

“The Promise: The Supremacy of Christ”

Hebrews 1:1-4

INTRODUCTION

I. Superior as the Word of God (vv.1-2a)

- A. Historical Word
 - 1. From the beginning
 - a) God has always been speaking to His people by His initiative
 - b) Most specifically, the writer is addressing the Hebrews regarding the sufficiency of Christ as the fulfillment of the Law and the Promise of God
 - 2. Multiple times
 - a) Faithful
 - b) Long-suffering
 - 3. In various ways
 - a) Signs, wonders, dreams, nature
 - b) Written words in various genres (law, poetry, prophecy...)
 - c) Revealed presence
 - d) Progressive revelation (in that all things move toward Christ)
 - e) **2 Peter 1:19-21**
 - 4. To Fathers via prophets
 - a) **Acts 26:22-23**
 - b) **Luke 24:27**
- B. Present Word
 - 1. The Christ

- 2. **John 1:1-2**
- 3. Speaks of the necessity of the special revelation of God's Word
 - a) Salvation is only revealed through the Scriptures
 - b) Right doctrine precedes right living
 - c) The Scriptures are central to the gathering of God's people

II. Superior as the Son (vv.2b-3)

- A. Heir of all things
 - 1. No definitive article for "Son"
 - 2. Exalts the exclusivity and emphasis of Christ's sonship
- B. Creator of all things
 - 1. **John 1:3**
 - 2. **Colossians 1:16**
 - 3. **Hebrews 11:3**
- C. Radiance
 - 1. As sunshine of sun
 - 2. As light of light
 - 3. Inseparable reflection from the reality
 - 4. **2 Corinthians 4:6**
- D. Exact imprint
 - 1. Connected to the parallelism of Word and Radiance
 - 2. This imprint is not only a containing of God's glory, it is a declaring of God's glory to the world
 - 3. Only time in the NT this word is used (rare)
 - 4. These descriptions show that Jesus reveals the person and presence of God
 - 5. **John 14:9**

- E. Upholder of the world
 - 1. Creator & Sustainer
 - 2. Means to "bring, present"
 - 3. Often associate with the bringing, carrying of a gift or bearing a burden
 - 4. **Colossians 1:17**
 - 5. Completely dependent upon the Giver (speaks to the independence of God...a key point of understanding the nature of Christ's supremacy)

- F. Savior
 - 1. Prophet
 - a) Word
 - b) Fore / forth-teller / fullfiller
 - 2. Priest (Purifier)
 - a) Mediator (seated at the right hand) - while the author doesn't call Christ priest yet at this point, the description lends understanding to what's coming
 - b) Sacrifice
 - c) Catharsis (to purge, utterly clean out)
 - 3. King
 - a) Creator
 - b) Sustainer
 - c) Ruler

III. Superior to Angels (v.4)

- A. In person (Divine)
- B. In deed (Savior)
- C. In name (Son)

IV. Superior Message

- A. The Message of God's Supremacy always precedes His call to obedience
 - 1. Genesis 1 (The message of the Bible)
 - 2. Isaiah 6 (The call of Isaiah the prophet)
 - 3. Luke 9 (The confession of Peter that Jesus is the "Christ of God" before the call to the disciples to take up their cross, forsake their families, and follow Him)
 - 4. John 1 (John's message for belief for the readers)
 - 5. Colossians 1 (standing for truth in life and doctrine, against falsehood)
 - 6. 1 John 1 (John's message for assurance for the true believer)
- B. The message of the Supremacy of Christ is sufficient for all
 - 1. The Saved
 - a) For the general understanding that all things for God culminate with the Son
 - b) For their battle against false teaching
 - c) For their encouragement
 - d) For their community
 - 2. The Unsaved, intellectually convinced
 - a) Christ-centered gospel
 - b) Only those convinced that Christ is supreme will give up everything to follow, including the Law, its traditions, and self-righteous pursuits
 - 3. The Unsaved, intellectually unconvinced
 - a) Calls the unbeliever to Christ, not a set of beliefs (only)
 - b) Reveals that Christ is the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament (reasonableness)
 - c) Insures that only by faith (not reason) can a person follow Christ