

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Book of Hebrews

Let's pray...

[Heb 1:1-4 NKJV] 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, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Now, before we start looking our text more closely – I want to provide a little background, the theme and the main purpose of the book of Hebrews.

As far as who the author is of the book of Hebrews – we really don't know.

But here are three possibilities.

1. Some people believe that Apostle Paul wrote it –

The problem with this is that in all the other epistles that Paul wrote, he clearly identifies himself as the writer

And also, the book of Hebrews is written in a different style than his other epistles.

2. Another possibility is Barnabas – he was Paul’s traveling companion during the early missionary journeys. He was a Levites, we find that in the book of Acts (4:36) - and therefore would have had good knowledge of the Jewish sacrificial system.
3. Apollos – He was the one who reasoned powerfully with the Jews. (Acts 18:24-28). He was eloquent and a learned individual. He knew the scriptures. And the language and the style that is used – leads the possibility that Apollos might be the author.

But again, we really don’t know.

When was it written –

It is believed that it was written before the destruction of the Temple by Rome – we see no mention of the end of the sacrificial system –

And then we also see Timothy is mention in the later chapters –

So the time frame is between 64-68 AD

This is important – because this was a time of great persecution against the church –

Which leads us to – who was it written to

Hence the title “Hebrews” – it was written to a group of Jewish believers

Now – for those that were here on Sunday morning – remember the warning that Jesus gave to His disciples

[Jhn 16:2 NKJV] 2 "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

If you were a follower of the Jesus Christ – because of your association to Him, you were kicked out of the synagogues and as I mentioned on Sunday – your livelihood would be taken away

And remember, most of the early church was made up of Jewish believers –

So this brings us to the why –

Why was this letter written?

Because of the persecution they were going through – this group of Jewish believers were thinking about going back to Judaism.

Instead of simply abiding in Jesus Christ - they were thinking of going back to living according to the Law.

Returning to observing the Sabbath

Returning to observing the Feasts that the Jews were required to observe every year

The Feast of the Passover

The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Weeks

They were thinking about returning to the sacrificial system – where one would have to bring a sacrifice to the Temple every year for the covering of their sin.

So the writer writes this letter to them to point out how everything they are going back to – is just a shadow of something greater – and of course, that is Jesus Christ

So the writer exhorts them to stay with Jesus by giving them reason after reason why Jesus is superior to anything they want to go back to.

Jesus is not just one of many options when it comes to being “religious”.

Jesus is the only option.

He is far superior to all other options, and the writer of Hebrews will lay this all out – especially in the first 10 chapters of the book of Hebrews.

[Heb 1:1-4 NKJV] 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

Here is a very important truth we have to understand –

We cannot know God unless He reveals Himself to us first.

Remember, God is always the initiator.

His desire is for us to have an intimate relationship with Him

And so therefore, He spoke / He revealed Himself to us at various times and in many various ways

I had you make a note of the word various – because it means that God spoke by many times and in many ways.

One of the ways He revealed Himself to us is through creation –

[Psa 19:1-4 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 [There is] no speech nor language [Where] their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

Paul wrote -

[Rom 1:20 NKJV] 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

All people have to do is open their eyes and look around

Look at the sky at night

The existence of creation demands the eternal existence of an all-powerful God.

The most basic logic proves beyond doubt that if there is a creation – therefore, there must be a Creator!

To deny this, is to uproot all reason – it's to commit intellectual suicide

The Creation denier says – “I believe that we all came from a blob of goo – that after millions of years – the blob of goo had eyes and after hundreds of millions of years – the goo became a monkey – and so on.”

That is what David is saying in Psalm 19

Every human being who has ever lived, regardless of where or when, has always been able to look up into the skies and see the signature of God.

As clear as God has spoken through creation, God spoke even clearer through the ancient prophets.

He didn't speak once, but many times, and in many ways.

God spoke through the personal ministries of prophets like Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha.

Kings were given guidance by the prophets about things like where an enemy would attack.

Some prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel wrote out God's words.

We have hundreds of things spoken of before they would happen.

And one subject that the prophets speak about time after time that of the coming King, the Messiah.

There are over 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament about the first coming of our Savior.

Jesus fulfilled all of them.

These are not vague prophecies, but things that were specific, like telling where He would be born, His virgin birth, what His life would be about, His miracles, the manner of His death, and even His resurrection.

God spoke – the problem is that we don't want to listen.

