1)The beauty, the splendor.

D)We could talk about DNA / Blood/ Air/ Atoms / Planets – Galaxies

1)The Psalmist is right Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

THE SUN: The Sun is 93 million miles from earth

A)The light that illuminates our days takes about eight minutes to reach us from the sun, traveling at a speed of 186,000 miles per second.

B)What if the sun were closer ? On Venus the next closest planet to the sun the surface temperature is about 875 degrees. TALKING HOT –

C)What if the sun were further away ? On Mars the farthest planet from the Sun – the mercury dips to about minus 200 degrees. – REALLY COLD.

D)He created it just right – everything flows perfectly just as He created it.

After each day of creation – The Lord looked on His creation and said that it was good.

A)Idea = perfect, flawless, without blemish.

B)The Prize of His creation was Man – made in His image.

Bb)THE FALL – MAN sinned – fallen short of glory – flawed – marred

C)The greatest mark of God's ingenuity is in Redemption.

1)God calls redeemed man a new Creation.

D)In Ephesians 2:10 He refers to redeemed man as His Workmanship – His work of art. Masterpiece

Think about this to create the world – All God had to do was speak – God said let there be light and there was light. Land / Animals/ fish etc

A)But to make fallen man into a NEW CREATION – Jesus had to leave heaven and come to earth – pay the price.

B)His most precious creation is man – whom He desires to live in relationship with.

C)Who He bought the field for – All of you here are a Part of God's creation.

1)Only those who have embraced Christ – are His workmanship. –

D)So Jesus is the Heir...../ Creator...../ Sustainer!

#3 His Power: upholds all things word of His power!

A)Word upholding: signifies to carry or support – actively sustaining.

B)People picture ATLAS – straining under the weight of the world.

C)That is not what it says about Jesus Sustaining Power - / Done by His Word !!!!

Not sweating straining - not tired; not muscles -

D)Calming the storm at sea – the disciples were in a panic – Lord don't you care that we are going to perish?

1)Peace be still! – Calm – sea became like glass

Who is this guy that even the wind and the waves obey Him.

A) Jesus is holding it all together by His word!

B) Can you imagine what would happen if Jesus Christ relinquished His sustaining power over the laws of the universe?

C) If He suspended the law of gravity only for a brief moment, we would all perish, We would go out of existence. / Fly off into Space

Consider, for example, what instant destruction would happen if the earth's rotation slowed down just a little.

A) Our globe is tilted on an exact angle of 23 degrees, providing us with four seasons.

B) If it were not so tilted, vapors from the oceans would move north and south and develop into monstrous continents of ice.

C) Did you know that the moon, too, is obviously positioned very strategically for our sakes? /

1) If it were just a little bit closer Miami would be under water for twelve hours each day due to the moon's increased gravitational pull on the Atlantic

D) And when the tide came in, it would rush like a tidal wave./ Tsunami everyday.

Upholding all things by the word of his power

A) This refutes the idea of Deism, that God created all things, but then bowed out and let everything run on its own.

B) Not So! Nothing passes out of his oversight and direction.

1) He has no alarm system in heaven for emergencies or surprises, for there are none with him.

C) That begs us to ask the question: If Jesus is really sustaining all things by the word of His power.

1) Then does that mean – He sent the Tsunami this week?

C) OR Was Jesus on a coffee break? – Sleeping on the Job

To answer that question we need to go back to the fall of man!

A) When Man rebelled and ate the fruit – He was cursed along with creation.

B) Do you remember the curses leveled by the Creator?

1) The serpent was cursed but not just the serpent. All of the animals (Genesis 3:14).

C) The woman was cursed. The woman would face multiplied pain in childbirth and conflict with her husband (Genesis 3:16).

Then God declared, “Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:17-19).

A) Do you see the all-encompassing nature of curse?

B) Not only was man cursed, not only the serpent but also every other living creature,

1) and not only that, but also the rest of creation fell under the same curse.

C) The ground was cursed. It would produce thorns and thistles.

1) It would present man with difficulties at every turn just to survive.

D) Thus began every speck of decay, rot, natural disaster, and every destructive force of the natural order.

When man fell, everything tied to him fell as well.

A) If you have seen the pictures of a train derailment you know that the first train gets off the track and all the rest follow into a twisted mass of noise and steel.

B) When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they doomed the entire human race; yet additionally, they derailed creation.

The second law of thermodynamics says it, and every scientist knows it. Everything tends toward decay and disorder.

A) That is not how God created things –but that would become the new natural course of the earth.

B) Notice how Paul puts it in Romans 8:19-22

“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

C) Creation was subjected to futility!

1) Futility = emptiness, uselessness, vanity.

2) V.21 Delivered from the bondage of corruption. Corruption = decay, decline and ruin.

D) The earth is on a natural course toward destruction

1) **It is only the sustaining power of Jesus that prevents the creation from destroying itself.**

E) That events like earthquakes and Tsunami’s don’t happen more frequently.

Notice what else Paul says V20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

From the time of the fall creation has been groaning waiting to be redeemed again.

A) Longing to be put back in order. V.19 earnest expectation – Isaiah Personified creation Isa 55:12

B) This is an interesting Phrase. It literally means to sort of stretch your head up, stretch up your eyes, stand on your tiptoes; -gaze as far as you can.

C) This is what creation is doing. It is looking longingly, waiting eagerly with readiness, with preparedness, and what's it waiting for?

Verse 19, "The revealing of the Sons of God,"

D) We return with Jesus at His 2nd coming!

1) Jesus puts things back in order!

Every earthquake/ Tsunami is an example of Creation Groaning.

A) Paul in v.22 calls them birth pangs – contractions

B) Delivery is getting closer – labor pains become more frequent and intense.

1) The baby is about to arrive.

C) Jesus used the same analogy in Matthew 24 signs of the times – natural disasters – labor pains.

Difficulties/ disasters – reaction? Choice!

A) Run to Jesus – He sustains us / keeps us

B) Or Run from Jesus

RUN TO HIM TODAY!

Created you

Bought you

Making you – His workmanship

HE HAS GOT YOU

HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU