

Hold Fast to the Son: God's Superior Revelation

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Date: 16 February 2025

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[0:00] You may be seated, kids, you are excused to your King's Kids class, and if you would open up your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 1, it's on page 1187 of your pew Bible, I am going to read God's Word, Hebrews chapter 1, 1 through 4, and may God open your eyes to behold the wonder of Jesus.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets. But in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. For, after making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

may God bless the reading of His Word. Who do you listen to and why? Who has your ear? Who's the first on your list when it comes to giving your ear to someone?

Let's say you inherit some money and you're like, I need to get some counsel on this. Do you go to your Uncle Vinny, who knows a guy? Hey, yeah, I got this guy.

[1:33] He's got an office in the back of the bowling alley. He'll give you some advice. Do you talk to them? Or let's say that your father-in-law is actual Charles Schwab. And he's like, you know what, call me anytime.

You got my personal cell phone. Who's got the better word on finance? Charles Schwab. You need to refinish your basement. Your neighbor, who is in year seven of almost finishing his basement, he's got some tips for you.

He's got some do-it-yourself videos. Or there's this guy in your church. He's got a business for the last 35 years called Basements Are Us.

3,000 basements done. He's got a 4.98 rating on all social media platforms. And he's come up to you and say, hey, you know, if you ever refinish your basement, come talk to me. I got some tips. Who's got the better word? Basements Are Us. Your marriage needs help. Who do you ask for help?

[2:44] Do you Google marriage help and then get to the site with a self-appointed life coach who's on their fourth marriage? Or do you saddle up next to that seasoned couple from church?

They're on year 35. Their marriage is thriving and they've been meeting with other couples and helping them navigate hard things in their marriages. Who's going to speak the better word? The book of Hebrews begins with comparison like this.

Why we must listen to God's son. When it comes to salvation. When it comes to matters of eternity. When it comes to matters of forgiveness of sin and what you must be living for first and foremost. Who are you listening to and why? Why? Who's top on your list? Here's what I'm going to try to convince you of.

I think you already know it. We must listen to God's son. Jesus. He's got to be the first on your list.

[4:01] And so this morning I'm going to drop out three points from these four verses. Jesus. The son is superior to the prophets. You need to listen to him. The son is superior to angels.

You need to listen to him. And then we're going to look at why the son is superior to both prophets and angels and why you must listen to him. We must listen to God's son, Jesus.

He is God's supreme revelation. So first, the son is superior to the prophets. This is verse one and two.

Long ago at many times in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets. But in these last days, he's spoken to us by his son. Hebrews begins with a comparison.

Between two eras in which God spoke. The first era, long ago, God spoke by the prophets.

[5:05] It's a reference to the old covenant. In this second era, in these last days, God spoke by a son, by his son.

It's a reference to our present era, the new covenant. And what he does for the rest of this book, the writer of Hebrews is absolutely brilliant.

He's going to pull this comparison all the way through the book. The old covenant time and the new covenant time to show how much better the new covenant is.

It's a comparison and contrast of covenants here. Here's some things I want you to notice. The first thing about this comparison.

Did you notice that God has spoke in both eras? In verse one, long ago at many times, many ways, God spoke. Verse two, but in these last days, he has spoken.

[6:05] God is a speaking God in both eras. Both in the old covenant, both in the new covenant. Our God, the God of the Bible, is a speaking God. He is a revealer of himself.

He makes himself known. He makes his will known for us. And he shows through the Bible the unfolding nature of human history. It is extraordinary. This book is God speaking.

God speaking. It's divine revelation. The New Testament is, in the Old Testament, are the two parts of the Bible.

Did you know testament actually comes from a Latin word that means covenant? The writings of the old covenant and the writings of the new covenant. Testament, two different eras, God speaking in both.

So that's the first thing I want you to notice. God is a speaking God, but he speaks on his terms. We need to listen to him on his terms. Next thing I want you to notice is when God spoke.

