

Matthew Davis

Jesus is Better / Hebrews 1

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Amen. The God who stays and I think we all can praise him for that, because we all know people in our life have walked away due to whatever circumstances has been going on. But what's great about God is he never walks away from us. It doesn't matter how bad we mess up, what mistakes we have, how broken we think we are, he is always there for us. And so speaking of our God, who is always there, and how good he is, we are beginning today, our brand new series, we finished the parables of Christ, and we are beginning the series, Jesus is better.

So like I said, I will be mailing out tomorrow to those who have not yet gotten their shirts. I'll be mailing out our Jesus's better shirts. As we go through the book of Hebrews, seeing in what ways Jesus is better the entire book of Hebrews. That the theme I would say, the whole book, what I've noticed is I've read and studied is that He is better. And so I want to convey that chapter by chapter and we won't always do a verse by verse exegesis of the chapter, but I want to convey just how Jesus is better.

So we're gonna start this week in Hebrews, chapter one, if you have your Bibles with you, and are following along, I'm going to just read the first four verses, then we'll talk about it and go from there, beginning in verse one of Hebrews one.

God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us, by his son, whom he at the appointed air of all things, by whom also he made the world's 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as he had by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they were unto what are the angels said here any

Oh, lets stopped reading real quick. I just got into this reading, I'm gonna read all the way through it. So he obtained a more excellent name than they verse four ends with that.

As we begin, our series through "Jesus is better." The first thing that we're going to touch point on here is the fact that there are no more prophets in the modern day. The office of prophet has closed and been replaced with something much better; it's been replaced with Jesus. Now the chapter begins the whole book of Hebrews that brings in this theme of Jesus being better it says, that "God at various times, and in diverse manners in the past spoke to us by us by the prophets, he spoke to us through the servants the prophets."

Now we all know that's true. We have the whole Old Testament, the first 39 books of the Bible, that's written through prophets,. We've got Moses, we've got Isaiah, Jeremiah, I'm not going to go through them all. There's too many... Ezekiel. The Old Testament was written by the prophets who conveyed to us, they wrote to us the spoken word of God. And that came in diverse manners as well. With Abraham, we've been following Abraham a lot on Wednesday Bible studies, he often received dreams, God spoke to him and dreams where others received visions. Some were spoken to by talking donkeys, okay. God has spoken to us through the prophets in many different ways. But in these last days, he has spoken to us by His Son. Now when we say last days, I want to point out something here verse two begins with "hath in these last days." That word hath is added by English translators, because our sentence or our language has grammatical rules that we have to follow. But the word hath is not there in the Greek if we open the Greek manuscript, it says in these last days, he speaks unto us by a son.

So it's not that he just spoke and went silent and stopped. But he speaks to us today by a Son. Now, when it says these last days, we also have to put this into context of the Jewish mind, not just in those periods, when Christ was there, keep in mind Hebrews was written anywhere from 30 to 40 years after Christ died, the last days is talking to about a period in the Earth's history. The Jewish culture understood the world in two timeframes, two great periods, the pre Messianic age, and the post Messianic age. The pre messianic age is before Christ came, before the Messiah was here. And we needed the prophets. We needed the prophets for two reasons. Reason one, we needed them to tell us that Christ was coming. We needed them to proclaim that God had a plan to fix this broken world, to proclaim the Messiah, to say what he would do and what he would be like. So that we had hope.

And we also need to needed the prophets to speak God's Word to us. Because we cannot access God directly. I don't know if you knew that before Christ rose and poured the Holy Spirit out upon the church, you cannot directly access God, you

require the priest you require the Prophet, you require some special means that God could communicate to you. But in these last days, we have spoken, we speak directly to God, and are spoken to by the Son. Now, why is this better? Okay, the theme of this message is not about prophets. So it's not about whether or not prophets today are false or true. It's about Jesus being better. So what makes Jesus better than the prophets? Well, this first says to us, that he is appointed heir of all things. So what makes Jesus better the fact that all things are His. We're not spoken to by man anymore. Today, we don't hear from God by a Prophet saying, This is what God is saying to say. But we hear from God by what the son said, by his spoken word that's now written down in the Bible, who owns all things.

Now, what is better? hearing from me what God is saying, or hearing from Christ, who owns everything, what God is saying. All things both spiritual material are, they belong to Christ. And so it is better to hear from the person who owns everything, what he has to say, but also the fact that he is the Son of God. In Greek culture, during the time this was written, to do business with the heir son, with the son who was inheriting the Father's business or his assets. To do business with him was to do business with the son. So I could act on my father's behalf. And that was as good as if my father were to do it?

