

Hebrews 1:1-4 – Jesus is Better Than... Lesson Summary

Any public speaking course would tell you to know your message and know your audience. These are two fundamental skills of communication. While the author of Hebrews is unknown, their audience and message were not. As we begin our study of Hebrews we immediately see that Christ will be the star of the show. The letter is written to a group of former Jews who have now professed Christ. However, they are facing extreme pressure from Jews to return to the “true faith” and practice of their ancestry or to conform to the culture around them. In the midst of all of this, the author of Hebrews will continually encourage them to place Christ upon the throne of their life.

The letter of Hebrews begins differently than most letters. There is no greeting, no mention of the author, and no real introduction. Instead, we are immediately reminded of God’s relationship with His people throughout their history. The author clearly states that God’s story is intimately connected to Christ. Within four short verses, Christ will be elevated above all. This theme will continue throughout the letter. Jesus is greater than the angels, He’s the greater Moses, He’s the great High Priest, the fulfillment of God’s covenant, the object of our worship, our deliverer, and He’s the One who empowers our faith and in which we place our faith. Jesus is ultimate. Is He ultimate in your life? The following truths should challenge us.

1) **God Continually Speaks** (vs. 1-2)

We are reminded that long ago (from the beginning) God has been revealing Himself through His Word. Initially through the prophets and now through Christ. By making this statement the author is intimately connecting the Old Test. with the New. God’s promises of the Old Test. have found their “yes and amen” in Christ. He is the fulfillment of God’s plan and the hope for our future. We must ask, are we listening to God’s Word or the words of our culture? Is Jesus the dominant voice in your life?

2) **Christ Continually Sustains** (v. 3a)

Nothing else will sustain us. The audience of Hebrews are being tempted to look to something other than Jesus to sustain them. They are being tempted to look back with longing, or, to look forward with lust. They are struggling to believe that Christ meets them exactly where they are, that He provides for them both now and in the future, and that He alone sustains. Ligon Duncan says it well, *“If you’re lacking and empty, it’s not because Jesus is not what you need, or not all that you need, it’s because you don’t have enough of Him.”* What or who sustains you?

3) **Christ Eternally Reigns Supreme** (vs. 3b-4)

In the final verses of the author’s “introduction” we find that Jesus has been there from the beginning. He’s the author of creation, eternally existing with the Father and Spirit. He entered into His creation in order to bring those who believe in Him into eternal glory. He’s the heir, the exact representation of the Father, the One who fulfills God’s promise of salvation, and is sitting at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf. Does He reign supreme in your life; is He ultimate?

Placing our hope in things other than Christ leaves us empty, unstable, and pursuing what won’t last. We end up listening to the wrong voices, consuming what doesn’t satisfy, and being ruled by lies rather than the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do you think the Hebrews (former Jews) were struggling to accept these words? Why do you think they were tempted to go back to their old way of faith?
- 2) What are some ways you are looking back and longing for the past? What are some ways that you are looking forward desiring “better” things? Why do you think it’s so hard to be content/satisfied with where God has you in this moment?
- 3) What are some of the things that you have pursued in your life that have left you feeling empty? Do you really believe that living for Christ can fill that emptiness?