[7:19] We've already been talking about this. Then, long ago. The time before Christ's first coming. Verse 1. And now, in these last days, he has spoken.

According to the New Testament, we are now living in the last days. We live in between the first coming and the second coming of Jesus.

And that time, that era in between, the Bible calls the last days. It's life in between the advents. God spoke then, long ago, before Christ.

And God has spoken now. God has spoken into this era. Next thing I want you to notice is to whom God spoke.

Verse 1. To our fathers. It's a reference to the old covenant people. The people of Israel. Now remember, the original audience of this epistle, of this book.

[8:38] Were most likely Christians in Rome with a Jewish background. So they would have heard this and they would have thought. Oh yeah, yep. Our father's Israel.

God spoke to by the prophets long ago. But now. Did you see that in verse 2? But in these last days, he has spoken to us.

God's new covenant people. The church. The church. Those who have believed that Jesus is fully God and fully man. Who died in our place so that we could live for him.

Our risen king. The church. Notice. By whom. God spoke. Long ago at many times and in many ways.

God spoke to our fathers. By the prophets. In the old covenant. God spoke. By Jeremiah. And Ezekiel. And Jonah. Even Moses was considered a prophet.

[9:42] Many times. Over a long period of time. God. God spoke. Through these prophets. These sinful men. But faithful men. Do you remember Hosea?

God spoke. A unique way. Through that prophet. Many ways. Hosea married a prostitute. Gomer. And it was a living word to Israel. Hosea was. Was like. The faithful God. Husband. And. And Gomer was the. Whore.

Israel. It was quite a picture. Quite a word. Many times. Many ways. Many ways. These were. These prophets.

Were. Speaking. God's word. But they themselves. Were sinful men. Who are being faithful. They were go-betweens. But now.

[10:41] He has spoken to us. By his son. Jesus. We don't. We don't learn the name of this son. Until. Chapter 2.

Verse 9. Jesus. Not only. Was Jesus. Fully man. He was. Fully God.

And so. In this. Revelation. Of Jesus. This. This. This son. What you have. Is. Not just. A sinner. Speaking God's words.

You have God. Speaking. God's words. He is. Superior. To the prophets. Now you may be wondering.

What's the relationship. Between the two. Jesus says it himself. In Matthew 5. 17. Jesus says. I came not. To abolish. The law. And the prophets. But to fulfill them.

[11:35] The prophets. Over and over again. Were speaking. Calling Israel. Back to God. And they were anticipating. Someone. Who was coming. A king. That would come. A messiah.

That would come. Who would bring salvation. With him. And. And it's fulfilled. Culminated. In. Christ. In the son. What the prophets.

Spoke about. The son fulfilled. The son. Is God's supreme. Revelation. Full.

And. Final. So the first thing. I just want you to see here is. The son is superior. To the prophets. Because he's God.

Not a sinner. Speaking God's words. God. Speaking God's words. The second. Point. I want you to see. Is the son.

[12:33] Is superior. To the angels. We move from. Verses one and two. A comparison. To the prophets. Now to verse four. Where we have another comparison. Having become.

As much superior. This son. Having become much. As much. As. Having become. As much superior. To angels. As the name he has inherited. Is more excellent.

Than theirs. Verses one and two. Is comparison. Comparing right. The. The old. Covenant era. To the new covenant era. Prophets.

And this. And his son. The comparison. Here in verse four. Is the comparison. Of names. Of names. In the.

Bible. A name. Carries a lot. It. It. It's a revelation. Of who the person is. Their character. Their nation. Their nature. It's. It's title. As well.

[13:28] And so. What you could say here. Is it's a comparison. Of. Of two different. Types. Of. Kind of beings. The son is superior.

To the angels. Because. Of. Everything. That goes. Into. The name. Son. The divine. Son.

God's. Son. God himself. Very God. Of very God. If you would just look down. To verse eight. We're going to get into this. Next week. But in verse eight. We read this.

