



The Book of Hebrews 1:2-3_The Attributes of the Son!

November 19, 2023

Holy Text: Hebrews 1:2-3

Throughout the first chapter of Hebrews, the author sets forth a primary argument: that Christ is Supreme. Here Christ is consistently placed above all things, even over angels. Before his apologetic concerning the lesser ministry of angels however, the author of Hebrews, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, gives us nine of the most detailed and magnificent words/phrases concerning the identity and glory of our LORD. Let us examine them!

1. “In these last days, spoken unto us by...” (v.2)

- Again, keeping the audience in mind, the author begins to unfold the crescendo of the redemptive story arc of God, culminating in the *logos* of Christ.
- There is no higher revelation of God than His coming in flesh!
- Indeed friends, Jesus Christ IS the Word of God:

John 1:1-5 (KJV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

- “Word” in John 1:1 is *logos* in Greek. It means “a divine expression.”¹
- “In John, denotes the essential Word of God, Jesus Christ, the personal wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world’s life both physical and ethical, which for the procurement of man’s salvation put on human nature in the person of Jesus the Messiah, the second person in the Godhead, and shone forth conspicuously from His words and deeds.”²
- And this Word was *with God* (a distinct Personage) and *was God* (A divine Personage)!
- And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us! Hallelujah!

John 1:14 (KJV) *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

2. The Son: Jesus Christ! (v.2)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and God the Son, the Second Person of the Godhead!

Son of God

Mark 1:1 (KJV) *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;*

John 3:18 (KJV) *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Romans 1:1-4 (KJV) *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of*

¹ Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

² Thayer’s Greek Definitions

David according to the flesh; **4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Romans 8:3 (KJV) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

1 John 3:8 (KJV) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 5:11-12 (KJV) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **12** He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Revelation 2:18 (KJV) And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

God the Son

John 5:22-23 (KJV) For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: **23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 8:58 (KJV) Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 10:30-33 (KJV) I and my Father are one. **31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. **32** Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? **33** The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

John 14:23 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Revelation 1:7-8 (KJV) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. **8** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Compare Rev 1:7-8 with verses like these where Yahweh (Jehovah) speaks:

Isaiah 44:6 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 48:12 (KJV) *Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.*

Second Person of the Godhead

Luke 3:21-22 (KJV) *Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, **22** And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

Colossians 1:17-19 (KJV) *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

Colossians 2:9 (KJV) *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

Even the devils knew He was God's Son!

Mark 3:11 (KJV) *And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.*

Luke 4:41 (KJV) *And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.*

3. Jesus Christ: Appointed heir of all things... (v.2)

- MacDonald writes, "To emphasize the infinite superiority of God's Son to the prophets, the writer first presents Him as *heir of all things*."
- An heir is simply "one who inherits" and "takes possession of an estate."³
- In a general sense, has Jesus Christ always reigned? Yes! He is our Creator and He is the Universal Sustainer, as we will see!
- But redemptively, in the Garden, Satan became the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2) and "the god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4), able to deceive the nations (1 John 5:19; Rev 12:9). Christ's triumph over principalities and powers "dethroned" Satan! Christ took the keys...

Revelation 1:18 (KJV) *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Christ therefore, has inherited a redeemed people and will one day inaugurate His Kingdom in fullness!

Daniel 7:13-14 (KJV) *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

³ Webster 1828 Dictionary

Ephesians 1:19-23 (KJV) *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Revelation 5:9-10 (KJV) *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

4. Jesus Christ: By whom also He made the worlds... (v.2)

Christ is Creator!

Colossians 1:15-16 (KJV) *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

1 Corinthians 8:6 (KJV) *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

5. Jesus Christ: The Brightness of His glory...(v.3)

- The word for “brightness” expresses the idea of “reflected glory” and a “shining forth.”⁴ The NLT says, “*The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God.*”
- Amen! Yes, our LORD is glorious, as in luminous...

Matthew 17:1-2 (KJV) *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, **2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

Revelation 19:11-13 (KJV) *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge*

⁴ Thayer’s Greek Definitions

and make war. **12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

- But here, the point is that Christ mirrors all that is glorious about God the Father!
- If you want to know the love of God, look at Christ! If you want to understand the mercy and grace of God, look at Christ! If you are attempting to apprehend the wrath of God on sin, look at Christ!

John 14:6-10 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

6. Jesus Christ: The express Image of His Person..(v.3)

- Christ demonstrates the *charaktēr* (express image in Greek) of God. *Person* is *hupostasis*, which implies “substance or essence.”⁵⁶
- MacArthur writes, “The term translated “express image” is used only here in the NT. In extrabiblical literature, it was employed for an engraving on wood, an etching in metal, a brand on animal hide, an impression in clay, and a stamped image on coins. *Person* is a word conveying nature, being, or essence. The Son is the perfect imprint, the exact representation of the nature and essence of God in time and space.”
- Amen!

7. Jesus Christ: Upholding all things by the Word of His power... (v.3)

Being fully God, Christ speaks forth His powerful *Rhēma* (Word), and all things are upheld thereby! Praise Him!

Psalms 33:1-9 (KJV) Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. **2** Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. **3** Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise. **4** For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. **5** He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. **6** By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. **7** He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. **8** Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. **9** For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Psalms 148:1-5 (KJV) Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. **2** Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. **3** Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. **4** Praise him, ye heavens

⁵ Thayer Greek Definitions

⁶ This is also where the term “Hypostatic Union” comes from when describing the nature of the Son. ⁶ <https://www.gotquestions.org/hypostatic-union.html>

of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. **5** Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

8. Jesus Christ: By Himself, purged our sins! (v.3)

- Christ purged our sins! Purged is *katharismos*, and means “a washing off, an expiation (atonement), or a cleansing.”⁷
- This is the Gospel!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God’s creation.

9. Jesus Christ: Sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High! (v.3)

- Christ is enthroned in the heavens, seated in the place of honor, authority and power: the Father’s right hand! (Matt 26:64; Heb 8:1, 10:12, 12:2)

1 Peter 3:18-22 (KJV) *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **19** By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; **20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. **21** The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **22** Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*

Hallelujah!

Applications for us:

The glorious attributes of the Son, and the truth that God would speak by and send the Son for our redemption:

1. Should give us joy! What are our problems compared to the “brightness of His glory?”
2. Should humble us! Christ humbled Himself for our sakes!
3. Should motivate a holy life! A people in awe of Him should be characterized by obedience!
4. Should cause us to fall down and worship! How can we know the Son and not worship?
5. Should inspire a desire to tell everyone the Good News! He purged our sins by His own blood! This salvation is available to all who repent and believe! (Mk 1:15)

Hallelujah and Amen!

⁷ Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionary