

The Better Messenger

The Letter to the Hebrews was written in order to convince doubtful Jews that following Jesus Christ was far better than anything they had done in their attempts to live according to the old order. That is one of the main reasons that Hebrews is called the “book of betters” – a better priesthood, a better sacrifice, better than Moses, Abraham, the angels – all of the things that Jews held dear. In **Hebrews 1**, the Hebrew writer tells his readers that Jesus is a better messenger of God’s word, and that He is better because of who He was (and is) in comparison to the prophets of old.

Verse 1 and the first part of **verse 2** say this:

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son..”

The people of the Old Testament received God’s word in many different ways. His word was given through prophesy, through visits from angelic messengers, through direct revelation and communication. Now, He speaks to us through Jesus Christ.

In **John 1:1 and 14**, John says this about God’s Word:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The purpose of Jesus being born was so that we could see and hear what God expected of us—how He wanted us to live. Jesus said a number of times in John’s gospel that the words he spoke were His Father’s words, not His own. (**John 7:16, 14:10,24**) He came to do God’s will and show (and tell) us how we could do God’s will also.

What gave Him the authority to speak the words of God? What made him better than any of the other prophets? Look at the latter part of **verse 2** and **verse 3**:

“...whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

The Hebrew writer says eight things about Jesus that could not be said about the prophets and the angelic messengers:

1. He is the Son -- (**Luke 1:32, 3:22, Matthew 16:16**)
2. He is the Heir of all things -- (**Romans 8:17, Galatians 3:26-4:7**)
3. The universe was made through Him -- (**John 1:3, Colossians 1:16**)
4. He is the radiance of God's glory -- (**John 1:14, 18**)
5. He is the exact representation of God's being -- (**John 14:9, Colossians 1:15, 2:9**)
6. He sustains all things -- (**Colossians 1:17**)
7. He made purification for our sins -- (**Titus 2:14**)
8. He is seated at the right hand of God -- (**Ephesians 1:20, Colossians 3:1, I Peter 3:22**)

No wonder it is often repeated in the gospels that Jesus spoke as "one having authority." He knows the author. His words are the final ones we need to obey and learn in order to live our lives pleasing to God. Read it, learn it, and make it the center of your life.

---Johnny Stephens