This is some. From Psalm 45. But of the son. He says. Your throne. Oh God. Is forever and ever. Of the son. He says.

Your throne. Oh God. Is forever and ever. The claim right here. Is that the son. Is God. On his throne. Forever and ever.

[14:23] And then if you look up. At verse six. Let all God's angels. Worship him. So. So. Here's the relationship. The son. Does not worship.

The angels. The angels. Worship the son. Because he's God. On his throne. He's superior.

To the angels. By nature. But you might be asking the question. Well why is. Why is. Why is. Why is the author of Hebrews.

Bringing up angels anyway. What's his angel business. Because. Because he's going to carry it through chapter two. What's up with this. With these angels. Do we have a situation like what was going on in Colossi.

The book of Colossians. Which was identifying. A problem. Some. Angel worship. Is that what's going on. That's not what's going on. Here's what's going on. Look at chapter two. Verse two.

[15:20] For since the message declared by angels. Proved to be reliable. It's another kind of revelation. That's what the writer of Hebrews has in

mind.

The angels were mediators. Of revelation. In Deuteronomy 33.2. And in Galatians 3.19. We read about how the law was put in place.

By angels. The mosaic law was mediated by angels. The old covenant law. Angels had a hand in bringing it about.

It's God speaking. It's kind of revelation. Revelation. So the comparison is between. God speaking by his son. And God.

Speaking a message mediated by angels. The law of Moses. So on either side. Of Jesus being the supreme revelation.

[16:18] You have a reference to prophets. And you have a reference to angels. Who mediated the law. And remember. Jesus didn't come to abolish.

The law of the prophets. But to fulfill them. The prophets and the law. Point at many times. In many ways. To the son.

God in the flesh. God's salvation. Do you want some New Testament passages. That talk about the relationship. Between Jesus the son. And the old testament. Look up Luke 24.

Look up John 5. 39. Look up 2 Timothy 3. 15. That the. That the sacred writings. Are able to make you wise.

For salvation. In Christ Jesus. The sacred writings being. The law. The prophets. And the Psalms. They.

[17:17] They point to. In many ways. To Jesus. So. So then. God spoke. By the prophets. And angels. Now God is spoken. By his son. He is God's supreme revelation.

Full and final revelation. To all. Okay. If we did a. Show of hands. You know. Some people have. In the room. Apple phones.

Other people have. Kind of Google phones. Microsoft phones. Whatever. Whatever. Everybody gets updates. The prophets. It's kind of like.

God. Updating his revelation. Prophet. After prophet. After prophet. The law. Itself. Of Moses. Is a major update. A revelation. Of who God is.

What he calls his people to. What is coming. And. Both. The. The. The law. Mediated by angels. And prophets.

[18:12] They were anticipating. A full. And final. Update. Coming. An update. In which. Beyond. That update. There was no more need. For another update. The son.

The messiah. Jesus. Our salvation. Isaiah. Is not our salvation. Neither is Jeremiah.

Or Ezekiel. Or Jonah. Angels. Cannot. Make purification. For our sins. Jesus. Jesus.

The son. God in the flesh. Is our salvation. He is God's supreme revelation. That's why. We.

Must. Listen to him. Pay careful. Attention to him. Hold fast to him. Not drift from him. The son is superior.

[19:13] To angels. Jesus. The last thing I want to show you is. The son is superior. Because he's God. He's God's salvation.

In. In verses two and three. We've got big Jesus country. Big Jesus country. There's a reason why. The writer starting off. This way. He. He. He points to seven distinct qualities. Of the son. That end up being.

Seven reasons why. He is superior. To the prophets and angels. And you can group them in prayers. Pairs. Now I know what you might be thinking.

If there are seven qualities. There can only be three pairs. And one left over. That's how we're going to proceed. The first pair.

[20:14] Let me read them to you. There's seven of them. Whom he appointed heir of all things. Through whom also he created the world.

He's the radiance of the glory of God. God. The exact imprint of his nature. He upholds the universe by the word of his power. He makes purification for sins.