We don't want to hear how God has revealed Himself to us – what we want to do is make God in our own image / the way we want Him to be – so we can continue to live the way we want.

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;

Compared to all that God spoke through the prophets, God has spoken clearest in these last days through His Son Jesus Christ.

You see, through the prophets – God revealed Himself in bits and pieces.

But in Christ, God Himself takes on human form and speaks the Word of consummation and completion.

If you want to know what God is like, you have to look no further than Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 14:8-9 NKJV] 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'?"

In Jesus we find the fullness of the revelation of God, and so, the Sum of all Truth, all Understanding, and Wisdom.

That means if someone is seeking the Truth – their search will end in Christ.

For Jesus IS The Way, The Truth, and The Life!

He is the full and FINAL revelation of God.

All those who claim that God has given further revelation and deeper truth since Christ, demean God's final word in His Son. And this is exactly what those individuals that

knocks on your door on Saturday morning do – they demean God’s final word in His son.

This group of Jews are wanting to go back to God’s revelation through the prophets – these snippets, these shadows

Yet, in Jesus – they have God’s complete revelation in Him.

I had you make a note in the middle of verse 2: **He has appointed heir of all things**

Jesus is the lawful owner of everything

He alone inherited all that God is and has

And the Father has willed everything to the Son –

So what does this mean for you and me –

By faith, we now have everything that Jesus has.

Turn with me to Ephesians 1

[Eph 1:11-12 NKJV] 11 In Him (Jesus) also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

This is what the author of Hebrews is saying – those of us who have trusted in Christ – can trust, that all that is His is ours by faith.

That when we look to Him, when we follow Him, all that is His is ours.

Why is Jesus superior?

Because He is the appointed heir – no one else is the appointed heir

We only share in that inheritance, by relationship and by faith

So the author of Hebrews is asking, “Do you really want to leave this relationship?”

Are you going to turn your back on Jesus Christ – knowing that in Him you have everything????

At the end of verse two, the author provides another reason that Jesus is superior –

He is the Creator - He made the worlds

Jesus is the Creator of the universe

Again, this goes in contrary to what the cults tell you –where they want to introduce to you a Jesus that was created.

Where they both introduce Jesus as just another created exalted being

That is not what the bible teaches –

The bible teaches that unequivocally, that Jesus is the Creator

[Jhn 1:3 NKJV] 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

What was made that wasn't made by Jesus? Nothing

It says here - without Him nothing was made that was made.

You want to know another reason that Jesus is greater than all the prophets? Because, He created them.

The Creator is always greater than the creation

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,

Jesus Christ is the radiant light that shines forth of God's glory.

The word being refers to the absolute and timeless existence.

When we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we come into the presence of the Holy One.

The shekinah glory of God radiates from Him.

The visible glory at the bush , the cloud that lead the Children of Israel by night and day, the shekinah glory that dwelt above the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies – those were all shadows that pointed to Jesus and the glory that radiates from Him

Check this out -

[Isa 42:8 NKJV] 8 I [am] the LORD, that [is] My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

God firmly declares that He will not give or share His glory with another.

Yet here we find that the Son IS the brightness of God's glory

And not only that - the express image of His person

The Son doesn't reflect God's glory, like the moon reflects the light of the Sun.

The Son is the sun itself – He radiates the light and brightness of glory.

He is not a representative of God –

He is not a copy of God

He is the very person of God made visible.

The next thing the author of Hebrews points to - upholding all things by the word of His power

Besides being Creator – Jesus is the Sustainer of the universe.

It is His power that holds the very fabric of creation together

He is the One who keeps everything together.

Including our lives

Including our marriages

And even during times when we are faithless, He remains faithful and He has promised not to leave us or forsake us.

He is the One who sustains the universe and many times we make the mistake of looking elsewhere for sustenance –

Let's look at the last portion of verse 3

when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the Holy of holies with the blood of a goat and sprinkle some of it on the mercy seat.

This provided a temporary covering of the sins of the nation for another year.

But the point was the high priest brought the blood of a sacrificial offering – a goat.

He didn't, as we read here, "by himself" purge sins – he needed the blood of a suitable sacrifice!

The reason why the high priest couldn't purge sins "by himself" was because he, like the people he represented, was sinful.

Jesus, on the other hand, "by Himself" purged out sins.

He was perfect and sinless and brought His own blood in to the heavenly holy place to provide perfect redemption and forgiveness of our sins.

Our sins haven't been merely covered over – they've been purged – expunged, erased, wiped out, removed, cast away, eradicated, nuked, dissolved.

