

Is Jesus Enough?

Hebrews 1.1-3

Step into Study of New Book – Letter to the HEBREWS

Lots of UNKNOWNNS – AUTHOR, RECEPIENTS, TIME of WRITING

1st Readers of Letter Tempted to DRIFT AWAY from Faith in Jesus

Following Jesus was DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS, Be SAFER to Leave HIM

One thing CLEAR > Letter all ABOUT JESUS > HE is the BEST

The late newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst invested a fortune in collecting great works of art. One day he read of an extremely valuable work that he determined to add to his collection. His agent searched the galleries of the world but to no avail. Finally, after many months of effort and at great expense, the agent found the prized art work: it had been stored in one of Hearst's own warehouses all along!

That story parallels Christians who are constantly searching for something more because they don't understand what they already have in Christ.

MAN Rode DONKEY into Jerusalem on PALM Sunday > MORE than Man

When JESUS walked the Earth...

1. God was Seen: Jesus is Fully Divine

Swedish filmmaker INGMAR BERGMAN – Vision of walking in Cathedral

In vision came to PICTURE of Christ,

“Speak to me, I won’t leave this Cathedral until you SPEAK to ME”

But – Not Surprisingly – Picture was SILENT, Pictures do NOT SPEAK!

That Year Bergman produced film entitled “The Silence”

Characters in film are in GREAT DESPAIR because they cannot Find GOD

If YOU want to HEAR from God – Open your Ears to SCRIPTURE

SWEDISH – SWAHILI – or Right Up there on the SCREEN

If you want to Meet God > Need to Find Jesus > Want to Find Jesus > Bible

1st Sermon I ever Preached Outside my Home Church 1975 church in SF

From these 3 Verses “Seven Excellencies of Christ” > Jesus is...

the heir of all things...created the world...radiance of the glory of God...exact imprint of his nature...upholds the universe...making purification for sins...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

42 yrs Later Still in AWE of His Excellency the Lord Jesus Christ

Still feel like my POOR Sermons don't touch TIP of Deep Iceburg of Truth

a. God with Us > Descriptions of Jesus that Reveal His DEITY

Because Jesus is ETERNALLY the SON > He will FOREVER be the HEIR

v. 2 whom he appointed the heir of all things > Owner / Master / Lord / RULER

Never a TIME when the Son was NOT the HEIR > Promise from ETERNITY

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
Psalm 2.8

Jesus holds the DEED for the ENTIRE UNIVERSE

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.
Amen. Romans 11.36

Everything in All Creation is FROM Him & FOR Him & will go TO Him

1994 Squeezed into packed IMMANUEL CATHEDRAL in ARUA, Uganda

FUNERAL for Good Friend – Bishop Ephriam Adrale West Nile Diocese

Sat among Pastors & Leaders of Diocese – Archdeacons, Deans, Canons

Feel TENSION of Leaders Pushing for to become the NEXT BISHOP

Bishop who Preached Funeral Sermon had Wisdom to Choose Paul's message to Corinthians who ALSO Rivalled for STATUS & SIGNIFICANCE in church...

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s. 1 Corinthians 3.18-23

v. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God

BRIGHTNESS of the SHEKINAH GLORY of God

RADIANCE which bursts out of a BRILLIANT LIGHT

GLORIOUS DAWN at SUNRISE Anywhere EXCEPT BEIJING!

Son shares SAME ESSENCE of the FATHER > Not just in His Likeness

Christ is to the Father what rays of the sun are to the sun. He is the radiance of God’s glory. As it is impossible to separate the rays from the sun, it is also impossible to separate Christ’s glory from the nature of God. Warren Wiersbe

v. 3 the exact imprint of his nature

Word for a DIE or an ENGRAVING > Imprint of God on Human FLESH

Our ENGLISH word CHARACTER comes from Greek word for IMPRINT

Jesus to Philip, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14.9

“God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God” Nicene Creed

RIGHT at Beginning WRITER plunges us into Deep Waters of Theology

b. God at Work

v. 2 through whom also he created the world / God made UNIVERSE thru SON

The SAME PERSON who walked among MEN made ALL MEN

We now know that our galaxy is only one of some hundred thousand million that can be seen using modern telescopes, each galaxy itself containing some hundred thousand million stars. Stephen Hawking

Whether it is STARS, PLANETS, GALAXIES we see thru TELESCOPES
Or QUARKS, LEPTONS, ELECTRONS, NEUTRINOS see in MICROSCOPES
All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1.3

v. 3 he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Jesus did NOT Speak world into EXISTENCE & Take NAP or VACATION
Continuing STABILITY of Universe not Depend Presidents or Parliaments
WORD of God from Him who is the WORD of God

