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March 25, 2023

Hebrews 1

Hebrews was most likely written by Paul to the Christian Jews in Asia Minor. The focus is about the supremacy of Christ and His Testament of Good News over the Law and any other Covenant that had been made to this point. Jesus was the fulfilment of all the promises that had come before.

The Supremacy of the Son

(Colossians 1:15-23)

1God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

This first verse is written after Jesus the Son of God was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified and rose again from the dead and now sits at the right hand of His Father, God. This point of view from Paul is looking back to the Old Testament speaking of the Prophets of Ancient times.

Colosians 1: 15Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17And he is before all things, and by him all

*things consist. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19**For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; **20**And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

***21**And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled **22**In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: **23**If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

God knows the beginning from the end. God gave no prophets the entire message for the Jews or the eventual Christians. Sometimes God gave different prophets similar messages for different people IE the Northern Tribes as opposed to the Tribes of Judah. Even though their sins were the same or similar God gave the specific prophecies about who their enemy might be and what was to become of each tribe if they did not change their ways.

There were multiple prophets that were each given specific future events to reveal before they happened. God gave these prophets visions of the future in various ways and at various times. The sign of a True Prophet of God was that the prophecies given them came true exactly as they told.

Some prophecies covered multiple fulfillments over many years, even centuries. A saying in our culture is that “History repeats itself” may be more correct than first thought. However, other prophecies were time specific.

This is a prophecy from Jacob (Israel) to his son Judah.

Genesis 49: [8](#)Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.[9](#)Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?[10](#)The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.[11](#)Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:[12](#)His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

That prophecy that spoke of the coming Messiah Jesus Christ was fulfilled in heaven and the evidence of that will be visible at His return to the Mount of Olives as it was on His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

The description of the following events takes place in Heaven.

Revelation 5: [5](#)And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. 8And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

2Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Paul in verse 2 speaks now of his current time in which he lived and taught the Good News. In this contemporary letter to the Christian Jews Paul is explaining the hierarchy of Christ over all past Creation and past Covenants (*heir of all things*).

March 26, 2023

3Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

This verse is the Good News all in one verse. To understand it clearly as perhaps as a new Christian, we can examine it to see the Good News.

The “Who” is of course Jesus Christ. The “His glory” can either be Jesus or God the Father both are the same. “The express image of His person” I understand that to mean that Jesus was the physical embodiment of the Spiritual God. Jesus repeated told us that He and God are One. God is the Father God and is described as (Spirit) and Creator, Jesus in His physical embodiment is both the same yet still separate.

“and upholding all things by the word of his power”... While Jesus walked on this earth, we are told it appears He laid aside His power. The reason I say “it appears” is that at any moment Jesus could have called a legion of angels. In one of Satan’s tests of Jesus Satan recognized the power Jesus had and stated as much. When Jesus was being examined by Pilot, Pilot inquired if Jesus were indeed a “King”. Jesus responded that He was and:

John 18: 36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. (Hence; meaning both sides of two kingdoms)comment mine BC

Philippians 2: 5Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

How do we know that Jesus is God?

John 1: 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

God the Father gave Jesus the Son, power over all sin through obedience to the Father to go to the Cross as the final and ultimate sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

“and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins”

Jesus proved the Power in the Blood on the Cross. Godly; Pure Innocent Blood of the Son of God was the only thing sufficient to first cover and then when the Resurrection Task was completed;

remove all sin of mankind, of those that repent, as far as the east is from the west.

Once that task was completed Jesus was given His eternal position back sitting at the Right Hand of God the Father where He belongs. As a note the “right hand” usually denotes “Power/Strength”.

4Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Philippians 2: 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

5For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Jesus is not a created being in the sense that God Created angels. Jesus was what is called (pre-incarnate being) meaning He existed before Creation and was along with God and the Author of all creation.

Until physically born into this world Jesus was a Spiritual being like God and with God and was God. Jesus was born as a human being for very specific reasons by the God Head. That was to save mankind from sin and eternal death.

Vs 5 clarifies that Jesus is a being in such a singular category that no other can ever claim to be in that category. We saw that concept with Melchizedek.

