

## 2. The superiority of Jesus

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When I was young and dumber, somehow I thought that I had to prove to others that I was better than them. For what? It was a combination of superiority complex and pure stupidity, plain and simple. As I am getting older and have a little better understanding in life, I now care less and less what others think about me. For example, a few months ago, when someone teased me that I was dumb and ugly, I agreed with him immediately. That person didn't know how to respond to my simple agreement since he was expecting some defensive arguments from me.

Superiority complex is a psychological defense mechanism in which a person's feelings of superiority counter or conceal his or her feelings of inferiority. Many people have this and struggle with it.

Many unbelievers think that our God, too, has this horrible superiority complex and tries to prove Himself to humans. Listen, superiority complex only applies to humans because we do this to each other, but we really don't have anything to show off to God other than our sinfulness and this undeniable capability to mess up things that are perfectly good previously. You see, because there is no inferiority in God, He doesn't have anything to prove or cover up.

When the Bible describes the Lord, His superiority and excellency over mankind, He is not exaggerating to make Himself feel better, rather He shows to us that He can be trusted and we can depend on Him.

The Book of Hebrews displays the excellence of the person and the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The first three verses set this high and holy theme which is maintained throughout the entire Book. The immediate purpose of this is to prove that Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets – the men who were held in the highest respect by the Jewish people.

### A. GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHETS

*Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,*

The author does not even make an attempt to prove the existence of God, because very few Hebrews during that time ever doubted God's presence in their lives and history.

From the time of Moses, there were prophets who were sent by God amongst the Hebrew people. No messages were considered more powerful or more urgent than those of the prophets. Warnings and rebukes from the Lord through these prophets were like sharp swords that pierced and slashed darkness of their hearts and let the light of God into them.

Moses who was adored and revered almost beyond human level by the Hebrews throughout the generations, spoke uncompromising messages of God to two million unruly and rebellious people for 40 years. It is no wonder that Satan wanted to dig out his dead body so that the Hebrew people could idolize him over God.

Elijah and Elisha – like a tag team with thunder and lightning during the darkest days of King Ahab and wicked Queen Jezebel; Isaiah, a.k.a. the prince of prophet, who

faithfully ministered in the king's court of the Southern Kingdom Judah in spite of threats against him – the godless king Manasseh had him placed in a hollow log and sawed him in two.

How about the totally politically incorrect fig picker prophet Amos who pointed his fig fruit juice stained long index finger to king Jeroboam II and raked him over the coals with God's rebuke? You can say that he was gutsy.

In short, these prophets were God's mouthpiece – His divine voice box, if you will. They had one responsibility – to deliver God's message without adding, subtracting, compromising, or analyzing it. As result, they became the most feared and most hated people in the kingdoms. Actually, the people were not hating the prophets, they were hating God who spoke through them.

It is still the same in 21st century. Even many born-again Christians would rather want to hear feel-good messages than heart-rattling messages from the Bible through their pastors. When they don't like what they heard from the church they attended, they simply go to some other church where pastors wouldn't even talk about sins.

Between Malachi and John the Baptist, there was a 400 year gap. Heaven shut the door and God didn't speak through His prophets. Does it mean that He didn't work on behalf of Israel and didn't care about His people? No, He didn't speak to them because they were not listening to Him. Then what? Let's go to v2.

## **B. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS SON**

*Hebrews 1:2a has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,*

It is not so much that Jesus brought a message from the Father like the OT prophets, rather He IS THE MESSAGE from the Father. Jesus, the Son of God was not just better than the latest or best prophet we could come up with. He has revealed something no other prophet could.

*Matthew 13:17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

I really believe that we don't understand the real magnitude of the significance of the Word of God. The Bible is a compilation of God's work and words through His people whether it is the OT or NT. It is the voice of God; it is how the Lord speaks to us; it is how He guides us to the way He wants us to walk.

One of the most fascinating things about the Book of Hebrews is that it is not Jesus speaking about Himself to us, but it is God the Father speaking about His Son to us through the author.

