

HEBREWS

1

Hebrews 1:1–7

1:1 *In the past God spoke to our ancestors at many different times and in many different ways through the prophets.*

The book of Hebrews opens by describing the manner in which God has been revealing Himself throughout the ages. The writer begins by declaring the timelessness of God’s message. In the past God spoke through the Prophets—messengers specially appointed to convey God’s message to His people. God spoke to His people in many ways. Through His Word He declared various aspects of His eternal message. This Word could be seen in Israel’s history, commandments, prophecies, revelations, judgments, and precepts, showing His chosen people how He wanted them to live. God conveyed His eternal truth to the temporal world through spoken words given by specifically appointed messengers.

1:2 *In these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. God made his Son responsible for everything. His Son is the one through whom God made the universe.*

At the time this letter was penned, God had spoken to the world through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Messiah and God's anointed Messenger to Whom all the prophets of the Old Testament pointed. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life by Whom His chosen people come to God. He is Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, Provider, King, Prince of Peace, and Judge over the living and the dead. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He holds the key to everything in life and death—for all things throughout time and eternity. He is the Righteous One and the eternal Sacrifice Who perfected the Law and completely fulfilled its provisions.

Jesus is far more than an Old Testament prophet. He is far more than a Prophet Who is superior to other prophets. In the past, Jesus Christ Himself—God's eternal Word—spoke through the Old Testament prophets as He appointed special messengers to do His bidding. As the perfect sinless man, Jesus is God's only begotten Son—the Holy Child of the Holy One—Who continued to declare His Father's Word throughout His earthly ministry. God gave His Son a name above all names and will at some future time cause every knee to bow before Him and every tongue to confess Him as the Lord. God glorified Jesus Christ above all things in His creation with His eternal glory. Jesus always had this glory with His Father before time ever began (*John 17:5*). Jesus Christ is God the Incarnate Son and the fullness of God resides in Him (*Colossians 1:19*). Nothing that was created was made without Him. Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God and is the Word Who became flesh and dwelt among men to fulfill God's plan of salvation (*John 1:1–17*).

1:3 *His Son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of God's being. He holds everything together through his powerful*

words. After he had cleansed people from their sins, he received the highest position, the one next to the Father in heaven.

Jesus Christ is God. He is God the Son and the express image of the fullness of God (*Colossians 1:15*). He is the brightness and excellence of God because He is God in His eternal Being. God spoke through Jesus since they, along with the Holy Spirit, are one. As God, Jesus Christ holds everything together by His Word and by His power (*Colossians 1:16–17*). As man, He became the holy, eternal sacrifice, conquering sin, death, hell, and the devil along with all evil forces by His death, burial, and resurrection. By His blood, He removed sin's stain and cleansed His people from guilt and condemnation. As the Victor, He is seated at the right hand of the Father reigning forever over God's eternal Kingdom. Since He is the exact likeness of God, Jesus is God's living Word and His eternal spokesman.

1:4 *The Son has become greater than the angels since he has been given a name that is superior to theirs.*

As God's Son, Jesus Christ has a supreme and unparalleled relationship with God His Father. Jesus Christ has always held this position, even before He left His throne in heaven and took the position of a servant, obeying His Father even to His death on the cross. Jesus alone died for the sins of the world. A host of angels could never do that. That is why Jesus is superior to the angels who serve God for eternity. God gave His Son Jesus a name above all names. God did that only for His Son Jesus. He is the only One Who conquered sin and death by obeying His Father. Even though the angels are sinless and holy, they are heavenly beings created by God to serve at His command. Jesus possesses the glory of His Father. All creation should bow in awe-filled reverence, unqualified deference, and worship.

1:5 *God never said to any of his angels, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." And God never said to any of his angels, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son."*

The Scriptures clearly and consistently speak of the excellence, supremacy, and preeminence of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament Scriptures, God the Father acknowledges Jesus Christ to be His only begotten Son Whom He loved and in Whom He is well pleased (*Psalms 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14*). God also acknowledged the same eternal truth about Jesus Christ at the time of His baptism at the Jordan River and at the Mount of Transfiguration when Jesus Christ appeared to Peter, John, and James in the brightness of His heavenly glory (*Mark 1:11; Mark 9:7*). God's expression about Jesus Christ unveils the truth about Christ's supremacy and His unique and unparalleled relationship with God, His Father. The Lord God never said these things about men or angels. It is reserved for Jesus Christ alone.

1:6 *When God was about to send his firstborn Son into the world, he said, "All of God's angels must worship him."*

The Old Testament Scriptures further affirm the supremacy of His Son Jesus Christ when they tell how the angels worshiped Him before He was ever born.

"You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you. (Nehemiah 9:6)

The Psalmist declares that God had commanded that all the angels worship God's chosen One. As the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ is exalted above all kings and authorities. He is declared by His Father to be worthy of worship by angels and by men. Since God Himself exalted His Son, the supremacy of Jesus

Christ and the excellence of His glory are indisputably established on earth and in heaven for all eternity.

1:7 *God said about the angels, “He makes his messengers winds. He makes his servants flames of fire.”*

God determines the nature, character, and essence of His creation. The Lord rules both heaven and earth, using His angels as His messengers, declaring both His salvation and His judgment. The Lord made the angels ministering spirits swift as the wind (*Psalms 104:4*). Even though they are invisible, they are capable of visible action. He made them flaming fires, executing His judgment on the nations, always reflecting the glory of God Whom they serve and worship day and night. The supreme position of Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, and the subservient status of the angels have been determined forever by God.

Notes/Applications

The epistle to the Hebrews is a living testimonial to the supremacy of Jesus Christ. After reminding the Hebrews that God spoke to them through Moses and the prophets, the writer points them to God’s eternal Word—the everlasting voice of God the Almighty. Even though they were well informed in matters of prophecy, even though they were instructed to expect the Messiah, the Jews resisted Jesus Christ when He came to them as God’s holy Child born as the fulfillment of God’s spoken prophecy by the mouth of God’s anointed messengers.

In the past, God spoke through prophets who faithfully declared what God commissioned them to say. However, these prophets were mortal even though they were appointed by God to speak God’s Word to His people. God finally spoke with His own voice in the person of Jesus Christ Who was the fulfillment of the prophecy He declared through the prophets of old.

God revealed His truth and spoke to the world through Jesus Christ His Son through His virgin birth, righteous life, profound

teaching, humble obedience, mighty miracles, quiet solitude, loving surrender, redeeming sacrifice, painful death, victorious resurrection, spectacular ascension, and certain return. Nevertheless, the Jews resisted God's Son and failed to recognize their promised Messiah. God's Word affirms that Jesus Christ is the Creator, the judge over the living and the dead, the eternal King, and the triumphant Lord. But His own people failed to acknowledge Him as Lord.

The prophet Isaiah said that the child born to Israel and the nations would have the government upon His shoulders. In other words, this Gift would rule the nations. He would be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace (*Isaiah 9:6*). Yet, the Jewish people, who were well versed with these prophecies, denied the truth about Jesus Christ. Even though the people of Jesus's day saw Him, talked with Him, and witnessed His miracles, even though God openly acknowledged that He was pleased with His Son Jesus Christ, the children of Israel and their leaders turned a deaf ear to God's voice. They could not see the presence of God's Anointed Who walked among them.

Do we treat God's Son any differently? Jesus Christ is not one among many. He is the only Supreme One. Do we in faith, life, and worship recognize Jesus Christ as God, Lord, King, Savior, and the Lamb of God Who took away our sins? By God's mercy may we avoid making the same mistake as others have. Let us embrace the One Who is the Eternal Creator as well as our personal Savior.