John the Baptist told us this when he saw Jesus coming -

[Jhn 1:29 NKJV] 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

And having purged my sin and having purged your sin – the Son has now taken a seat at the favored place.

This is where Jesus is today.

After He died, He was buried, and then on the third day He rose from the dead.

He hung around with the disciples for forty days before finally ascending into heaven, where He is seated at God's right hand.

The right hand was the place of authority / the place of respect

[Phi 2:9-11 NKJV] 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the

earth, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

And not only that – at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is making intercessions on our behalf.

There is only One Mediator between God and man – the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim 2:5)

There is no other mediator between us and God

Only Jesus is that door way

And he prays on our behalf -

4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

The Jewish people honored and revered angels as the messengers of God.

In their view of things, animals were the lowest form of life, then humans, angels, and then at the summit – God.

So for the Jew, there was a problem –

Because if God became a man, then that means that now He was lower than angels,

Here the author is saying that the Son, though He was for a time humbled to a station below angels, has now been elevated above them.

In fact, he wants his readers to understand that it's improper for them to think of Jesus as merely an angel – that is not the name the Father has given Him.

His name is higher than any angel.

His name is Emmanuel – “God With Us.”

Jesus was given a work to do that was never entrusted to any angel.

So though the Son was for a time lower than the angels in terms of His incarnation, through the incarnation, He was able to accomplish something that no angel ever could, and that was to provide salvation from sins.

This then sees Him exalted above the angels to reclaim the glory and position He had enjoyed before the incarnation.

Jesus is superior to the prophets – because In Him we find the fullness of the revelation of God

Jesus is superior to the priests because He provided Himself as a sacrifice – a sacrifice that was done once and for all

Jesus is superior to angels - because of His inheritance and because of His name.

You see church – the author is making the point to show that Jesus is clearly God

He is greater than anything else these Jews are going to encounter if they go back to Judaism.

And the same goes for us – we might think that our lives were so much easier before we came to Christ

And we want to quit –

So the author of Hebrews speaks to our hearts to –

Jesus is greater than anything we go back to

He is God

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

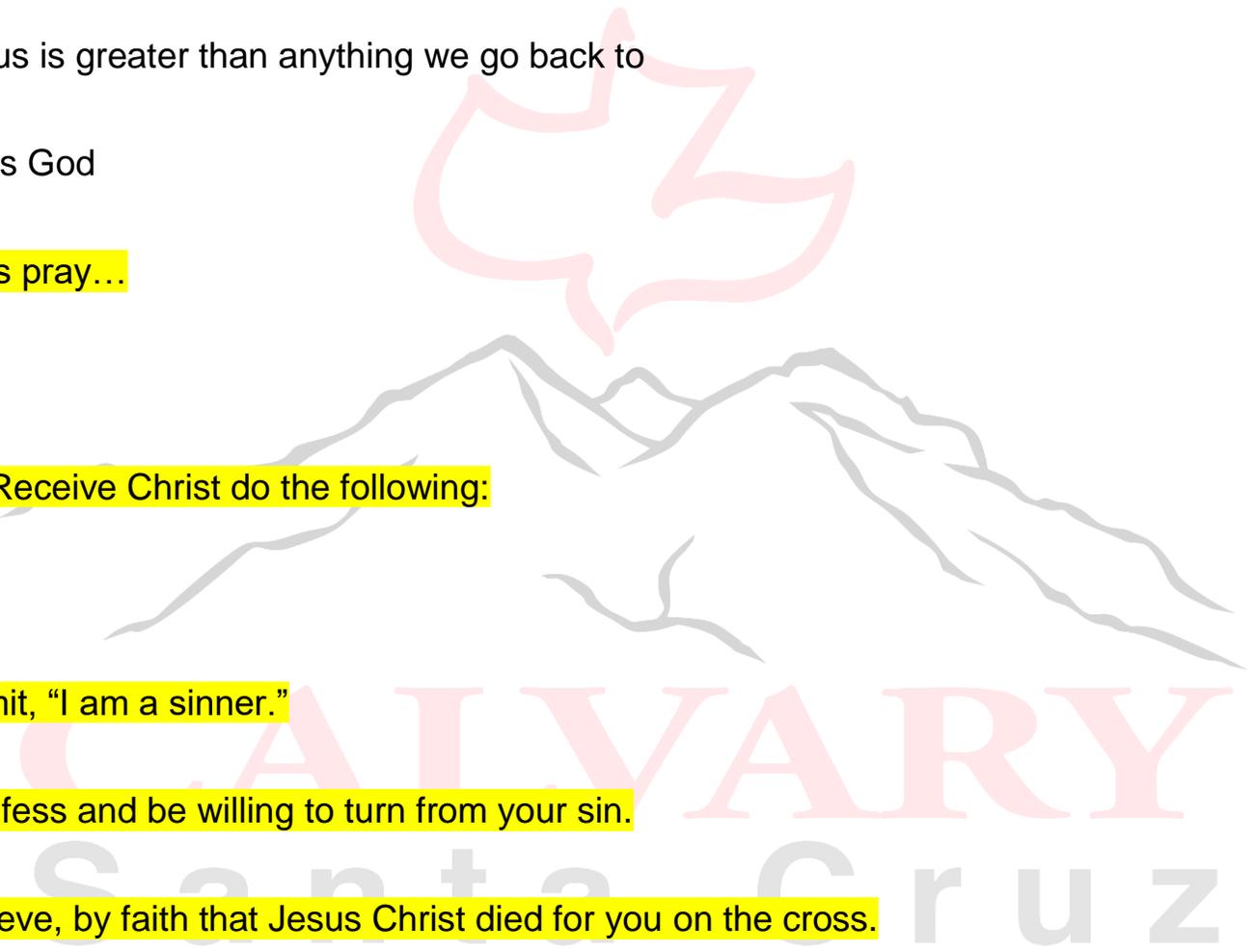
Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,



