

## THE GLORY OF THE SON IN REDEMPTION (vv. 3b-4)

*After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

1. In the Old Testament, sin is portrayed as having a defiling effect—it rendered one unclean. The blood of the sacrifices offered on the altar are portrayed as having a purifying or cleansing effect on the worshipper (as well as the altar and the tabernacle). The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus' sacrifice was everything the Old Testament sacrifices pre-figured. How do these images help us understand what Christ accomplished for us? Why is it essential for us to be pure and undefiled when we come into the presence of God?
2. We can speak of Jesus' ministry as involving two stages: his humiliation, which involves his death and suffering, and his exaltation, which involves his resurrection and ascension to the Father's right hand. In his humiliation, he paid the ultimate price for our sin. He is ruling and reigning over all of creation in his exaltation, empowering his people to be everything that he created and redeemed them to be, and pleading our case before the Father. He is more vitally present with us than he was with his disciples while he was here on earth. What does it mean for Christ to be seated "at the right hand of the Majesty?" Why is his position at the "right hand of the Majesty," vital for us?

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# LOOK TO JESUS

THE GLORY OF THE SON | HEBREWS 1:1-4

We all have amazing people in our lives we take for granted. It might be the person you married. It may have been a great dad or an unbelievable mom. A close friend. A mentor. A coach. A colleague. A favorite teacher.

The writer of Hebrews fears his audience is taking Jesus for granted. They have forgotten the grace they received from him. The joy of being in his presence. The privilege of being adopted into his family. The wonder of being transformed into his likeness, and the hope of eternal unbroken fellowship with him.

The writer of Hebrews wants us to know that Jesus is better than anything else that could capture our hearts and affections. He is greater than our struggles. He is more satisfying than the crazy stuff we spend our lives pursuing. Far better than a plush 401k, a cozy retirement, or the next promotion at work.

While God is the giver of every good and perfect gift, his greatest gift is His Son. There are no close seconds.

The writer of Hebrews opens his letter by reminding us of the glory of the Son.

## THE GOD WHO SPEAKS (vv. 1-2a)

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...*

1. We never fully know a person until we hear them speak. While we observe God's Majesty in creation, we learn his heart through the Scripture. What are some of the fundamental truths Scripture reveals about God? Why would we be lost without Scripture?
2. Who are some of the prophets that come to mind? What are the various ways God used them to reveal His heart to us? How is their message partial and incomplete?
3. There is more than meets the eye in the phrase "in these last days." The Hebrew Scripture divides human history into two ages. The age of promise (typified by the prophets) and the age of fulfillment (inaugurated at the coming of Christ). The writer of Hebrews wants us to know that we live in a new age, under new and better promises, under a new and better covenant, with a new and better sacrifice offered by a new and better priest. How would you describe the differences between "the past" and "these last days" in light of what God has accomplished for us through his Son?

## THE GLORY OF THE SON IN CREATION (v. 2b)

*...whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.*

1. Paul tells us, "In him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16). The writer of Hebrews is telling us the same thing. The Son was active in creation, and all that has been created is for him. What is significant about Christ's role in creation?
2. In Scripture, "inheritance" always speaks of God's allotted portion. In Psalm 2, the Lord tells the Davidic king, "Ask me, and I will make the

nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession (Psalm 2:8)." How is this promise fulfilled in Christ?

3. What does it mean for us to be his inheritance? How should this change the way we view ourselves? How should it change the way we respond to God?
4. What does it mean for all of creation to be his inheritance? How should this change the way we view creation? How should it impact the way we view our stuff? How should it change the way we respond to the world in general and our things in particular?

## THE GLORY OF THE SON IN REVELATION (v. 3a)

*<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*

1. Paul describes God as One who "lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see (1 Timothy 6:16)." The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the visible reflection of God's glory. In him, we see what we otherwise could not see. How is the glory of God revealed in the Son?
2. The phrase "exact representation" means imprint. The word is reminiscent of the words "image and likeness" we find in Genesis. "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness... (Genesis 1:26)." We were created to reflect God's image to the rest of creation but failed (and continue to fail) miserably. How does the Son succeed where we failed? How does he enable us to better reflect God's heart and character to those around us? What does it mean for us to reflect God's heart and character in the world?