

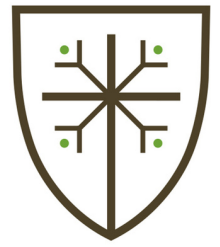
CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews



An Ordinary Time Sermon Series | Fall 2026

SERMON NOTES



August 16, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"The Exact Imprint"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

1 Kings 19:1-9

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:1-4

John 1:1-4, 14-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What competes with Jesus for center-stage in your life? Is he the center or simply an option when nothing else works?
2. How is it reassuring to know that Jesus upholds all things right now? What peace does this offer us?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim began our new fall sermon series on the book of Hebrews. The original audience of Hebrews was newly converted Jewish Christians who were considering giving up out of weariness with the hardness of life and the ways in which Christianity seemed to make it harder. The question this theologically rich book seeks to answer is, "What do you need to keep going and even to go deeper in the grace of God in Christ?"

Final Word

The original Jewish audience would've been very familiar with what we know as the Old Testament scriptures. And so the author begins with what they know and how God used to speak with his people. But now, in the days after Jesus' earthly life, death, resurrection, and ascension, God speaks directly through his Son. Jesus is different, unique, better—or, as verse 4 says, "superior"—compared to all that came before. He is the center of God's plan to bring goodness and beauty back to the world. And he is meant to be the center of our lives as Christians. The very radiance of God that was covered in cloud and smoke in the Old Testament has been revealed in Jesus Christ. As the author says, he is the imprint, or the exact replica, of God. If you look at Jesus, you have seen God. He is the supreme self-revelation of God.

One of the primary ways we know a person is through their words. Words express and reveal who we are and what we're like. Scripture doesn't say that Jesus had a word about God or a word from God; it says Jesus was and is the Word of God. He wants us to know him, and so he sends his very word. The question is, are we paying attention to it?

Revealing Work

These first few verses of Hebrews focus on Jesus' work, past and present. Again, thinking as the original Jewish audience, the word "purification" used here would've carried enormous weight. They knew there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. They knew about the sacrificial system and, as professing Christians, they knew Jesus himself had shed his blood as the final, holy substitute. Purification was at the center of everything. The author wants it to be known that purification is finished; it is a past thing. His primary concern is what this means about Jesus and who God is. God's nature is to love the unlovable and cleanse the guilty through the sacrifice of himself. God is committed to paying the cost, whatever that might be. This is a reality unique to Christianity.

So, what is Jesus doing now, after his ascension? The text says Jesus "upholds" all things. And this includes our individual lives. Jesus is seated on his throne in heaven. A king who is seated is one who has already defeated all of his enemies. It is a posture of confidence and rest. If we belong to Christ, there is no reason for us to be anxious, worried, fearful, or weary. Jesus isn't, and he upholds our life. Hebrews calls us to see things from another perspective, that of Jesus seated on the throne. We are to pay attention to the Word of God so that we would know him and be closer to him through that Word revealed.