

Scripture Text

Hebrews 1:1-4

Context

The letter of Hebrews was written to a discouraged people facing persecution for their faith. Tempted to abandon their trust in Christ and revert to Judaism, the writer writes to encourage them to hold fast to their faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all others is one of the central themes of the book. In this passage, the writer shows how God has spoken to us fully and finally in His Son, and gives a glorious picture of Who the Son is, that we might trust in Him.

Observation and Meaning

- What does it mean to speak to someone? Why do you speak? What does the fact that God has spoken to us reveal about God?
- God is a speaking God. What is distinct about the previous ways God has spoken and how he has spoken in these last days?
- What 8 things do verses 2-3 tell us about Jesus, and how do these things underline the importance of listening to God's Word to us in His Son?

Big Idea

God has spoken to us fully and finally through His Son who is the exact imprint of the Father. Jesus, His Son, who is fully God, is better than prophets and angels, has worked in creation and for our redemption, and now has authority as the inheritor of the world who sits at the Father's right hand. We should bow before Jesus in worship, and then live by faith in His name.

Sermon Outline

1. God has spoken to us
2. Who is this Son that God has spoken to us through?
 - Jesus, who is better than the prophets (v1)
 - Jesus, who has authority as the appointed heir of the entire earth (v2)
 - Jesus, who has worked in creation (v2)
 - Jesus, who is God Himself (v3)
 - Jesus, who has worked in redemption (v3)
 - Jesus, who has authority at the right hand of the Father
 - Jesus, who is better than the angels
3. Conclusion:
 - Let us bow in worship that we might be able to stand in faith

Application

- If God is speaking to us, how should we respond to Him?
- If Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature, then what does looking at Jesus tell us about the nature of God?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
 What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
 Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
 Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.