

Hebrews 1:1–14 — God Has Spoken, and He Has Spoken in His Son

Hebrews has stirred a lot of discussion about who wrote it. And the truth is, we do not know for certain. The letter does not come with an autograph. People have made strong arguments for several different authors, and there are interesting theories. But the name on the envelope is not the main point.

What matters most is this: the message is God-breathed. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (Second Timothy 3:16 NKJV). The Holy Spirit is the ultimate Author. That means the authority of Hebrews does not rise or fall with our guess about the human pen. Our confidence rests in what God has said.

And there is a healthy principle here for every believer: you should test what you hear. Scripture tells us to discern, to examine, and to hold fast to what is true. God is not threatened by honest examination. Truth stands up under light.

The Audience and the Issue

Hebrews is written to Hebrew believers—Jewish Christians—many of whom were under intense pressure. In Jerusalem especially, there was a complicated mixture of faith in Jesus and continued attachment to the old religious system. Some believers still held tightly to Jewish customs. Others tried to press those customs onto Gentile believers, insisting that people had to keep the law of Moses to be saved.

Even more serious, some who had professed Christ were drifting back toward the temple system, as though sacrifices and priestly rituals could still deal with sin.

Hebrews confronts that drift head-on. Its burden is simple and strong: do not turn away from Jesus Christ. Do not retreat into shadows when the Substance has come. There is no other sacrifice. There is no other mediator. Christ’s work is complete and final.

Two Foundational Assumptions

Hebrews begins the way the whole Bible begins—by assuming two realities:

1. God exists.
2. God speaks.

The Scriptures do not try to “prove” God in a philosophical way. They present Him. If God is God, His existence is not dependent on our permission or our proof. And the fact that God speaks—His Word given to humanity—testifies that He is there.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets...”
(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV)

God spoke through angels, through Moses, through priests, and through prophets—different times, different ways, unfolding truth across generations. The Old Testament is that record: God patiently, progressively revealing Himself.

But then comes the stunning turn.

“...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV)

God’s final and fullest revelation is not merely a message—it is a Person. The Son does not just bring truth from God; He reveals God.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus Christ. His compassion, His authority, His holiness, His mercy, His truth, His willingness to touch the unclean, His hatred of hypocrisy, His tenderness with the broken—this is God revealed.

Seven Great Declarations About the Son

Beginning in Hebrews 1:2, the writer gives us a breathtaking portrait of Jesus. These are not small claims. This is heaven’s own testimony about who Christ is.

1) He is the Heir of all things

“...whom He has appointed heir of all things...” (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV)

All history is moving toward the open reign of Jesus Christ. The prophets saw glimpses of a coming kingdom marked by righteousness, peace, healing, and justice. God has appointed His Son as the rightful King over all.

And here is the grace: those who belong to Christ are not merely spared—they are brought into His inheritance. We become part of His family, sharing in what belongs to Him by adoption and grace.

2) He is the Creator

“...through whom also He made the worlds...” (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV)

Jesus is not part of creation; He is the One through whom creation came into being. That means He is not a mere messenger, not a high angel, not a promoted creature. He is the eternal Son, active in creation itself.

3) He is the radiance of God’s glory

“who being the brightness of His glory...” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

Jesus is the shining out of God’s glory—the visible display of what cannot otherwise be seen. The glory of God is not an idea. In Christ, it becomes personal, near, and knowable.

4) He is the exact representation of God’s nature

“...and the express image of His person...” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

Jesus can say, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9 NKJV). You cannot separate God from His Son. To receive Jesus is to receive God. To reject Jesus is to reject God. There is no “I love God but not Christ.” The Father has revealed Himself in the Son.

5) He sustains everything by His word

“...and upholding all things by the word of His power...” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

The universe is not self-sustaining. Christ not only created; He maintains. The same authority that called the world into existence keeps it in existence. This is why worship is not optional—our breath, our days, our very continuity are held together by Him.

6) He purged our sins by Himself

“...when He had by Himself purged our sins...” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

Do not rush past those words: by Himself.

On the cross, Jesus did what no priest could do and what no animal sacrifice ever accomplished. He bore our guilt. He carried our shame. He took our judgment. He shed His blood to save us from sin.

No angel did that. No prophet did that. No priest did that. Jesus did it alone—fully, perfectly, and personally.

7) He sat down at the right hand of God

“...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

He sat down because the work was finished. Priests in the old system stood continually because their work was never complete. But Jesus offered one sufficient sacrifice and then sat down—enthroned, honored, reigning.

And His resurrection declares what His enemies denied: Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord.

The Son Is Greater Than Angels

From verse 4 onward, Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of Christ over angels.

“...having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (Hebrews 1:4 NKJV)

God never said to an angel:

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” (Hebrews 1:5 NKJV)

Nor did God command angels to receive worship—yet He says of the Son:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.” (Hebrews 1:6 NKJV)

Angels worship Jesus. That alone settles the issue. The worship of heaven is never misdirected. Christ is not a created being. He is worthy of worship because He is God.

Then the writer quotes a Psalm where the Father addresses the Son in unmistakable language:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:8 NKJV)

This is one of the clearest declarations of the deity of Christ in Scripture. The Father calls the Son “O God.” And His kingdom is marked by righteousness—His rule is not corrupt, not moody, not selfish, not compromised.

And then we read of Christ’s unchanging nature:

“They will perish, but You remain...
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail.” (Hebrews 1:11–12 NKJV)

Everything created wears out. Everything material fades. Even the heavens will be changed. But Jesus Christ does not age, weaken, or diminish. He is the same.

And God never said to an angel:

“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” (Hebrews 1:13 NKJV)

The Son reigns. Angels serve.

What Are Angels Then?

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”
(Hebrews 1:14 NKJV)

Angels are real. They worship God. They obey God. And God, in His mercy, sometimes sends them to serve His people. But they are servants—never objects of worship, never saviors, never substitutes for Christ.

Practical Application

1. Do not drift from Jesus into religious substitutes.
It is possible to keep Christian habits while your heart quietly moves away from Christ Himself. Hebrews pulls us back to the center: Jesus is better. He is final. He is enough.
2. Anchor your life in what lasts.
If the created world is temporary, then it is foolish to build your identity on temporary things—comfort, possessions, status, applause. Christ remains. His Word remains. His kingdom remains.
3. Rest in the finished work of Christ.
If Jesus purged our sins by Himself and sat down, then you do not need to keep trying to “pay God back.” You repent, you trust, you obey—but you obey from acceptance, not for acceptance.

A Challenge for Believers

Take an honest inventory: where have you been tempted to replace Jesus with something else—routine, tradition, control, fear, or even ministry? Come back to the Person, not just the program.

Hold fast to Christ in prayer. Hold fast to Christ in the Word. Hold fast to Christ when pressure rises. The book of Hebrews was written for believers under strain—and it still speaks powerfully to believers under strain today.

An Invitation to Nonbelievers

If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, Hebrews begins by showing you who He is: the Son of God, the Creator, the Sustainer, the One who purged sins by Himself, the One seated in victory at God's right hand.

He shed His blood on the cross to save you from sin. He rose again, declaring that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

Today, you can turn from sin and trust Him. Not a system. Not your effort. Not your past. Jesus Christ. Call on Him, ask Him to forgive you, and give Him your life. He will receive you, cleanse you, and make you His own.