**Greater Than All – Hebrews wk 1 - The Superior Savior**

**To follow Jesus is a life of hope, joy, and love… but I would be amiss if I told you, it was easy… it can be a difficult journey - left out, facing opposing views, convictions, losing family, persecution.**

**The early church was constantly faced with opposition – and today many Christians in the world… still millions at risk.**

**Hebrews answers: How do I help a friend struggling to trust Jesus? Who do I do if a friend (or self) is thinking of walking away from Jesus? Hebrews deals with both.**

**Facing the temptation to give up or quit and return to old faith. (This will be a heavy book…)**

**We are going to walk verse by verse through Hebrews. We go verse by verse - WHY? We believe the Bible has answers more than a self-help style lecture – and – It keeps us honest. Keeps us from picking, isolating, and drop ins. Bible decides what we will talk about.**

**Background Check**

* **Written by 69AD – to Jewish believers – struggling to continue in the faith of Jesus. Should we turn to our old ways and beliefs??**
* **Author unknown- 2nd century church fathers say sounds like Paul. The writer knew who he is writing to - referees their relationships. Some suggest - Barnabas, Apollos, or even Priscila. (Don’t know)**

**What’s great about not knowing the author is the author takes a backseat and the supremacy of Jesus shines!**

**Here we go - The Superior Savior**

**Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, (long time ago in a galaxy far far away) at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (the written word) 2but in these last days (2000 yrs ago not *the* last days – but age of the Messiah – the last age) he has spoken to us by his Son, (the living word), whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high…**

* **Greater than the prophets!**

**Written to Jewish Christians – they believed in the reality of God, his written word and that God speaks to man (we will be reminded of some of them later in this letter)**

**No other NT book has more refences to OT than Hebrews. The readers had a vast knowledge and understanding of the OT scriptures.**

**Some of you may not - we will unpack it together.**

**Jesus is greater than Moses and all the prophets! They point to Jesus. They are incomplete. Jesus (God in flesh) cleared up a lot as he spoke.**

**That was then – this is now – Jesus is greater!!!**

**…he (God) appointed the heir of all things,**

* **Greater than all things – all things are his!**

**Jesus is preeminent, foremost & owner of all things! Everything is already rightfully his! That’s why we can trust he can do what he says.**

**…through whom also he created the world.**

* **Greater than creation**

**World (Gk. Aion) where we get the word eons. Means the very ages of all creation itself. He made the very ages of History!**

**He was born (incarnation) 2021 yrs ago – but has always been.**

**Colossians 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He created all things – meaning *he himself was not created*. He is not the first created (LDS or JW’s) – he is forever eternal!**

**Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe (panta – all things - everything) by the word (Rema) of his power. (Dunameos / dynamite – miraculous power and strength)**

* **Greater than any man – equal to God (3 reference to explain this…)**

**\*\*Jesus the radiance of God - What do we see when we see things are the rays of light from the sun or a source of light – we don’t often notice the light itself – but we know it’s there by the light it casts. Jesus is the beam from God – light from God – illuminating the Father!**

**\*\*Jesus the imprint of God - (GK) khar-ak-tare' = caricature. It is an engraving tool that makes an exact reproduction – stamp on a coin.**

**Jesus is the very stamp and image of God’s invisible nature!!**

**He is God for dummies. You want to know God? Know Jesus!**

**Jesus is not God jr. the Fathers bubba, if GOD in training!**

**We are not to mock, belittle, misuse, pass-off, or make light!**

**We need to see Jesus for who he is! Not a watered-down hippie. He is not our homiee, homeslice or bro! He is the radiance of God!**

**He is not geneie in a bottle, vending machine, Santa Clause…**

**\*\*Jesus the power of God - holds all things by His power!**

**“…he upholds (lit. constant maintains) the universe by the word of his power.”**

**Actively constantly involved and in control of all things – not somethings. Jesus is not passively involved or just watching.**

**He is constantly speaking, and the universe (all things) respond.**

**Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**Know this, God has never been disconnected from his creation. God speaks, works, maintains, always working & active thru Jesus!**

**3b After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

* **Greater than our sin**

**We see here an incredible Love! Greater than all love. That the God of all creation perfect and holy would come to earth and die for the guilty on a criminal’s cross. God did it himself!!!**

**A man alone could not – a prophet could not! No one else could do it – But only Jesus!!! That God would do this!!!**

**Jesus conquered sin on the cross!! What than means for you! You can know the Father – the kingdom!!**

**After making purification for sins, (it is a finished work for all time) he sat down**

**This tell us it is finished – it is accomplished – nothing else needs to be done to bring us back to the God. No more sacrifices, no more temples, no more work… done! \*\* A big theme of Hebrews.**