As we continue to read, though, it says that, verse three, he is the brightness of His glory, and the express image of this person. So what makes Jesus better than the Prophet is that he is the exact embodiment of God. When we speak to Jesus, we are speaking to the Father, when we know Jesus and he tells us this, he who has seen me has seen the Father. So when we get to know Jesus on an intimate and personal level, we already know the Father. We know what he is like we know who he is, we know what his will and desire is. So it is better to hear from the person who is an exact representative and exact embodiment of the Father, because his will, is exactly in line with the Father.

It says here that his brightness, you know he's the brightness of His glory. That is something that no prophet has been able to convey. No prophet has been able to say, I am the Father are One, that my will on the Father's Will, or one that my work is the Father's business. And so Jesus Christ is better than the Prophet, because he is the embodiment of the Father. But as we continue to read here, it tells us that he is the express image, or rather that he is upholding all things by the word of his power. He's supporting all things by the word of his power. When the Prophet spoke, they had to say this is what God says. They say the word of the Lord came to me and thus saith the Lord. But when Jesus spoke, he is the word. John chapter one, verse one says that in

the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word is God. So Jesus Christ is the word himself. So who better to proclaim the word than the person who spoke it.

All scripture is God breathed meaning all scripture or a New Testament came from Jesus Christ anyways. But it says here, that he's upholding all things by the word of his power, all things are upheld by him alone. So this tells us something, the earth, we've, we've talked before about how the earth is perfectly positioned. In that sweet spot, to support life. The Earth orbits the Sun, annually, right? It gives us our seasons our yours. It's like perfect clockwork, the rotation of the earth for day and night, the moon, the tides, all of that is upheld at the word of Christ. Now the prophets did some mighty miracles. Elijah rose, a boy from the dead, Moses parted the Red Sea. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, though not said to be prophets walked into and out of a Burning Furnace. Daniel, shut them out the lions. They did some mighty things. Now the prophets are great men that we can look up to. But none of them could say that I uphold the workings of the universe of my word. And that is who speaks to us today. Our life our breath is upheld by Jesus Christ. And I think we we need to be thankful for that. He sustains us.

But as we continue to read here, this whole chapter just builds upon why Jesus is better, says that when he had by himself purged our sins. The Old Testament laws built upon the system of sacrifice and temple worship, you sin. And then you take a goat, or lamb, or a cow to the temple and you sacrifice and the blood of that symbolically paid for your sins, but it didn't. It pointed us to the lamb, who would pay for our sins. No other person or animal or mechanism is able to pay for our sins. But it tells us here that he had by himself purged our sins. What makes Jesus better than the Prophet says that we're hearing from the person who paid for our redemption. The same person who paid for us to, to be redeemed from the pits of Hell, is the person who speaks to us and says, how it is we get into the kingdom of heaven. Now my notes here when I was doing I did the same thing I kind of skipped something about all things are upheld by his word and then went back to it and want to go back to this. All things being upheld by His Word tells us two things about Christ. One it tells us that he is he exists outside of creation. There is no prophet who existed outside of creation. No prophet who can say before the world was, before the sun and moon and stars was before the universe was I was. But when Jesus Christ speaks to us, we are hearing from one who was before what we see now. He was before us before the world and before the creation. But the second thing that tells us is that Jesus Christ is not dependent upon the creation. But the creation is dependent upon him.

He purged our sins, and sat down on the right hand, of the majesty on high. Think about that, Christ came down, and he took on the cross for us. He did what we could not do no amount of my works and efforts could pay for my sins, let alone attempt to pay for yours, and nothing you could do would pay for yours were for mine. But he came down, he stepped into creation. so that he could bear the cross and make a propitiation for our sins, so that he could redeem us. And that says that he sat down on the right hand, or the majesty on high. In other words, the work was finished. He didn't come and do a half job, but he finished it. And then he sat down. He took us place on the throne.

And then verse four tells us that he was made so much better than the angels. Now, I don't know how many of you struggle with with understanding this, isn't he God? Christ is God, right? He made the angels so how am I seing being made better than the angels? Over in the next chapter, I believe it's verse seven, chapter two, verse seven. It says that God made him a little lower than the angels. When he stepped into the world, when he stepped into creation, and took on flesh, he made himself lower than the angels. He made himself lower, then creation, for the purpose of taking on the cross. Because God in the fullness of His glory could cannot step down into Earth, that would have killed us, but he could not have died on the cross either. So he left his glory behind.