PALM Sunday – Event we Remember Today – Jesus entered Jerusalem 2000 yrs
HAND-CRAFTED DETAILS by the CARPENTER from NAZARETH
ENEMIES were Eager to KILL Him > But NOT during PASSOVER

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, *“Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.”* Mark 14.1,2

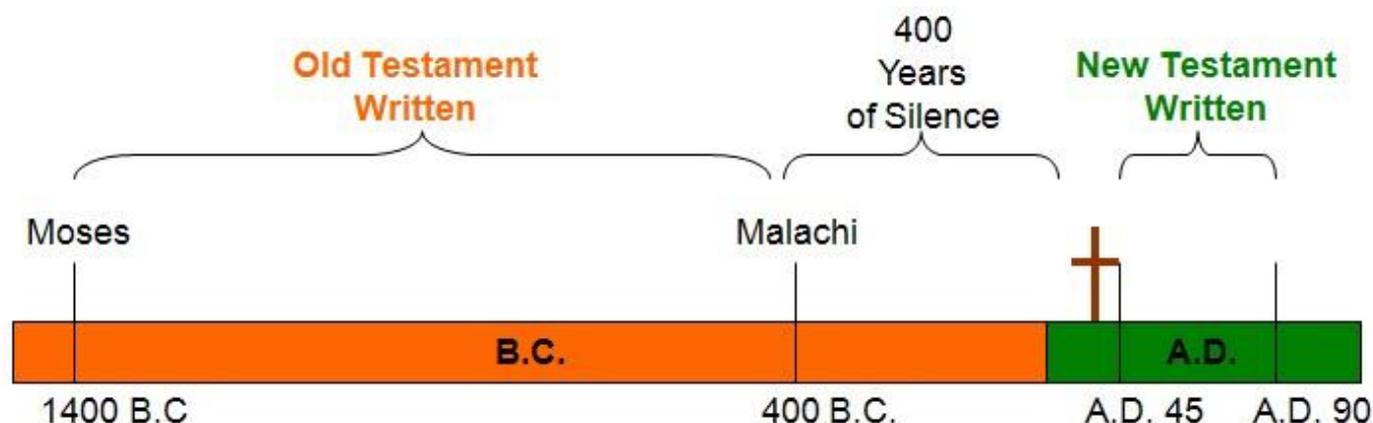
CHUN JIE in Jerusalem > JEWS Came HOME Popul. SWELLED to ½ Million
FERVENT Anti-ROMAN Feeling > REVOLT was Heavy in the AIR
CITY like POWDER KEG – Killing POPULAR Teacher/Healer could be FUSE

Jesus: “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.” John 10.18

One who Upholds Universe by His OWN Word > DECREED Day of His Death
Determined He would be PASSOVER LAMB before Foundation of the Earth

2. God has Spoken: Jesus brings God's Final Declaration

Hebrews Written over 1000 years LATER than book of JUDGES



a. Prophets Commenced

v. 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets

Statement of FACT > God has SPOKEN

CONVICTION of Preacher, Church > Bible is Word of God

“History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's dam is the history we make today.”
Henry Ford

Hebrews > What happened in the PAST is of ETERNAL IMPORTANCE

He is the GOD of CREATION and the GOD of PROVIDENCE

HISTORY is HIS STORY > thru History God Spoke His Word to His People

	<i>Older Revelation</i>	<i>Newer Revelation</i>
<i>Era</i>	in the past	in these last days
<i>Recipients</i>	to our forefathers	to us
<i>Agents</i>	through the prophets	by his Son
<i>Ways</i>	in various ways	New Testament of Jesus

TIMELESS Message dressed in ANCIENT HEBREW Clothing

Illustrations drawn from JEWISH LAWS and TRADITIONS

Dreams – Visions – Fire & Cloud – Stone Tablets – Signs – Sermons – Seers
 Makes BIBLE STUDY – Rich, Colorful, Challenging – Cultures & Contexts
 The new is in the old concealed, the old is in the new revealed. Augustine

b. Son Completed v. 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

Jesus is FINAL > His ONCE-FOR-ALL Revelation is CLEARLY Superior

The GREATEST PROPHET cannot compare to A SON

EZEKIEL described the GLORY of God > Jesus was DRESSED in GLORY

ISAIAH beheld the HOLY God > Jesus is HOLY God who became Man

JEREMIAH preached the POWER of God > Jesus is that POWER

God's speech thru his Son Final / compared with many times/ways of Prophets
 PAST TENSE "has Spoken" Revelation of OT Continuous > In X it is Complete

