

Heb. 1:1-6; Phil. 3:7-11; The Supremacy of Jesus Christ I. The Perfect Revelation II. The Lord of Creation III. The Image of the Father IV. The One Worthy of Worship

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, last Sunday as we considered the transfiguration of Jesus Christ we were struck by His glory which shone forth from Him. This week we build upon that theme by seeing the supremacy of Christ revealed in the opening of Heb. 1. Verses 1-4 are one long sentence in the Greek- an anthem to the greatness of Christ! The book of Hebrews reads like a sermon- there is no author or recipient listed in the opening. Rather, the first 12 chapters focus on how Christ is better- greater compared to all others- supreme over all. It is a word of exhortation to the church as she struggles with worry- being distracted and discouraged. The church can grow weary- as she is persecuted- some reconsider the high cost of discipleship. Can we go back- is it really worth it? Today we see that the supremacy of Jesus Christ calms our fears and moves us to worship!

I. The Perfect Revelation

We start by seeing how Jesus is better than all the prophets that had come before. In the times past- v. 1 says- God spoke in many ways. His Special revelation coming in dreams and visions- even uttered word from the cloud and visual sermons in the life of the prophets. God also spoke in various times- from the Garden of Eden up to John the Baptist- over the span of many years and generations. But now- highlighting that something new and different is on the horizon! Something better is at hand- now God speaks to us by His Son. It is remarkable that God has spoken at all- He is the knowable God. But from the many to the single- from the lesser to the greater- now we have the perfect and final prophet Jesus Christ! There is a progression through the ages- as the picture of Christ takes shape- but now in these last days we have the full picture! Jesus is the final spokesman sent from God. The OT prophets received the truth and then passed that message on. What they said was right- but never did we get the whole picture. Revelation progressed until Jesus- who is the final Word- and now nothing more is needed! What God wanted us to know has become correct and clear! So we believe that God is- and that God has spoken! He is not the unknown

God- but rather HE is close and clear! Telling us who He is by His very own lips. We can in Christ know the truth- and be set free! The Word from God is one of grace- good news for those walking in the darkness! Everything we need to know for our salvation has been revealed in Him! The fact is- the Bible is not about you or me- but about Him and spoken by Him! It is God Word spoken in Christ- as Luke 24 says- all these things are written about Me to be fulfilled by Me! So Christ is greater than all other prophecies because He is the final and complete word- spoken directly from God. There is nothing left out- there is nothing else that is needed! Now is the time of fulfillment.

II. The Lord of Creation

Added to this, Christ is also the Lord of all creation. As v. 2 continues- Christ is the agent by which this world was made. All things were made by Him- formed in His hands. As John 1 echoes, by Him all things were made. Nothing that is came to be apart from His work. All that is was fashioned by Him. Through Him- by means of the Son- the world came into being. Literally He made the ages- space, time history- the very existence of all is His doing. As v. 10 echoes- you laid the foundations of the earth in the beginning, the heavens are the world of your hands. And He is the heir of these as well- fulfilling Psalm 2. The Father appointed Him to be the end, conclusion and recipient of all that has been made. The goal of History is Christ- the purpose of this world is to be His! Being a 1st born heir in the OT meant that you received a double portion- but since Jesus is the only begotten Son- He is the heir of all! Everything- nothing is outside of His possession! All things being set under His feet- all power and authority belonging to Him! The purpose of life itself- the creation of all that there is- is all for the glory of the Son! V. 5- you are my Son- I have begotten you. He is the heir- but He is also the sustainer. A v. 3 says- He upholds the universe by the power of His Word. He bears all- literally He carries all- holding it together until it is brought to the proper end! We can see that Jesus is carrying creation- moving History until all things arrive at its goal- the telos! Daily life and development is a credit to the power of His hand. He carries the world and causes it to endure. The promise that God gave to Noah in Gen. 8 is the work of Christ- as long as this world endures,

seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer will not cease! Our world is not destroyed- rather it is carried on towards the designed purpose is a credit to our Lord! He does have the whole world, in His hands! And He is the ruler over all. Not only sustaining all- but as v. 4 says- ruling over all! The earth is His footstool- and every enemy will be placed under His feet! His name is highly exalted over all! Who else sits at the Father's right hand? Having conquer victoriously- none can withhold from His hand! As 2:8 says- everything is put in subjection under His feet. Nothing is outside of His control.

III. The Image of the Father

Added to the glory of His lordship over creation, the Son is also the image and radiance of God. As v. 3 says, He is the radiance of God's glory. Now this point coincides with our passage from Luke 9 last week- at His transformation the glory of God was evident in the Son's appearance. Jesus is here called the radiance of God's glory. Radiating God's glory, this does not mean that Jesus is like the moon that reflects the sun. Rather, the radiance of the Son means that He is in possession of God's glory- which shines forth from Him! God's doxa- His glory, power and might is revealed in the brightness of the Son- God's glory evident in the glory of Jesus. Like the light that comes from the Sun in the sky- the glory of God shines from the Son and we have beheld His glory- the glory of the One and only- as John 1 says. Jesus is also the image of God- the exact imprint of His nature. Like a seal carries the image of whatever is pressed upon it- the Son carries the image of the Father- the reflection of the Father is seen in the face of the Son. As Jesus said in John 14, if you have seen me you have seen the Father. The Son is the image- the visible reflection of the Spirit of God. He is God in flesh- the Father making His appearance known in the Son. Whatever is true of the Father in His character and attribute can be said of the Son. Without confusing them- there is a direct link established! If you see one you have the other- if you believe in One you will receive the other. As Col. 1 says- He is the image of the invisible God. If you want to see the Father, you will look to the Son. Such is the glory of Jesus Christ. And since this is all true about Christ- He is the one who deserve our worship and praise.

IV. The One Worthy of Worship

AS our opening verses come to a close in v. 4- the name of Jesus is extolled once again. The name He has inherited is better- more excellent- greater than all others. As Phil. 2 says- at the name of Jesus every knee will bow- and every tongue will confess His greatness! The name of Jesus is greater than all prophets and holy men of old- because He is final revelation. All the promises of God find their yes and their amen in Him! The name of Jesus is greater than every king and ruler because only Jesus has received all power and authority- sitting at the right hand of the Father in majesty on High. His name is greater even than the angels- He is much more superior even to these heavenly hosts! Angels adore Him- even these ministers of fire call out before Him- Holy! He brings a better covenant- making propitiation for our sins and purifying us from all guile. He is the perfect sacrifice- dying once for all- without sin as chapter 4 says- raised to life and will never die as v. 12 says- the eternal priest who lives to intercede for us- His years are without end. When you put all this together, you find that He is indeed the perfect and final prophet, the only High Priest who died once for all, and the eternal King who reigns and rules over all! If angels worship Him- how much more we who benefit from His purification for sins? If the whole world is in His hands- how much more we who have been purchased with His blood? If He is who this text says He is- we must fall on our knees and worship Him! Heb. 1 cannot leave us unmoved- if you believe it you will- you must worship His name! He is supreme- greater- better than all others! As we read in Phil. 3- I count all as lost compared to the greatness- compared to glory of Christ! Knowing Him is worth more than anything else- everything is rubbish compared to Him! So in your heart, exalt Him as your prophet, priest and King!

To conclude, the opening of Heb. 1 sets the stage for the rest of this book- a sermon that extols and magnifies Christ as better than Moses and Abraham and Melchizedek! The greatest prophet, priest and King- so Christ is! Seeing the glory of Christ puts everything else into perspective! The supremacy of Jesus Christ calms our fears and moves us to worship! So come and worship Christ who is greater than all!