



Hebrews 1:2-3 God Has Spoken Through Jesus

Summary: Who is Jesus, and what has He done?

Last week you remember we spent our entire time together noticing the fact that God speaks. He *has* spoken in time past and He patiently, persistently, mercifully, *continues* to speak today through creation, through conscience, through Scripture, through His Spirit, and through Jesus Christ. So, you should expect to hear from God. That is natural and it is good.

We circle back to that theme this morning in order to listen to *what* God is saying, as He speaks through Christ the Son. I hope that the things you learn, or are reminded of today, will help you reframe the way you see the world and your life and give you hope that you can share with others as we learn five things about Jesus and why they matter for us today.

So, let's go back and review, and then we'll dig in

Hebrews 1:1 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,

Again, there are five things we're going to notice about Jesus from this passage. The first is that He is the **heir of all things** as in, the person who receives an inheritance.

All Christians believe in the second coming of Christ. They may disagree over the timing or the mode of His return, but all Christians believe He will come again to receive what is His and to judge and cast out all that is not.

For centuries, for millennia actually, the Church in all its various denominations and distinctives has held certain core beliefs captured in the Apostles Creed which says:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
[he descended to the dead.]

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

And it goes on from there. The point is that the Church has always held the future return of Christ to be a central point of belief.

We find that return portrayed in Scripture in Revelation 11 where the 7th trumpet sounds and

Revelation 11:15 ... there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

And then the elders who sit before God on his throne fall on their faces and sing a song of praise as Jesus receives His inheritance.

I tell you all of this so you will understand, Christians believe, and have always believed, that as bad as things may be right now, God will one day make them better, and Jesus will inherit and rule over what comes next.

But, why should that matter to you today? Two reasons, first it gives us hope – to know that there will be a tomorrow. Today may be ugly, and painful, and hard, but there is a future hope. Artificial Intelligence may take over and the robotic revolution may put us all out of work, totalitarian regimes might seize control, the climate might be changing, your relationship might end, the lab results may come back with a diagnosis of cancer, or worse. All kinds of things can, and might, go wrong in the short term, but there is, there really is, a better day ahead. When Jesus will return and receive His inheritance.

That knowledge has been a powerful source of hope and encouragement to many throughout the ages. My doctoral dissertation was on the role that Christian faith played in helping POWs and hostages survive captivity – they had hope that no matter how bad things got in the moment, they could look forward to all things being made right in the eternity. Negro spirituals are filled with the same thing, a people who were enslaved and oppressed had eternal optimism in a better future with Christ. All believed that He will come and collect His inheritance.

That is historic Christian doctrine. But it also holds devotional power, because *you* are His inheritance. *I* am the inheritance of Jesus Christ. *We* are what He will receive.

Some of you have been blessed to receive an inheritance, maybe some family heirloom, maybe you received a little money, maybe you received a lot of money, and you were blessed by what you received. Well, no one is leaving two million dollars to Jesus. He's receiving *you*, and *me*. *We* are the inheritance. Yes, there will be the new heavens and a new earth, but there will also be a new you, *and that's what Jesus will receive*.

Which is really just receiving back what He already made in the first place. Because, notice, as we come to our second point this morning, that God has: [spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds](#). So, Jesus was active at Creation.

We spoke about this last week when we noticed that Creation declares to us the glory of God – that the skies above us, the cells within us, and the world around us all serve as evidence of intentionality and design in the world, and the only reason to reject that evidence is because you reject the supernatural entirely, out of hand, which requires a certain amount of intellectual arrogance over honest curiosity.

Everything that exists, exists because God made it. Unfortunately, evil, sin, and disease have corrupted the world and deformed it, so that we can't see or hear God clearly through it, but it still whispers and mutters and mumbles His name.

Again, that is Christian belief, that is Christian doctrine, but it's not just for your head, it's also for your heart. Because if God can make all of that, He has tremendous power and strength and resources, so that there is nothing He cannot provide for you if needed.

And, you can never suffer total, permanent loss. There is nothing you can lose on this earth that cannot be restored forever by the Creator God in all of eternity. Think of it: if Jesus made the worlds, can He make whatever is necessary for you? Of course He can, in His way, in His timing.

We move on to the third thing we learn about Jesus, He is: [the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person](#). In other words, Jesus shows us God. Remember, we spoke of this last week, that God has spoken to us through creation, through conscience, through the prophets, and ultimately by His Son. John said it this way in His gospel:

[John 1:14](#) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

The disciples realized they were seeing God in Jesus. In fact, Jesus told them this plainly. John's gospel records a conversation they had toward the end of Jesus' life:

[John 14:8](#) Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

[9](#) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10](#) Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. [11](#) Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Jesus is saying the whole point of the miracles He did was to validate His claim to be God. He was breaking and bending the laws of nature to prove that He had created them. That He was God.