**And after her did this… “he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty”**

**“Anthropomorphism” = power and Glory of God - Position of preeminence and glory. Jesus is the very radiance of the invisible God.**

**There was an ancient tendency to worship angels. And lest you think he is just a glorified angel… (like JW’s believe – Michael).**

**(Jesus) 4having become as much superior to angels (refence to the work of the cross – proving his superiority) as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (The power of his name is superior) 5For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? (Ps 2:7) Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a Son”? (2 Sam 7:14) 6And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, (Ps 89:27 preeminent incarnation) he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” (Deut 32:43 / Rev 5).**

 **7Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers (servants) a flame of fire.” (Ps 104:4 – Jesus is Lord of the angels – they are his servants – they burn for him) 8But of the Son he (God) says, “Your throne, O God, (Jesus) is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, (Jesus) your God, (The Father) has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” (Ps 45:6-7 – There is One God alone! The Father God calls Jesus God – But there is one God… the mystery of the trinity)**

**What does all this mean?**

* **Greater than all of heaven**

**Angels were created - Jesus was not created! Jesus is not an angel. They worship Him. Jesus right now sits on the throne of heaven and earth! This means Jesus deserves our worship right now!**

**8But of the Son He (God) says… 10And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation (origin of all things) of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens (farthest galaxies) are the work of your hands; 11they will perish, but you remain; they (all creation) will all wear out like a garment, 12like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same and your years will have no end.” (Quoting Ps 10:25-27)**

* **Greater than time itself!**

**Science tells us that the universe is slowly expanding and dying. It is less active every day. The universe is constantly extracting and using energy (heat) and will eventually run out and die.**

**They will perish like a worn-out garment, but Jesus never will.**

**Heb 1:12 “you are the same and your years will have no end.”**

**Heb 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**\*\*Self existent and \*\*Immutability!**

**God doesn’t need us to feel better (not lonely, worried, concerned, depressed – by himself) He is fully self-existent and perfect!**

**\*\* God doesn’t need you – but he wants you!**

**WHY? Love & grace. That is how it is unconditional - he gets nothing from it but takes great pleasure giving it – it’s his nature.**

**He is unchanging in his perfection and in his grace!**

**13And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until (even to the point) I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? (PS 110:1, 7th OT quote = points to the ultimate return) 14Are they (all of heaven) not all ministering spirits (servants) sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

**Angels are described in OT & Rev as bowing before the throne of Jesus – none has a seat – they only serve and praise Him!**

**They are sent from the throne to serve God’s purposes w/ us.**

* **Greater than all!**

**1:13 “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?**

**From P 110:1 – most quoted verse in NT (21X) Jesus’ fav verse.**

**Jesus is the sovereign! The King of Kings – Lord of Lords!!!**

**He sits on the throne Sovereign over all things!**

**This is the heartbeat of this letter – If you now Jesus, no need to worry, no need to despair – no need to be afraid - Jesus is greater than all!!!**

**He told his disciples this - John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”**

**I want to point out something amazing -**

**Verse 1 Jesus was appointed heir of all things… (and what does he do with it?)**

**Verse 14 “for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation…” (he invites us!!)**

**This inheritance of salvation is a refence to the position we have in Christ for those who believe. We are by faith in Jesus made family with Christ and joint heirs of the promise of the Kingdom!**

**By faith - Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ…**

**We are the beneficiaries of Jesus great work!!! Not the angels, humans – we are the heirs (receivers) of God’s grace and love.**

**We don’t deserve it – we can’t earn it – we can’t buy it – we can’t get to it – but Jesus gives it away to those who believe. Sounds reckless… But it is God never ending, perfect, purposeful, love and grace at work!**

**Creator of all things – Ruler of all things – the one angel’s worship and serve – the only sacrifice for sin – every enemy is under his feet - the only hope of the world!! There is no equal!**

**The stage is set… then the writer says… Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**

**The fact of Jesus superiority should change how we see everything! Know this - Don’t ever forget it! Lest you forget, neglect and fall away.**

**Jesus is greater than the prophets, the greatest of men, all creation, the heavens, the angels, time itself, than our sin… what he says must be listened to, remembered, and lived out!**

**The writer of Hebrews starts off by saying that. “God has spoken to us by His Son.” What is God speaking through Jesus.**

**What did Jesus say – what did Jesus do?**