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation,
 I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for *the faith that was
 once for all delivered to the saints.* Jude 3

"Scripture contains all the divine words needed for any aspect of human life."
 John Frame

Christianity is, in its very essence, a religion of the Word of God...his self-
 revelation has been given by the most straightforward means of communication
 known to us, namely by a word and words, or that he calls upon those of us who
 have heard his Word to speak it to others. John Stott

Peter, James, John invited to Trek Up High Mtn w/ Jesus

Got up there Jesus Clothes turned RADIANT & His Face shone like the SUN
 MOSES – Great Lawgiver / ELIJAH – Great Prophet – Hangin' w/ HOMIES

Peter that maybe they Should all CAMP OUT TOGETHER

...a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." Matthew 17.5

Then they saw ONLY JESUS > Came to Fulfill the Law & Prophets

3. God has Saved: In Jesus we are Fully Delivered

v. 3 After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Writer makes BRIEF Reference to what will be MAJOR Theme of Book
God who Reaches DEEP into SPACE can Reach Deep into our SOULS

Notice the SHIFT in TENSE...

Jesus is CEASELESSLY the Radiant Light of God's Glory

Jesus CONTINUOUSLY Upholds the Universe by the Word of His Power
But He offered SINGLE Sacrifice for Sins

Died on the CROSS ONCE FOR ALL > FINISHED Work for ALL Time
Now RESIDES in the Place of HONOR and POWER

Letter written to CHRISTIANS in Danger of GIVING UP

Does not BEGIN with their PROBLEMS > Begins with Portrait of Christ

Nothing is of greater importance in our own time than a reminder of the immense dimensions of the biblical doctrine of Christ...The opening sentences of this letter are designed to bring us to our knees; only then can we hope to stand firmly on our feet.

Raymond Brown

Hebrews is organized around 2 Grand Themes – Revelation & Redemption

Revelation - God Speaks	Redemption - God Saves
Old Testament - Promise – “I will save!”	New Testament - Fulfillment – “He did save!”
“our common salvation... the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” Jude 3	“It is finished” John 19.30
Scripture is Closed	Salvation is Complete

Finished Work and Final Word

Nothing can be Added to X’s REDEMPTIVE Work –

Nothing Added to REVELATION about His Redemptive Work

500 years ago Luther called the church back to “*Sola Scriptura.*”

“Scripture alone” means the Bible is sufficient.

Scripture is enough because the work of Christ is enough.

They stand or fall together.

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6.68,69

Challenges to Sufficiency of Scripture: Acting like Jesus is Not Enough?

a. Going to a certain PLACE to Find God’s Blessing

1990’s Pastor in Hilo – M org Support – SEND Prayer Warriors

Extremities of All Continents – Spiritual Mapping – Power Sending

Go to Brownsville, Toronto, Kansas City, Wheaton, or Reading > Beijing?

And the *Word became flesh and dwelt* (“tabernacled”) *among us*, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1.14

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about *the temple of his body*.
John 2.19-21

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and *those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth*."
John 4.23,24

1990's M Leaders >> Support > Get Down and Pray Here / Now

b. Going to certain PERSON to hear God's Voice

Anointed Teachers > Like Hindus look for GURU

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of *all creation*. For by him *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. And he is before *all things*, and in him *all things* hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that *in everything* he might be preeminent. For in him *all the fullness* of God was pleased to dwell
Colossians 1.15-19

If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us —eternal life. I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. 1 John 2.24-27

c. Performing a certain PRACTICE to get God's Blessing

Pastors in Uganda – Family member got Sick – Not Improving

Local Medicine Man / Witch Dr. / Sacrifice Chicken study Entrails

Maybe you TRUST More REFINED RELIGIOUS Practice

Confess Sins w/ BCP – Never Miss Church – All Night Prayers

WONDERFUL Things – But WORSHIP AIDS Not MAKE us WORTHY!

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24,25

C.S. Lewis, Chronicles of Narnia > Lucy on Spiritual Quest see Aslan Lion/King

Great Lion SHINING White and HUGE in the MOONLIGHT

Lucy's heart filled with JOY – Runs to ASLAN – Buries FACE in Silky MANE

He rolls over on Side – Lucy leans in – Warm BREATH Surrounds her

“Welcome, child” he said.

“Aslan,” said Lucy, “you're bigger.”

“That is because you are older, little one,” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.” C.S. Lewis

EXPANDING SOULS encounter an EXPANDING CHRIST

May Study of Hebrews make us Keep Growing to Find an Ever-Bigger Christ

HEBREWS 1.¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high