

Hebrews 1:1-3 and 8-14 Person and work of Christ

The book of **Hebrews** was written to Hebrew Christians, that is, to Jews who had moved on from Judaism to Christ, had been born again, but who because of persecution and trials which accompany persecution were tempted to leave their new-found relationship with Jesus Christ. In response, **Hebrews** has two purposes: to encourage Christians to endure, and to warn not to abandon the faith (**2:1-4**; **3:7-4:13**; **5:11-6:12**; **10:19-39**; **12:1-29**). Why? The point is made that:

Hebrews 1:2b: "...he (God) **has spoken to us by his Son** (Jesus)...."

- **Grammatical Usage**: "**has spoken**" or in the Greek, "elalēsen" meaning, "declare; disclose".
- **Literal Interpretation**: "God declared and disclosed to us truth by His Son Jesus"
- **Contextual/Comparison**: God keeps His Word: God continually uses His Word. Who is Jesus Christ? There is no more important question than this and in this first chapter of **Hebrews** there are two inspired portraits of the Lord Jesus. If we view them separately and then, placing them together, we gain an understanding of our Lord's Person and work:

I. PORTRAIT NUMBER ONE (Hebrews 1:2-3)

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, brought out in **v. 2** – "**by his Son**." Jesus is the eternal Son of God who became man for our redemption, and the fact that He is the Son of God is asserted in these two verses by seven characteristics which can only be said of deity:

1. ***He is the "heir of all things"* (v. 2)**. This means that the world was created by Him and for Him. The whole history of this world has been mediated through God's Son. How great He is!
2. ***He is the creator of the universe* (v. 2)**. It was by Him that the worlds were made (**John 1:3**); compare **Colossians 1:16**. This simple statement from Scripture is very satisfying in these days when unregenerate men place a question mark over the biblical account of the creation.
3. ***He is the radiance of God's glory* (v. 3)**. This is a beautiful expression. It means a shining forth, just as the sunshine in which we revel is the radiance of the sun itself. The Lord Jesus was and is the shining forth of the magnificence and majesty of the eternal God. Bow and worship Him!
4. ***He is the exact representation of His being* (v. 3)**. He is the visible expression of all that God is – look up and compare **John 1:18**. Jesus is God (**John 14:9**).

5. *He is the One who upholds the universe (v. 3).* Jesus holds it together and controls it (**Colossians 1:17**). Science has some answers to the mystery of the universe and has discovered many great laws, but behind these is the Lord Himself.
6. *He has provided purification for our sins (v. 3).* Notice that it is in the past tense: there is no future purgatory because the work is finished.
7. *He is seated in the place of authority and power (v. 3).* The words “**right hand**” means the place of power and authority (**Matthew 28:19**). He is also sitting down because His work is done; no priest of the old dispensation could ever do this because his work was never finished (**Hebrews 10:11-12,14**).

II. PORTRAIT NUMBER TWO (**Hebrews 1:8-14**)

Notice again that in **v. 8** our Lord is spoken of as “**the Son.**” But who is He?

1. *He is the King in His kingdom (v. 8).* He is the Son and He has an eternal throne; His administration is always just in His kingdom.
2. *He is the altogether sinless One (v. 9).* Look up **2 Corinthians 5:21**; **Hebrews 7:26**; **9:13-14**. He is the sinless Son of God.
3. *He is the designer of the universe (v. 10).* This is a repetition of what we saw in our first portrait, but with more details. The language is very precise.
4. *He is the eternal creator (v. 11).* The Lord Jesus will never “perish”. Everything else will wear out and pass away; He remains the same!
5. *He is the unchanging One (v. 12).* The present system will change and there will be a new heaven and a new earth (**2 Peter 3:11-13**); compare the great words recorded in **Hebrews 13:8**.
6. *He is the final conqueror (v. 13).* Ultimately, He will overcome all His enemies. He is waiting for this time to come when He will manifest His power and put down all who oppose Him (**Hebrews 10:13**). Never doubt this and make quite sure that you are on His side now.
7. *He is the Lord of angels (v. 14).* The angels are God’s messengers, who have been described as ‘God’s errand boys’! They are sent out by Him to minister to and for those who are the heirs of salvation. This means the angels are commissioned by the Lord Jesus to look after all who belong to Him and trust Him as their Savior and Lord.

➤ **Conclusion:** Every question we ask about God and every desire of our hearts leads to Jesus. Will you look to Jesus? Will you trust Him? Will you follow Him?