But in completing the will of the Father and being submissive, and, and doing the work of the Cross, he was made better than the angels, he was exalted. Now, the reason that the author of Hebrews is telling us this is because Jewish culture viewed the angels almost as exalted beings. They viewed the angels as mighty, as reverent, as holy. And the author here is actually making the angels as the counterpart of the prophets and he's saying Christ is better than the angels. He says, he has by inheritance, obtain a more excellent name, then they. So as we study, Hebrews, especially this chapter, we learn a couple of things here. The first thing we learn is that the there are no more prophets. And this is something a lot of people struggle with, people I've talked to us what God always had prophets. Why would he quit talking to us now God never stopped talking to us. He changed the way that he talks to us. And so we know that when people claim to be the prophet of God sent to be his spokesman. We know, wait a minute. God doesn't speak to us by the prophets anymore. He speaks to us by a son. But we have also learned that the Son is better than the prophets. We have learned that he is the heir of all things physical and spiritual. We have learned that he is the exact embodiment The Father and that to know Him is to know the father and all of creation is sustained that his word. But then the author of Hebrews, he continues through this chapter he wants to, he really wants us to know why Jesus is better. So if we continue reading in verse five, it says:

For unto what should the angel said he at any time, now are my son, this day have I begotten thee, and again, I will be to Him a father, and he shall be to me a son.

What we're what we're reading in the text, here is the author. Verse four is a transition from verses one to three, and then five, to fourteen. And the author says in that transition, Christ is even better than the angels. And now he is backing that statement up, because what Angel has God ever called his son? Has he ever said, I will be your father. He is not. But unto Christ, he has, in fact that says, and again, in verse six, when He bringeth forth the first Begotten into the world, he said, and that the angels of God worship Him. So when he brought Christ into the world, he said that the angels worship Christ. Now this is cool, because the angels worship in the Son of God tells us that He is God. God says in the 10 commandments, he says, I'm a jealous God, you shall have no other gods before me, no other idols. As we see people worship anything, whether it's idols, false gods themselves. God has always gotten upset with this idolatry. So we know that it's blasphemy to worship any other being except for God himself. And he says here in verse six, to the angels, that all of them, worship God. And now the angels he says in verse seven, who make it this angel spirits, and as ministers a flame of fire, but unto the son, he saith thy throne, Oh, God, is forever and ever. Now we need to remember who's speaking here. The author of Hebrews is not speaking here he is. He is writing down what the Father is saying, the father is saying, unto the Son. He's speaking to the son. And he says, thig throne, oh, God has forever and ever. There's, there is some significance in the statement that the father called Christ, "oh God." The father says, "Your throne, oh, God is forever and ever." And as we're talking about this, what makes Him better is that the Father recognizes Jesus as God, but his throne is forever. His his reign will never end. His reign is perfect.

But as we continue to read, we even see more about him It says that it's a sceptre of righteousness, and the sceptre of the kingdom, says that you have loved righteousness, verse nine that has loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Christ being God loves righteousness and hate sin. More so than we do. In fact, I think we cannot be honest to say we truly hate sin. Because we get so easily ensnared by it. So do the prophets. But Christ, perfectly loves righteousness and hates iniquity. But as we continue to see what the what the Father says to the son here, verse 10, he says, that thou Lord. Notice that the Father calls Jesus Lord, again, recognizing His divine nature, as God, in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the works of your hands. Why is Jesus better, he is better because He is the Creator. Never is the created better than the Creator, but Jesus in the beginning, so before creation, he laid the foundation of the earth. He rolled out the heavens like a scroll. He made all the different planets and the stars, the nebulas that we look at. On this own planet on a

stone rock we call home. He made the mountains and the valleys and the seas.

It tells us here that they would perish, verse 11, they shall perish, but thou remainest. Now Christ said the same thing he said that though heaven and earth will perish, my word shall not. Here the father is making a parallel statement. Though heaven and earth shall perish, Christ shall remain. He will remain through it all. But then that tells us that he is the same. It says, verse 12, and as a vest are shut out for them up and they shall be changed, but thou are the same, and that year shall not fall. Now Hebrews 11 eight says this different Hebrews 11 eight says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. And I think I gave him the wrong quote, that's verse chapter 13. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

As we get ready to close this evening. Talking about Jesus is better. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Where man, we change. Our interpretation of Scripture changes. Our personality changes, our likes, and our desires change. But Jesus Christ is the same. From before the foundation of the earth, was laid, until after the New Jerusalem descends from heaven, onto the new earth, He remains the same. He is better because what he deems His righteousness never changes. His promises never change. His Holiness never changes. We can rely upon him because the same God that we met, when we first got saved, he is the same God today and will be the same God when we die. When we change, he will stay the same. And he will be a rock that anchors us.