Psalms 110: [1](#){A Psalm of David.} The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.[2](#)The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.[3](#)Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.[4](#)The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.[5](#)The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.[6](#)He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.[7](#)He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

Genesis 14: [18](#)And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: **and he was the priest of the most high God.** [19](#)And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: [20](#)And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he gave him tithes of all.**

This Father-Son relationship, both being One with the Holy Spirit is a challenging concept to understand by any means other than Faith. The Three are ONE.

[6](#)And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

God declares the excellence of His Son Jesus Christ, who has been with God for eternity, albeit in a different form than His earthly form. I think the Son has always been worshipped by the angels and God is directing them to continue that worship as Jesus the Son takes on a new persona – human form.

We often think that God can somehow tell the future. This is what God's own words tell us about His ability to see future events.

Isaiah 46: [10](#) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

This is a fine point but an important one. God sees the future by being able to move through time and space. He knows exactly what is going to happen on the broad universal scale and on the individual scale. God does not live in a linear time; God can advance in time and retreat in time at Will and is present in all time and space. He is Omnipresent and Omniscient.

[7](#) And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

There is no small controversy on this verse among commentators. Taking this in context the purpose appears to be to show a distinct difference between the Son of God and created Angels of God. The angels are subservient to God, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. They are, when God calls upon them, to be helping

angels as well as punishing angels. Now whether the angels are divided up into those categories (helping or punishing) is another question. Suffice it to say that angels respond as God directs them, period.

8But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

God the Father in vs 8 calls Jesus the Son: “O God”. Equal to and part of the Trinity or Godhead. The Son’s existence according to God the Father is from eternity to eternity as is His authority and His kingdom.

This term “sceptre” means a symbol of “authority”.

Transliteration: rhabdos

Phonetic Spelling: (hrab'-dos)

Definition: a staff, rod

Usage: a rod, staff, staff of authority, scepter.

April 2, 2023

9Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

The Son’s nature was Love, Mercy, Grace, Truth, Righteousness. Jesus hated iniquity but loved righteousness just like His Father. One of Jesus’s goals was to be an example of what we are to be. He walked in Righteousness as God the Father had asked Him to

while on earth. He was fully human, and He looked to God for every word to speak and every act to do.

Jesus the Son had the authority to act independently but He chose not to, but instead walk in obedience to the Father, relying on the Father to direct His path of Righteousness in humbleness and obedience. Again, as an example of what He wants us to do.

By the Son walking in obedience to the Father it brought both of them great joy. This is the “Oil of gladness”. It is something that only the Son and God could feel, and this level of joy was not for the angels. We as Believers can feel joy perhaps at the same level of joy the Creator feels when He sees believers walking in obedience out of pure FAITH.

The terms “fellows” is speaking of those who labor for God in eternity, the angels.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

God has given His Son in human form unlimited authority through the Holy Spirit. That is what is meant by the phrase “God giveth not the Spirit by measure”. God sent His Son to speak certain

words to mankind. Jesus walked in and clung to the Word of God because Jesus is the WORD.

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

10And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

God continues to speak through prophets to the world in His Word. But to the Son, not only His Words but through His actions so the world would know the thoughts of the Father. So, here God declares that “Lord” the Son is equal to the Father as He calls His Son “Lord”.

Transliteration: kurios

Phonetic Spelling: (koo'-ree-os)

Definition: lord, master

Usage: lord, master, sir; the Lord.

11They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

“They” in vs 11 is a reference to the “earth and heavens” that will pass away. What will never pass away is the Lord God and all that love Him.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Isaiah 51:6

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth below; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its people will die like gnats. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never fail.

12And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Again, a reference to the limited time that the earth and heavens will exist as they do now. They will pass away but God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth. The description harkens to God rolling up the heavens as in:

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

13But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

God again declares Jesus's position as supreme over all creation including the angels and all of Christ's enemies.

14Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

God specifies the role of the angels is to be "ministering spirits, sent for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Angels look upon

man with some consternation. In Peter it is said that angels desired to look upon salvation. There is no such thing in their realm effecting angels at least not as we understand it. The angel's fellow servants that fell with Satan were lost for eternity. The Blood on the Cross was not for them but for mankind alone.

*1 Peter 1: [10](#)Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: [11](#)Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. [12](#)Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.***

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