

Heb 1:1-4

Part 1 - The Supremacy of Jesus

Today we embark on a massive journey that will carry us well into next year. We will travel the pages of the letter to the Hebrews for the next 35 weeks, give or take a few. And in traveling the pages of this book it is my hope that we will come away with a more glorious view of Jesus, a deeper understanding of his salvific work, full acceptance of his supremacy, and, ultimately, we will have gained spiritually what we need to persevere in the faith, regardless of what lies ahead.

Why Hebrews? Because this letter was written to disciples who needed to see Jesus again—to see him clearly enough, gloriously enough, and fully enough that they would not turn back. And perhaps before these 35 weeks are over, we will discover that we need the same thing. Take heart in the fact that just like this will be for many of us the first time sitting through a preaching journey of this length it is my first time preaching a series of this length. So, we are truly undertaking this huge endeavor together.

Now a little background on Hebrews. First, we do not know who the author is, but that has no bearing on the powerful truth this letter proclaims. Second, it was written to a church in crisis. They had experienced suffering because of their faith, and now spiritual weariness, discouragement, and drift threatened their perseverance. Finally, no other writing in the NT does a more faithful and thorough job of tying together the life and work of Jesus Christ with OT history and practices. I believe the apex of this sermon letter is that in Jesus the old covenant was brought to completion and whatever it may cost one to follow him is worth it.

This morning I want us to ponder these first four verses, and I want us to do so in light of this question: **Is the Jesus that we profess to follow the Jesus of scripture?** To help us faithfully answer this question I want to share three identifying truths I see here regarding the Jesus of scripture.

**First, Jesus is the culminating word of God. V1-2a** “Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup> And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son.” **God spoke through Moses and the prophets; in the Son, God reveals Himself. That is to say, all that God has spoken and done culminates in Jesus. The works and Word of God in the OT point us to the Son (expound).** And since all that God has done and spoken culminates in the Son, his supremacy is unquestioned. Jesus is not another option among other good options. He is more than a good rabbi, a sage of some sort, a good moral example. He is the literal Word incarnate, the second person of the Godhead. Does this describe the Jesus you profess to follow?

**John 1:1-4, 18** In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.....<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.” **NLT**

**Second, Jesus has always existed. V2b-3a** “God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.” **God through Jesus brought all things into existence**

and holds all things together. In form, nature and power Jesus is the exact imprint of God. To know Jesus is to know God because he alone perfectly reveals God. Hear me! Jesus is not a created being. He is not God's response to the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. He is not God's solution to Satan, nor is Satan his fallen brother. He has always been with God because he is God. And when he was born of a woman, he came willingly, according to the Father's purpose and for the salvation of our souls. And the supremacy of the One who created all things and holds all things together can never ultimately be questioned, challenged, or diminished. As his followers we boast in this fact for the salvation of souls. Jesus has always existed because he is God. Does this describe the Jesus you profess to follow?

**Col 1:15- 17** "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, <sup>16</sup>for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together." **NLT**

**Third and final thing, Jesus has no equal. V3b-4** "When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. <sup>4</sup>This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names." As the Son of God, Jesus has no equal. Not angels. Not Muhammad. Not Confucius. Not Buddha. Not anyone. Neither is there any teaching equivalent to his gospel. Jesus is the only person to ever live a perfect life, die for the sins of the world, rise from the grave and ascend to heaven, sitting on the right hand of Majesty. He is the only means of God's saving grace to humanity and apart from

him no one can be saved. What he accomplished for us on Calvary and is now doing for us as he sits at the right hand of Majesty is unmatched. Listen! His atoning work is complete and his priestly ministry on our behalf continues. He sat down because, regarding the sacrifice necessary for our salvation, there is nothing left to be done. Do you believe this and is this the Jesus you profess to follow?

**Acts 4:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” **NLT**

**1 Tim 2:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.” **NLT**

Let me close. Over these next 35 weeks, I want us to look again at Jesus. Not the Jesus American culture has constructed. Not the Jesus we have formulated to fit our preferences. Not even the Jesus we think we already know. **I want us to see the Jesus of Scripture.** The One through whom God reveals Himself. *The One through whom the worlds were made. The One who holds the universe together by the power of his word. The One who purified us from our sins. The One who sat down at the right hand of Majesty.* **This is Jesus. And there is no one like him.** If this is not the Jesus you have known, hope is not lost. You can receive this Jesus today. Don’t be ashamed. Don’t be embarrassed. Don’t delay. This is not fearmongering. It is not condemnation. Sisters and brothers, this is love because there is no greater gift I can offer you than the Jesus of scripture. The supremacy of Jesus. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**