

Lesson 1 - Hebrews 1:1-3

Introduction

“Hebrews is profound, distinctive, rewarding, and puzzling. Its impassioned and polished argument for the superiority of Christ captures the imagination even in a quick reading, and its theological depths continue to reward faithful reflection over a lifetime of study.”²

At the heart of this epistle is the theme “Jesus is Better”; better than the angels, better than Moses; better. Our goal in this series of studies is to discover just what Jesus being better means, how it reflects on the character of God just how we should respond. Begin this journey by taking the time to read the entire book itself to get a feel for the overall picture.

Background

- Background info can be found in the Introduction to Hebrews if you have a study Bible. The following are two links where you can access background info on this epistle.

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp?vs=HEB&ln=1>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/>

Outline

1. **The superiority of Christ - Heb 1:1-8:6³**
 - Better than the prophets, as a much better Spokesman - **Heb 1:1-3**
 - Better than the angels, by virtue of His Deity and humanity - **Heb 1:4-2:18**
 - Better than Moses, for He is the Son who provides a heavenly rest - **Heb 3:1-4:13**
 - Better than Aaron, as His priesthood is a superior one - **Heb 4:16-8:6**
2. **The superiority of the New Covenant - Heb 8:7-10:18**
 - For it is based upon better promises - **Heb 8:7-13**
 - For it is based upon a better sanctuary - **Heb 9:1-28**
 - For it is based upon a better sacrifice - **Heb 10:1-18**
3. **Exhortations drawn from this superiority - Heb 10:19-13:25**
 - Draw near to God and hold fast - **Heb 10:19-39**
 - Run the race of faith with endurance - **Heb 11:1-12:29**

¹ The study notes contain helps from a variety of sources including “Exalting Jesus in Hebrews” by Al Mohler; “Hebrews - A 12 Week Study” by Matthew Capps; and “Hebrews Life Change Study” from NavPress.

² Zondervan Study Bible

³ Blue Letter Bible - Mark Copeland

- Miscellaneous exhortations - **Heb 13:1-25**

Study Questions

1. What is your current understanding of Hebrews? What ways does this book contribute to Christian theology? How does this book clarify our understanding of the major doctrines of the Christian faith?
2. Examine the following passages and list some of the “various ways” that God spoke to men in the past.
 - Genesis 28:10-15
 - Exodus 3:1-6
 - Exodus 20:1-21
 - Exodus 31:18
 - 2 Peter 1:21
3. What do you see in 1:1-2 that indicates a basic unity between the Old and New Testaments?
4. The concept that Jesus is God’s ultimate revelation is weighty. How has God spoken to us by his Son? (See 1:2 and also John 1:14; 12:44-46; 14:9-11).
5. What difference does it make to you that Jesus is “heir of all things” and that the Father made the universe through him?
6. Why do you think the author makes such a point of Christ’s deity to these Hebrew Christians?
7. In what ways does the author of Hebrews present Jesus Christ as superior to the old covenant in these first three verses of the letter? What does Christ’s superiority over the old covenant mean for the old covenant?