As we read in Hebrews, He is the [the brightness of \[God's\] glory](#). But I need you to understand what this says. The moon does not produce any light, it has none of it's own, what you see is the moon reflecting the light of the sun. That is not what happens with Jesus – He was not just a good reflector of the light of God, He was the [the brightness of \[God's\] glory](#).



Think more like a beam, or ray of visible light, that's Jesus. He is the means by which we are able to see and understand God more clearly. As Jesus said, [He who has seen Me has seen the Father](#).



Our passage in Hebrews also says Jesus is: [the express image of His person](#). The word used here in the original Greek writing is the same word used for stamping a coin from a die. So what comes out is the exact impression, the exact image, the exact representation of the original.

In the book of Colossians we read in [Col 2:9 For in Him \[Christ\] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily](#). We can't fully wrap our heads around it, but we are meant to know it – Jesus was fully God, missing nothing.

And what do we see in this flawless expression of the nature of God? Suffering love.

Think about this, because it is important. Your mind has to grasp it before your heart can be moved by it. When Jesus came, He could have come with shattering power – He could have come with blistering rage and violent justice, but He came first with suffering love. That is what God wants you to see and know. He is love. He was willing to suffer, *for you*. He has wrath, and justice, and power, but that is not how He choose to introduce Himself. First, He chose to extend to you, to us, mercy, patience, and love.

Jesus went and hung out with people who blew it. He hung out with women of unquestionably bad character. He hung out with men who were hypocrites and full of prejudice. He hung out with people who were shady. *And He compelled them to be better*. To repent. To turn from living life their own way and follow Him. Jesus actually sought people like that out. So if you feel like your life is a mess, then friends, I'm here to tell you, you're the kind of person who would be on Jesus' invite list and that's the heart of God, because Jesus is [the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person](#).

When you read the Bible and see Jesus making a beeline for the poor, the outcast, the hurting, the suffering, the people who had made a mess of their lives and probably had too much to drink, that's God showing you, He cares about you. He wants to rescue and redeem you. And He has the power to do it.

Notice what we see next, number four.

Hebrews 1:3... [Jesus] uphold[s] all things by the word of His power...

He bears all things, carries all things, sustains, guides, and propels all things. If you grew up in church you learned to sing, *He's got the whole world in His hands*. And not only does He hold it, He *upholds* it, He sustains it. He holds it all together. So, fit this together with what we already know: He created the universe, maintains it, and directs its course and He **uphold[s] all things by the word of His power**.

Many of the problems we have in our lives and society today are because we foolishly think we can be God. We think we can hold everything together. With our wisdom, with our technology, with our policies, with our good ideas and our grit, we think we can create a good life and hold it all together. And we're wrong. We make crummy gods.

There's this great scene in the original Avengers movie - perhaps you remember it. Loki, Thor's brother has returned to earth to try and take over, but he's met with resistance from the Avengers. Hawkeye and Black Widow are giving him some trouble and then he's flung into Stark Towers by the Hulk, but he eventually gets up, dusts himself off and says: Enough! You are, all of you are beneath me! I am a **god**, you dull creature, and I will not be b - and he can't even finish his sentence before Hulk picks him up and starts swinging him around like a rag doll before throwing him away like a dirty shirt and declaring, "Puny god."



My friends, that is you and me. Loki, not Hulk, to be clear. Life is like the Hulk - it grabs us, throws us around, and shows us who is boss. We are puny, pathetic, and self-deluded into thinking we can run our lives our way and always get the outcome we want. We think we can uphold all things by our own power. We can make it work. But we're really just puny, ego-centric, little g, gods.

It is far, far, better to let God be God. Let Him be the one that upholds your marriage. Let Him be the one that upholds your family, your career, your team. Let Him be the one that upholds your sanity. Let Him be the one who holds you together, physically, mentally, emotionally, psychologically.

By the way, do you know where the word psychology comes from? It's the study of the psyche. OK, but what's that? Well, to the Greeks it was not simply the mind which was given to philosophy, it was not simply the brain and it's thoughts, it's neuropathways and receptors, no, it meant the soul, the spiritual essence of who you are - maybe you need to invite the creator and redeemer of your soul to hold it together for you - to **uphold it by His power**.

The authors of the New Testament went through some really difficult times, persecution, famines, long travels, bad weather, lack of food and even clothing at times, but through it all they maintained their certainty that God's love, backed by God's power, would bring God's kingdom, in God's timing.

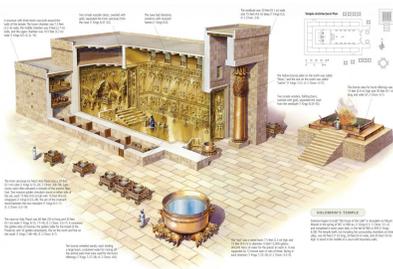
And ever since those early days of the church, this belief that God holds all things together by the power of His word has given His people the confidence and hope they need to press on. Your hands are not as big as His. Go ahead and look down at your hands, look over at your spouses' or your friends' hands – they are not as big as God's, they cannot hold or uphold all things - and that's OK. Let's let God be god, and accept the fact that we're always going to be puny in the grand scale of things.

