

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

Do You Want to Hear God Speak?

Hebrews 1:1-3

A. Overview of Hebrews

Date Written: Between 66AD and 96AD.

Author: We don't know (but I think it may have been Luke).

Key Term: Jesus is "Better" (used in all 12 chapters).

Recipients: Hebrew (Jewish) believers.

Occasion: Fierce persecution of the Jewish believers.

Purpose: To wean Jewish believers away from the law and back to Jesus.

Difficulty: It's pretty deep.

Overview: It's pretty clear—Jesus is "better" (ie., the best and the only way).

In Hebrews, we encounter Jesus Christ, who is better than the angels, Moses, Joshua, the Hebrew high priests, and the sacrificial system, who made a lasting sacrifice and established a better covenant with mankind, ensuring that the old way is obsolete and that faith in Christ—applied in all matters of life—is the only way to live. - Pastor Joe

"The Six Warning Passages" in the Book of Hebrews

- A. The Warning against **Drifting** Heb. 2:1-4
- B. The Warning against **Departing** Heb. 3:12-15
- C. The Warning against **Disobedience** Heb. 4:11-13
- D. The Warning against **Dullness** Heb. 5:11-6:6
- E. The Warning against **Despising** Heb. 10:26-39
- F. The Warning against **Defying** Heb. 12:14-29

B. Study Section

Holy Scriptures are printed in the bold face font while Pastor Joe's Commentary is printed in the brackets.

Hebrews 1:1-3, NLT - ¹ **Long ago** [lit., "what lies behind" meaning the time before Jesus; the story of God's saving work in Jesus Christ begins not just during the age of the Roman Empire but "long ago" in the narratives of the Old Testament.] **God spoke many times and in many ways** [eg., visions, dreams, through angels, people and donkeys, burning bush, with handwriting on a wall, the wind, the creation and audible voices, etc.] **to our ancestors through the prophets.** ² **And now in these final days** [lit., "to the end of these days"], **He has spoken to us through His Son** [lit., "In Son;" There are three basic "acts:" ❶ Creation and the Fall ❷ God and Israel (OT) ❸ Jesus and the church (NT); POINT: *The last revelation was Jesus!* This tense indicates continuous action—*God still speaks.*]. **God promised everything to the Son** [Jesus—the *Heir*—is now presented as sovereign over everything] **as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe** [Jesus is now presented as *the Creator*—the deity—God himself]. ³ **The Son radiates** [not like a reflector, Jesus "radiates"] **God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command.** [cf., Col. 1:17; in Jesus, you see exactly what God is like. Other prophets "gave the Word" but Jesus "is the Word." cf., Col 2:9-10, Jn. 14:9] **When He had cleansed us from our sins** [lit., "by Himself purged our sins" when He died for us on the cross, cf., Heb. 9:28], **He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.**

C. Encountering Christ

1. **God still speaks through Jesus!** vv. 1-2a

What these two verses teach very loudly and plainly is that God is not silent.

2. **Jesus is the Creator with God.** v. 2b

Gen. 2 indicates that Creation is *from* the father, *by* the Son and *through* the HS.

3. **Jesus is the Radiator of God.** v. 3a

Jesus is all the light we need in our lives.

4. **Jesus is the Sustainer from God.** v. 3b

What holds an atom, a marriage, a life together—Jesus.

5. **Jesus is the Purifier for God.** v. 3c

The Hebrew Christians knew what the Day of Atonement was about.

6. **Jesus is our Ruler as God.** v. 3d

What does Jesus do now? Romans 8:34 tells us He's praying for us!