



"The Supremacy of Christ Jesus"

Hello! How is your morning?

Let's visit the Book of Hebrews a second time to learn more about the Jesus-Who-Is.

Hebrews was written thirty years after the resurrection of Jesus. This is a pastoral letter addressing a serious problem in the early church. Many first century believers were converts from Judaism. Some of them were being tempted to leave their New Covenant relationship with Jesus to rejoin family and friends under the Old Covenant.

Hebrews is a strong argument why no one should abandon Jesus after deciding to follow and serve him. First, Jesus is supreme. He is the highest. (More on that in a moment.)

Second, because Jesus is supreme, because Jesus is the highest, he has the authority and the power to make a superior New Covenant between us and the Father---superior to any other covenant in the world including the Old one.

Only Jesus can take us into the presence of God where we can know him. Only Jesus can serve as our eternal High Priest who prays continuously for us. Only Jesus can be the perfect sacrifice for our sin.

If you abandon Jesus, if you reject his many benefits, there is no one to replace him and there is nowhere else to go.

The Old Covenant was for the Jews in ancient Israel and was composed of Law, religious tradition, animal sacrifice, Temple worship, annual religious feasts, the land of Canaan, and the demand to live a perfect life.

The New Covenant is radically different. It is offered by God to every person in every ethnic group in the world. It is a far better covenant for a far better People. How so?

When we enter the New Covenant we are born again and God's Spirit comes to live in us. He gives to us a New Heart—a New Spirit—the Holiness of God—and the Righteousness of Christ. Life is no longer about legal perfection. It is about love, mercy, justice, and an indestructible life.

Under the New Covenant we enter the kingdom of God. We experience God's purity---his power---his presence---his purposes---and his passion.

We enter into intimate relationship with God, loving relationship with his People, and a deep desire to see non-Christians join this amazing family of God.

Jesus makes the New Covenant possible with all its privileges and blessings because he is supreme – supreme in who he is and supreme in what he has done.

- Jesus is greater than all other revelations of God. (Hebrews: Chapter 1)
- Jesus is greater than all the angels in heaven. (Chapter 1)
- Jesus is greater than all other human beings. (Chapter 2)
- Jesus is greater than Moses who delivered the Old Covenant. (Chapter 3)
- Jesus is the giver of a greater rest. (Chapter 4).
- Jesus is the greatest High Priest. (Chapter 4)
- Jesus is the mediator of the greatest covenant. (Chapter 8)
- Jesus is the greatest sacrifice for our sin. (Chapters 9-10)
- Jesus is the greatest goal for our faith. (Chapter 11)

Because Jesus is supreme, the Covenant he has made between us and God is supreme.

- Is this the Jesus to whom you have given your life?
- Is this the Jesus you love and serve?
- Is this the Jesus you preach to others?

Then hold tight. Press in. Never look back. Finish what you've begun. By the power of the blood of Christ and your testimony, you will overcome the world, your flesh, and the devil.

This is for now. This is forever.

NEXT WEEK: More about the Jesus-Who-Is.

Blessings to you in Christ-



Douglas Van Devender
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