Through the next 12 weeks as we study the book of Hebrews, as we study Jesus, let us praise him for being better than us. Let us praise him for being better than the prophets for being better than the creation. But let us praise Him also for being the better substitute. I have a quote from JD Greer about Jesus, as we start the series I want to drive the point home that Jesus really is better.

Jesus is the truer and better Adam who passed the test in the garden, and whose obedience is now imputed to us. Remember that by Adam sin enter the world because of Adam, we die. But Jesus is the better Adam. By Jesus, we enter into eternal life. We are made righteous. Jesus is the truer and better Isaac, who was not just offered up by his father on the Mount, but was actually sacrificed for us. Now we're going to study the on this Wednesday in chapter 22, is where Abraham offers Isaac for sacrifice. But if you remember God stopped him. God said, Abraham, Abraham, lay not a hand on the lad. Neither do any harm. But when the second promise child, when Christ came into the world, God did not stop the sacrifice. He was sacrificed on our behalf. Jesus is the

truer and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people in the Lord and who mediates a new covenant. Moses was the great mediator of the Old Testament. He led them out of captivity from Egypt. he communicated to them everything from the beginning of the world to their point, we're talking 4000 years of work or 3000 years of history, he mediated all their complaints back and forth to God communicated the 10 commandments instituted. The Temple worship practices and the Levites. But Jesus is the better and truer Moses who stands that gap because He alone is the mediator and the high priest now, He grants his direct access into the sanctuary of God. And he is the mediator, he will step in for us before the throne of God. And he will say, I died for him. Jesus is the truer and better Job. He is the truly innocent sufferer who intercedes for his stupid friends. You remember job he suffered? But was he truly innocent? No, the Bible tells us that all have sinned and fall short the glory of God. But Jesus was truly innocent. He was sinless, says there was no deceit found in his mouth. And He intercedes for us. Who are his stupid friends? We really are. But He intercedes on our behalf. Jesus is the truer and better David whose victory became ours, even though we never lifted a stone to help him. He is the better ensure a Samson, who is crushed under the weight of the wicked world to conquer our enemies and save us remember Samson, after his eyes were gouged out. And he was chained up for the entertainment of others, prayed to God for strength one last time and brought that temple down. And he was crushed under the weight of it. But Jesus was crushed under the weight of the world under the weight of our sin, to conquer our universal enemy. He is the truer and better Jonah who was cast out into the storm, so that we can be brought in. And he is the real Passover lamb. Innocent, perfect, helpless. Remember the Passover lamb had to be white had to be spotless, how to be a firstborn. He is the perfect Passover Lamb slain. So the angel of death could Passover us. During the Passover in Egypt, the Angel of Death never looked to see if the people inside were perfect or sinless, or whether or not they were Jewish, or Egyptian, it simply look to see if the blood of the Lamb had covered them. And he is the Passover Lamb who covers us in His blood so that our past cannot condemn us. And he is the true temple, the true prophet, the true priest, the true king, the true sacrifice the true lamb, the true light and the true bread. In closing, why is Jesus better? The New Testament book of Luke, in chapter 24, verse 27, tells us that the at the beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them and all the scriptures that things concerning himself. The entire Old Testament exist to reveal Jesus Christ. It exists to tell us, of him. So I close this message tonight and open the series by just proclaiming that Jesus is better.

Let us pray. Father, we thank you that Jesus is better. Though we think you that he is better than the prophets not prone to change, not prone to sin, not created but he's the Creator. He is the heir of all things and he never changes according to your word. And so we can trust him. Now we thank you that he was the greater Passover Lamb of which no lamb could not save us but pointed us to him and by his blood, are we saved.

By his blood does the Angel of Death pass over us. Lord we thank you, but he is better than the angels, that he is better than all other things. Lord we thank you that by his word are we sustained? Is there breath in our lungs? Is there a life to be had? Lord, we just thank you that the Old Testament points us to him, tells us of his nature and who he will be. And we thank you, that unlike with Isaac, that you allowed him to die upon that cross, to actually be offered up for us that we can enter one day into your presence. Lord we thank you for all that you have done and we just ask as we go through the series and through the rest of our life, that we can do so remembering that Jesus is better and we can cling to that hope. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.