As I mentioned last Sunday, this Book contains a lot of Jewish history, events from the OT, and sacrificial systems as well as quotes from the OT. There are 29 quotations and 53 allusions to the OT, for a total of 82 references. Significantly, Hebrews does not refer even once to the books of the Apocrypha.

By the way, from time to time people asked me what I thought about the books of the Apocrypha, like the book of Judas, Maccabees, etc. I asked them back, "What about them?" They, then, asked me if I've read them. My answer is, "Absolutely not for

two reasons: First, the Lord God chose not to include them into the Bible. That means that they are not inspired by the Holy Spirit. Second, I don't have enough time to learn what the Lord says in this Bible, why would I want to waste my time on the things that is not of God.

### **C. HIS MAJESTY ON HIGH**

*Hebrews 1:2b-3 whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who 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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Wow!!! These two verses are totally loaded with theologies:

**1) The Son of God is the sovereign Lord over the universe. – v2b**

**2) The Son of God is the appointed heir of all things. – v2b**

As the only begotten Son of God, He is the rightful heir of God the Father.

*Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

I know that the followers of Jehovah's Witness get all excited about this verse from the Book of Colossians to prove their false doctrine that they claim Jesus is a created being. Obviously they didn't understand the definition of the Greek word 'prototokos'. It does not refer to time, but to place or status. Firstborn of all Creation means "Headship of all Creation." His headship of all creation does not mean that He was born first.

*Psalm 89:20 I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him,*

*Psalm 89:27 Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.*

Take notice how David has been allotted the position of firstborn. However, David was the youngest, not the firstborn of Jesse, his father. But according to Psalm 89:27, God assigned this title to David. Jesus Christ is not a created being. He is eternal God.

**3) The Son of God created the world. – v2b**

The original Greek words give us so much more depth in definition than English words when it comes to the Bible study. This is a case in point. The Greek word for 'world' is "aion" and its definition has more than the world or the universe, it includes ages. Yes, Jesus not only created the universe, but also time. It makes perfect sense when we read Genesis 1:1.

*Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Jesus is not bound by the time because He was before He created the time that started with the word "beginning".

**4) The Son of God is the brightness of His glory – v3a**

The ancient Greek word for 'brightness' speaks of the radiance that "shines from a source of light". No prophet ever could claim that. Moses had a beaming face because he was with the Lord for 40 days and nights. Like the sun in our world, our God is the light. And the prophets merely reflected the light of God like the moon did with the sun light.

**5) The Son of God is the express image of the Father . – v3a**

“Express image” of the Greek word is “charakter” where we get our English word ‘image”. The Greek Lexicon says that it means “the exact expression (the image) of any person” like a signet ring. No prophet could say that he was the exact image of God the Father except Jesus.

*John 14:9b He who has seen Me has seen the F ather*

*John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the F ather, full of grace and truth.*

**6) The Son of God is upholding all things by the word of His power . – v3b**

Jesus not only created the universe by His Word, but He also actively keeps everything in place by the same word of His power . If He decides to take a vacation and do absolutely nothing, everything in the universe will instantly fall apart, literally .

Atlas, a god of Greek myth, is a bronze statue in front of Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan, New York City, across Fifth Avenue from St. Patrick’s Cathedral. This muscular Greek god strains to carry the cosmos on his shoulders. But across the street, in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, you will find Boy Jesus effortlessly holding the world in His hands.

**7) The Son of God had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. – v3c**

All the OT prophets could point out the sins of the Hebrew people as the Lord spoke through them, but they could not purge their sins, because they themselves were sinners. The only Son of God Jesus could do it because He was sinless. After His resurrection, He ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father which was designated for honor, majesty, and glory of God the Son.

**D. SELF-EVALUATIONS**

1) Many people think that God speaks to them. How do you know that it is from God? Do you have spiritual ears to hear Him because the Holy Spirit resides in your heart since you received Jesus as your Savior and Lord? If you don’t have Jesus as your Savior, you DO NOT have the spiritual ears to hear from God the Father. That means that you still belong to satan.

2) Is your Jesus the same Jesus from the Bible or is he your edited version who winks at your sins?

3) If your Jesus is the same Jesus from the Bible, are you obeying His commands with everything you can or would you rather come up with some flimsy excuses why you are not obeying Him?