And he sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. Seven qualities of the son. Seven. The first pair.

Is a pairing of the first and the seventh. And it has to deal with his authority. Did you notice. That in verse two. He was appointed heir of all things.

That has a Psalm two. Kind of tipping of the hat. Behind it. Psalm two eight says this. Ask of me and I'll make the nations your heritage. And the ends of the earth.

[21:13] Your possession. It's a messianic Psalm. It's anticipating the coming of God's king. The Messiah. And what's being said here is that.

The son is the heir of all things. All people. All places. All time. They're all his. They all belong to him. It's a big authoritative claim.

All time. We also read. The other pair of this. Is the seventh quality.

He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. Behind that is a reference to Psalm. Psalm 110 verse one. Some people argue that. All of the book of Hebrews.

Is an exposition of Psalm 110. It's going to show up again and again and again. But what we see here is that. It's. It's the son.

[22:11] Who has taken his seat. At the right hand of the majesty on high. And that throne. That he sits on. Is forever and ever. And it is over all things.

All things have been put under his feet. All things are his. He has full executive authority over all things.

All things do his bidding. What we see in this first pair is. Is the authority of the son.

There's no prophet. With that authority. There's no angel. With this authority. The second pairing is. The second and fifth. On the list. So the second is this. Through whom he also created the world. And the fifth is. He upholds the universe.

[23:10] By the word of his power. Both are dealing with creation. His. His relationship. To creation. And. In the second on the list.

Which is seen in verse two. Is that he created the world. If you're new to Christianity. And you're. And you're new to the idea. Of who Jesus is.

What. What the Bible. In the New Testament. In particular. Claims. Is that the second person. Of the Trinity. Is the agent. Of creation. Listen to John one. One through three.

In the beginning. It was the word. And the word was. With God. And the word was God. He was in the beginning. With God. Verse three. All things were made. Through him. And without him. Was not anything made.

That was made. The word. Is Jesus. The son. Colossians. One sixteen. For by him.

[24:03] The son. All things were created. In heaven. And on earth. Visible. And invisible. Whether thrones. Or dominions. Or rulers. Or authorities. All things were created. Through him. And for him.

Big Jesus country. So he. Is the creator. Of all. He's knit you together. In your mother's womb. He is the Genesis one. Speaker of all things. Into existence. Out of nothing. That's a word of power. The fifth on the list.

Is that he upholds the universe. All things. By the word of his power. The same word. By which he created all things. He upholds. All things.

Do you know a prophet. That can do that? Do you know an angel. That can do that? The sense of this upholding.

[24:59] Is this. Carries with it. The sense of sustaining. All things. I've got a song for you. I warned people. Earlier. That was going to sing. He's got the whole world.

In his hands. He's got the whole. Universe. In his hands. He's got your next.

Breath. In his hands. He's got the whole thing. All things. In his hands. That's the claim. He upholds the universe.

By the word of his power. Now there's another. Implication to this. He's directing all things. He's just not sustaining all things.

He's. He's directing all things. He is God. He is the executor. Of God the father's will. Carrying it out to a T. He upholds the universe.

[26:01] By the word of his power. That's the second pair. Having to do with his relationship. To creation. He has authority over all. He is the creator. An upholder of all. And then we get.

To the really fun stuff. The third pair. Is. The third and fourth. On the list. And. They are the very interior. Of the list.

They. They're right next to each other. We read it. I got confused.

I was in John. In verse three. He is the radiance. Of the glory of God. And. The exact imprint. Of his nature. What a pair. They're. They're both getting at the same thing. But it's the interior. Of this list. It's. It's the hot spot.

[26:58] Of the list. He is the radiance. Of the glory of God. Did you do it? He's got all authority. Authority over all.

He's the creator of all. This pair. Is saying that he's all God. All God. He's the radiance. Of the glory of God. Do you know how the moon reflects?

Do you know when you're outside. You're seeing a full moon. Do you know why you're seeing it? It's reflecting the brilliance of the sun. That brightness is not coming from the moon.

