

SUPREMACY week 1 - #sermons #hebrews

INTRODUCTION

Star Wars Introduction - Has you hooked and puzzled before one lightsaber is unleashed.

The introduction to the book of Hebrews is the same. It is EPIC.

Written between 65 & 70AD, most probably to a group of Jewish christian converts in need of some encouragement.

This congregation of believers **was immature** .

Heb 5v12

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food

They were persecuted

There are two periods of persecution that line up with the time period when the book was written.

AD 49 Roman Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from the city of Rome.

AD 64 Emperor Nero persecuted Christians in the vicinity of Rome.

Hebrews 10v32-35

32But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, **33**sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. **34**For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **35**Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

They were near APOSTASY

These believers were not only DISCOURAGED/WEAKENED but TURNING AWAY from their faith in Christ.

Hebrews 10v32-35

26For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27**but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

TRANSITION

As we jump into this book you will notice that the author **compares and contrasts Jesus to key historical people and events from the Old Testament.**

Through these comparisons, we see Jesus superiority. Throughout the book we will be challenged to remain faithful to Jesus and learn from great examples of faith from the Old Testament despite hardships and persecution.

Hard times and persecution will make us uncomfortable but instead of fearing them, remember that rejecting Jesus is foolish.

The central message of Hebrews is Jesus SUPREMACY. He is greater than angels, the Torah, Moses, the Promised Land, priests, Melchizedek, sacrifices, and the covenant. He is God's Word, the hope for a new creation, our eternal priest, and the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's love and as such He is worthy of all our trust and devotion.

BRING IT

Turn to Hebrews 1 [Hebrews 1:1-3]

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

GOD IS AN ACTIVE GOD

v 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

*It is significant that he begins his retelling of the gospel not with Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, but with the creation narrative and the covenants in the Old Testament. Why is this so weighty? Because the Holy Spirit, through the author of Hebrews, is placing the story of Christ within the context of God's entire redemptive plan—a redemptive plan that spans from creation to new creation.

The person and work of Christ can only be rightly understood when given proper place at the center of history's metanarrative.*

The writer also highlights that understanding the story of Jesus and his work on the cross

means grasping that the incarnation of Christ was not the first time God intervened in history. The incarnation is certainly unique among God's acts in history, but **God has been active in unfolding the drama of redemption and setting the stage for the incarnation of his Son since the dawn of creation.** Specifically, God has been active in speaking. The gospel comes to us in the context of a revelation that has already been delivered to us by God. The gospel is not God's first word to humanity, nor does it arrive in a vacuum. For centuries Yahweh "spoke to the fathers by the prophets." This revelation came "at different times and in different ways." Sometimes God spoke through dreams, in visions, by inspiring Scripture, and even through a donkey (Num 22:28-30)! In all this, what has been preserved for us in the Old Testament is the inerrant record of God's word and its faithful transmission to his people.

Obviously, the author of Hebrews carefully crafted this introductory verse. He affirms the authenticity and authority of the Old Testament. The Old Testament continues to function authoritatively for God's people. Yet at the same time, as the next verse will show, there is something more. The Old Testament is a story in need of a conclusion—a messianic conclusion. The fathers and the prophets indeed spoke the word of God, but that word was not the final word.

V2 but in these last days He has spoken to us by his Son. OT~NT Conclusion.

GOD IS A SPEAKING GOD

We regularly think of God's grace in the context of SAVING US, but we must also think about God's grace in the context of HIM REVEALING HIS NATURE to us.

GENERAL REVELATION [Psalm 19:1-2] and SPECIAL REVELATION {Heb 1:1-3}

2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Here the author is CONTRASTING the FORMER revelations of God to the PRESENT communication of God.

As the writer of Hebrews will meticulously demonstrate in the coming chapters, the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament. The climax of God's redemption is found only in Jesus Christ. God makes PROMISES and then FULFILLS THEM.

The Son is not only the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the pinnacle of God's saving works in history, he is also the agent of creation. Jesus is, thus, the beginning and the end. He is the Creator and the telos of creation. It is significant that the author of Hebrews

connects the doctrines of redemption and creation. This is because the God who creates is the God who redeems.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must recognize that if we do not have the right doctrine of creation, we will not have the right doctrine of redemption. Creation and the gospel are inextricably linked.

| Verse 3 is an exposition of how the Son reveals the Father to us.

| **3**He is the radiance [shikinah OT] of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature

Looking at Christ is the way we see most fully the glory of God. More than that, Christ is the exact expression of the Father's nature. Christ shares the divine nature with the Father as the Second Person of the Trinity. This is where the divine Son is different from a human son. No human son is the exact representation of his father. There is a close relation, but not an exact representation. Christ, however, is an "exact representation." He and God are of the same divine essence.] CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK - ONLY A CHIP.

and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

[He sustains "all things by his powerful word." If the Son ever ceased to will the universe to remain, then the universe would cease to exist. The power to create is also the power to preserve, the power to control, and the power to bring to an end. Hebrews tells us the Son possesses this kind of power.]

After making purification [OT Jewish concept for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

In short, the first three verses of the Epistle to the Hebrews are some of the most remarkable in all of Scripture.

Consider the doctrines embedded in them:

- Revelation
- Creation
- The Trinity
- The Relationship of the Old and New Testaments
- Christology [No New Testament book emphasizes the humanity of Jesus more emphatically than does Hebrews. He showed the same nature as those whom he came to save (2:14). He had to be made like them in every respect (2:17). Like them, he has

suffered and has been tempted (2:18). Hebrews does emphasize Jesus' sinlessness, but he was tempted in every respect like other human beings (4:15). His sufferings were real; they wrung from him loud cries and tears (5:7). His humanity was real; he had to learn the meaning of obedience (5:8).[Ladd, George Eldon. A Theology of the New Testament (p. 621).]

- Atonement

Even more, consider the wonderfully high Christology that the author has presented in just a few words.

Christ is the:

- Son of God
- Revelation of God
- Fulfillment of God's Revelation in the Old Testament
- Heir of All Things
- Agent of Creation
- Radiance of God's Glory
- Expression of God's Nature
- Preserver of All Creation
- Purifier of God's People
- Mediator for God's People

Hebrews is not for the theologically faint of heart. Hebrews is for those whose endurance will be richly rewarded with a remarkable portrait of Christ. Let us treasure him, our Creator and Redeemer. He is worthy, for he is supreme over all things.

SUPREMACY - SHOES - HYPOPODION -footstool.

13And to which of the angels has he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

MINISTRY

SALVATION - surrender to Him Majesty

SOFTEN YOUR HEART