

Experiencing Christ in the Book of Hebrews (Part 1 – Chapters 1-6)

Chapter 1-2

- I. God speaks today in His Son, Jesus Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2)
 - A. The living God is a speaking God
 1. Through the prophets in the past (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 2. In and through His Son today by the Spirit (Heb. 3:7; 9:8)
 - B. Appointed by God as Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2; Rom. 8:17)
 - C. Through Whom He made the world (Heb. 1:2b, 10-12; John 1:1-3, 10; Col. 1:16-17); and upholding all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3)
 - D. He is the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person <substance> (Heb. 1:3a; John 1:14, 18; 12:45; 14:8-9; Col. 1:15; 2:9) <pre-incarnated condition>
 - E. Being God Himself (Heb. 1:8; John 1:1-3; Phil. 2:6-8)
 - F. Incarnated to accomplish purification of our sins
 - G. Ascended as the firstborn Son of God and sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:8-9, 13)
 1. Your throne is forever and ever (Ps. 10:16; 45:6-7; 89:4; 110:1-3)
 2. A scepter of uprightness (justice) is the scepter of your kingdom
 3. You will make all your enemies your footstool (Heb. 1:13)
- II. Made much more superior to the angels as He has obtained by inheritance a more excellent name** (Heb. 1:4; Ps. 29:1; 89:6; Phil. 2:6-11)

- A. As the firstborn Son (Ps. 2:6-7; Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:3-4; 2 Sam. 7:13-14)
 - 1. Born of the seed of David according to the flesh
 - 2. Declared by the counsel and foreknowledge of God to be the *firstborn* Son of God in power Eph. 1:19-20
 - 3. According to the Spirit of Holiness
 - 4. By virtue of His resurrection
 - a. Christ the firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20)
 - b. Raised from the dead for our justification (Rom. 4:25)
 - 5. Crowned with glory and honor (Heb. 2:9)
 - 6. We are the many brethren (Heb. 2:5-13; Rom. 8:29-30)
- B. Angels are just the ministering spirits (Heb. 1:7; Ps. 104:4)
 - 1. They are called “sons of God” in the sense that they are created by God (Heb. 1:7; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
 - 2. They must worship Jesus Christ, the Firstborn Son of God (Heb. 1:6; Deut. 32:43 LXX)
 - 3. Sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14)

III. Insertion of a serious warning (Heb. 2:1-4)

- A. The need to give more earnest heed to the things we have heard in chapter 1
- B. The danger of drifting away slowly
- C. No escape from severe judgment if we neglect so great a salvation at first spoken by the Lord
 - 1. Confirmed by His disciples who heard Him
 - 2. God also bearing witness with signs and wonders, with miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit

IV. We see Jesus – the fulfillment of man’s destiny (Heb. 2:5-18; Ps. 8:3-9)

- A. Incarnated – made a little lower than the angels (“*Elohim*” Hebrew text)
- B. Crowned with glory and honor

1. Because of the suffering of death – by the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone
2. Through His death, He destroyed the devil, who held the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:21-22, 26, 54-55)
3. Made perfect through sufferings as the captain (author) of our salvation (Heb. 2:10; 5:8-9)
 - a. According to the wisdom and design of God (Rom. 11:33-36)
 - b. To lead many sons to glory
4. Being made a merciful and faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:16-18)

Chapters 3-5

V. Jesus Christ – the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, who was appointed by God

- A. Moses' faithfulness in all God's house as a servant (Num. 12:7; Deut. 18:15)
 1. A type of Christ's faithfulness as Son over God's house, whose house we are (Heb. 3:2-6)
 2. Leading God's people 40 years in the wilderness – <An insertion as a warning> (Heb. 3:7-19)
- B. Joshua (a type of Christ) – leading the people to enter the good land – a type of entering God's Sabbath rest (Heb. 4:1-11)
 1. Christ is our inheritance <the allotted portion>, the good land (Col. 1:12, 15-19; 2:3, 9-10; 3:4, 10-11)
 2. The reality of the Sabbath (Col. 2:16-17)
 3. To enter boldly to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16)
 4. Inheriting the coming Millennial Kingdom
 5. Through the living word of God mingled with our spirit of faith (Heb. 4:1-2; 11-13)

- C. Aaron, the high priest – pointing to Jesus Christ as the great High Priest according to the order Melchizedek (Heb. 2:16-18; 4:14-16; 5:1-10)

VI. Insertion of a warning and exhortation (Heb. 5:11-14)

- A. Becoming hard of hearing
- B. Being stagnant in spiritual growth – unable to digest solid spiritual food (word of righteousness)
- C. Remaining as a spiritual babe (1 Cor. 3:1-2; 14:20; Eph. 4:13-14; Col. 1:28)

Chapter 6

VII. Encouragement to go on to maturity <perfection>

- A. Leave the word of the beginning of Christ, move on to <press toward> perfection (maturity)
 - 1. NOT LAYING AGAIN THE FOUNDATION: repentance from dead works, faith toward God; doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands; of resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgment
 - 2. This we will do if God permits – cannot be forced
- B. If truly born-again believers (those who were once enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit; have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come) would fall (a different word used, not meaning apostasy)
 - 1. It is impossible (unnecessary) to lay again the foundation because it has already been laid (see all the points under A1)
 - 2. Namely to start again from the initial repentance, to re-crucify Jesus for themselves, putting Him to an open shame (Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25-28; 10:10-14, 18)
- C. There will be reward and judgment for us Christians before the judgment seat of Christ at His return (Heb. 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 3:11-17; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9-10)

1. All the believers will have to give an account of how they live today
 2. Those who mature in their spiritual life, bearing herbs useful for the Master, will receive blessing
 3. But those who bear thorns and briers will be rejected, near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned
- D. A word of encouragement (Heb. 6:9-20)