The brilliance is a reflected brilliance. Moonshine is a reflected glory. It's indirect.

Sunshine is radiated glory. It's direct. It's coming from the very thing. When you squint your eyes and look quickly at the sun.

[28:02] And you see its brightness. That's. That's the kind of.

Brilliance we're talking about here. Where we're. When. When we. Get a sense.

When you're reading the gospels. And you're seeing. Jesus in the gospels. He is radiating. Godness. Because he's God. He's.

He's seen. Godness. He's. He's radiating his glory. It's not a reflected glory. Glory. It's radiated. Because he himself is God.

God. He's all God. He's also the exact imprint of his nature.

Of God's nature. That the sun. Fully shares. The same essence. And substance. Of God. The father.

[29:00] All of God. The father's attributes. Are fully shared. By the son. They are distinct. But equal. Sharing. In God's essence. We're getting at the trinity.

It is a glory. To get your mind around. If you can. In John 14. Jesus has this conversation.

With Philip. Philip said to him. Lord. Show us the father. And it is enough for us. Jesus said to him. Have I been with you so long.

And you still do not know me. Philip. Philip. Whoever has seen me. Has seen the father. How can you say. Show us the father.

The point is. He is the exact imprint. Of God's nature. Sharing in all of God's divine attributes.

[29:56] You see the son. You see his father. Because they're both fully God. So this radiating of God's glory. The exact imprint. Of God's nature. There are two ways of saying the same thing.

That the son. Is all God. No prophet. No angel. Can claim that. That's why he is.

God's supreme revelation. And that's why you must listen to him. Above all else. He's authority over all. He's the creator of all. He is. All God.

But there's one more quality. It's the sixth on the list. Making purification for sin.

This one who has authority of all. This one who creator and upholds all. This one who is all God. Jesus paid it all.

[31:00] Making purification for sins. God in the flesh. The supreme revelation of God. He purifies us from our sin.

Under the old covenant. Countless bulls. Countless goats. In a bloody work. Were sacrificed for sin. Over and over. And over. And over. And over. And over. And over. Again. The blood of bulls and goats.

Cannot take away sin. They can't cleanse your conscience. From your sin. It can't give you a full forgiveness. That's why they have to do it again and again.

What's shocking is that the very sacrificial system. That the Mosaic law put into place. Mediated by angels. To this over and over again sacrifice. It was anticipating. It was anticipating the one who would come.

[32:02] Who with one and for all. One sacrifice. Would make for all time. Those pure who believe. Cleansing their conscience.

Purifying them from sin. Forgiving us from sin. Jesus. The lamb of God. John would say.

He paid it all. He paid for all of our sin. He purifies us from all sin. Each of us who believes.

No old covenant prophet can do that. No. No angel. Could make purification for your sins. They could speak of him.

They could anticipate him. Only the son. Who is all authority. Who is the creator and upholder of all. Who is all God. Only he could pay it all.

[33:01] He is God's supreme revelation. Because not only he's God. He is God's only salvation. Salvation is found in no one else. All the scriptures point to him.

That's why he's supreme. Imagine. God the father asks you. To do a series of interviews. For this position of God's supreme revelation.

Gives you some questions to ask. First interviewee comes in. Isaiah. Son of Amos. He walks in. You ask Isaiah. Are you able to be the.

Heir of all things. Can you actually sit. At God's right hand. Majesty I'm high. To which Isaiah says. Absolutely not. I'm not qualified for this. I'm a sinner.

I'm a sinner. I can't do that. To which you ask. Can you make purification for sins. And he says. Absolutely not. So you say. Thank you. Thank you Isaiah. Would you please send in the next. Person to be interviewed.

[33:59] In walks Moses. You ask Moses the question. Moses. Are you the creator of all. Are you the upholder of all things. No no. I am not. Moses. Can you make purification for sins.