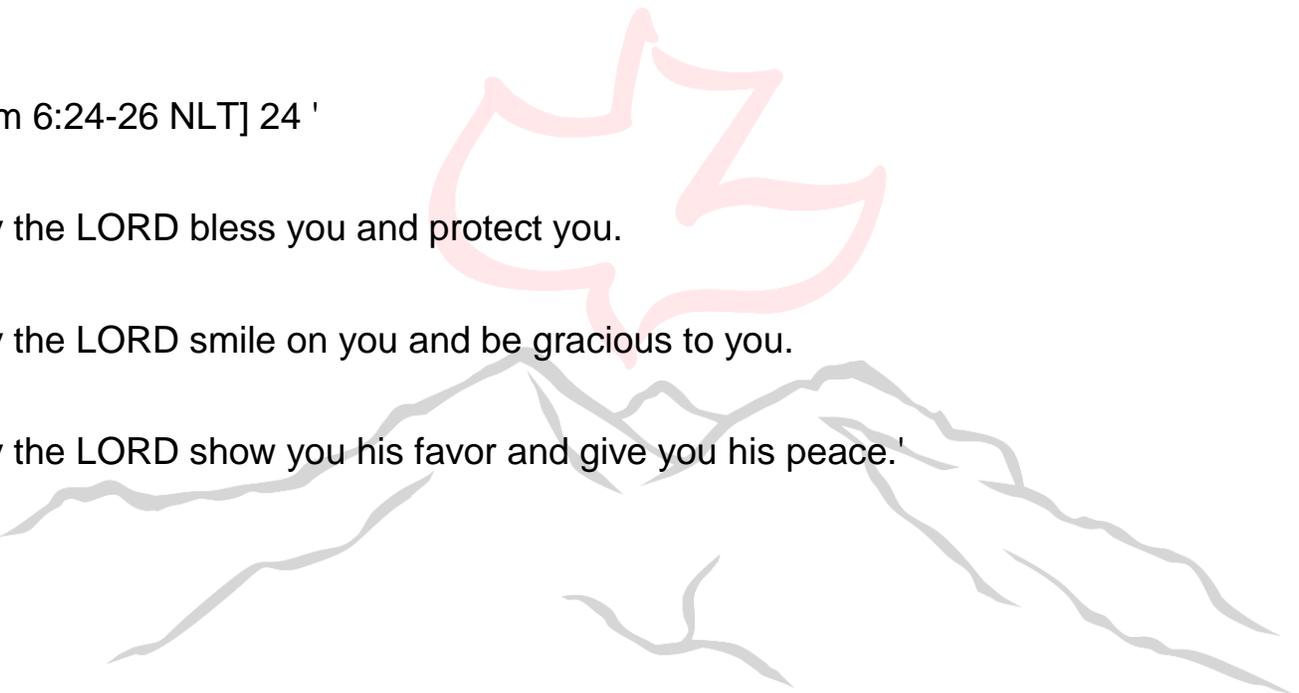
I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.!



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