We come to the fifth point I hoped we could see about Jesus this morning:

Hebrews 1:3 when He had by Himself purged our sins, [He] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Jesus did something no one else could do, He purged our sins. He made the way for reconciliation between God and man. And on the cross He cried out "it is finished!"

Last week we said that the overarching theme of Hebrews is, Jesus is Better. Better than anything else religion has to offer and here we see one reason why. After Jesus purged our sins, cleaned up our mess, paid for our wrongs, He sat down.



If you go back and look at the Tabernacle, or the Temple, the centers of worship in the Old Testament, you see they were full of very specific pieces of furniture. God told Moses how to design, build, and use the brass altar, the laver – a big sink for washing, the table of show bread, the altar of incense, the golden candlestick, and even the ark of the covenant, but there were no chairs. There was no place to sit because the priest's work was never done, there was always something else to do.

In fact, turn with me a few pages over and look at Hebrews 10 where we see this idea expanded.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by **one offering** He has perfected **forever** those who are being sanctified. 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

What this is saying is, there are no more offerings you can make for sin, because Jesus has done it all. He has purged all sin, past, present, and future. The sins you can't remember any more, the sins that are haunting you right now, and the sins you'll commit later this week,

can all be forgiven in Christ, if you will turn to Him and ask - **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

I was having a conversation about this with someone earlier this week, we had just had dinner together – Five Guys, and I had picked up the bill. So I said, what if Five Guys tried to call you tomorrow and say, hey, you took a burger and some fries from our store. You would say yes, I did, and they were delicious, and they were paid for.

The store wouldn't say, yes, but *you* didn't pay for them. Would you say, you know, you're right, I ate them, but I did not pay for them, can you take my credit card number over the phone so we can work this out? No, you would say, it doesn't matter who paid for them, they were paid for, and they were given to me.

It is the same with our sin. Jesus picks up the tab. There is a cost involved. But He covers it all and then, He goes and sits down because there's nothing left to do. You can't add anything to it. The bill is paid, no one can ever come after you for repayment. **where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.**

Christian, you have got to understand this, this is super important stuff: if there is no longer an offering for sin, then you can't make one for yourself. If Jesus really has purged your sins, there's nothing left for you to clean up. You may feel guilt, you may feel shame, you may feel anxious or depressed or angry, take that to Jesus. Ask Him to help you. Because there is nothing you can do for God to add to what Jesus has done. Your bill has been paid.

You want to be better, I get it. I do too. You want to be delivered, you want to change, I get it, I do too. That's a good thing. We want to be made more and more like Jesus every day. We want to be informed by Scripture and empowered by the Spirit. But you have to know, there's no more sacrifice required, your bill has been paid. God does not love some future version of you, after you suffer and struggle for a while to make some sacrifice for Him, after you're able to help pay your own way spiritually speaking, He loves you, in Christ, right here, right now. There's nothing for you to add to what He has done.

And, He's got this. Yes, you're facing some challenges, some trials, some hardships, but you don't need to get all worked up about current events and things you can't control, you're a puny little god – but you can rest in Jesus who made the world, will inherit the world, shows the world the image of God, upholds all things by the power of His Word, and who has purged us of our sins and taken His seat at the right hand of God.

Trust Him. Love Him. And make yourself increasingly available to serve Him – who knows, He may use you to resist the forces of darkness in this world, but it's going to happen His way, in His timing, with His strength.

Let's pray.



Sermon Application and Discussion Questions

Hebrews 1:2-3 God Has Spoken Through Jesus

Summary: Who is Jesus, and what has He done?

- What role has the Apostle's Creed played in your life? Is it something you have memorized? Was it commonly used in a church you once attended?
- How does the knowledge that Jesus will return give you hope?
- How do you react to the knowledge that you are part of His inheritance?
- How does knowing that Jesus created everything that is affect the way you look at the world?
 - How can you draw hope and encouragement from this fact?
 - How can this knowledge prompt you to worship?
- Jesus said He who has seen Me has seen the Father (John 14:9). What does that tell us about God? What are some traits and characteristics you see in Jesus?
- In what areas of life do you most want to hold things together?
 - When has life proved to you that you are a puny god who can't do that effectively and consistently?
 - How does knowing that Jesus upholds all things offer you comfort and reassurance? Where do you need to apply this knowledge to your life and what difference could it make? What will make it hard to trust God?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Isaiah 6:1-7. What do you learn about purging sin?
 - Why does God have to purge us instead of allowing us to cleanse ourselves?
- Why is it significant that Jesus has made one **final** offering for sin?
 - Does this mean we can do whatever we want now that the bill has been paid?
 - Have you ever felt like you needed to help Jesus cover the bill? Why did you feel that way? What did you think you could do to help with the cost of your sin? What have you learned since then?