No I cannot. I'm a sinner. I need my sins purified. Thank you so much for the interview. Please go back. Would you send out the next. Interviewee. In walks. The angel Gabriel.

Gabriel. Are. Are you the radiance. Of the glory of God. Are you the exact imprint. Of God's nature. Gabriel says.

No no no. I can reflect God's glory. And I want to do his will. But I'm a created being. I don't radiate his. Only God can do that. Can you make purifications.

For sin. No. Thanks for the interview. Would you please send in the next. Interviewee. In walks.

[34:55] Jesus the son. Are you heir of all things. Yes. Can you sit at God's right hand. Yes. And I do.

Are you the creator of all. Yes. Are you the upholder of all. I got your next breath. Are you the radiance. Of God's glory.

All the time. Are you the exact imprint. Of his nature. Oh from. From everlasting. To everlasting. Can you make purification.

For sins. I can. And I have. Once for all. Sacrifice. For you. Jesus is God's.

Supreme revelation. Superior to prophets. And angels. Because he's not a created thing. Nor is he a sinner. He is God.

[35:59] And he is. God's. Salvation. Sin. Which brings me. To our conclusion. The son.

Is superior. To the prophets. The son. Is superior. To the angels. The son. Is superior. To both. Because the son. Is not only God. He is God's. Salvation.

On display. That's why. That's why we need. To pay careful. Attention. To him. Chapter 2. Verse 1. He is.

Our great salvation. We can't drift. From him. We can't fall away. From him. There's no life. Outside of him. He's.

He's the full. And final revelation. Of God. We. We're all in. With him. Spirit. So let me give you. Three ways. To apply this. Quickly. Look.

[36:56] And listen. To the son. Look. And listen. To him. If you haven't. Started reading. The book of Hebrews. I would encourage you.

To do so. With an eye. To the son. It's big. Jesus book. But. But another way. To do it. Is start reading. A gospel. And as you're.

Reading through. The gospels. You are beholding. The radiance. Of God's glory. Incarnate. In the son.

The exact. Imprint. Of his nature. Interacting with people. And speaking. Show me your glory. And when you're looking.

Oh you listen. Carefully. To what he says. His is the words of life. Life. Look and listen. To the son.

[37:52] The second. Application. Is. Laud him. Worship him. You've got.

You've got some. Worship material. Right here. In this text. Let me give you an example. Of what you can do. Tomorrow morning. Lord Jesus. Thank you for giving me life. You are the heir. Of all things. You are seated. At the right hand. Of God. Right now. I don't rule my life. You do. You are the creator. Of all. You knit me together. In my mother's womb. And you've numbered my days. You. You uphold. The universe. All things.

It's. You will decide. If I have a tomorrow. You are directing. All of human history. You.

[38:52] Lord Jesus. You're all God. You're the radiance. Of his glory. You are the exact. Imprint. Of his nature. There is no one like you.

And because there's no one like you. I am all yours. Today. Today. And you make purification for my sins.

I come. I don't come to you in fear. But in boldness. Knowing that once and for all. You paid it all. You can start.

You can start tomorrow that way. It's all right there. In verses two and three. Laud him. You look and listen. And you laud him.

You give him what's due him. It's a wonderful way to treasure him. Above all else. And finally. Put your hope in him.

[39:48] Hold fast to him. Remember. He's the great known.

He's bigger than your unknowns. Don't let your unknowns result in drift from him. Draw near to him. Remember who he is.

And stand firm in him. Hold fast to him. In the midst of unknowns. Hey. Who are you listening to?

And why? The first person on your list. Is the son. Because he is God's supreme revelation.

Will you pray with me? Oh divine son. There is no one like you.

[40:53] You are the radiance of the glory of God. You are the exact imprint of his nature. And you gave your life for us. And now we gladly say.

We're all in for you. For the rest of the day. And this week. Till we gather together again. Lord willing. If you give us next Sunday.

We will make every day. As much as we can. For the glory of your name. Because of who you are. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. Amen. Thank you.