

God Has Spoken

Hebrews 1:1-4

We are starting our new series on the Letter to the Hebrews. It is unusual because we don't know who wrote it, or to whom. However, the first recipients were most likely greek-speaking Jewish Christians living in Rome.

The letter is also unlike other letters in the New Testament, in that it reads more like a sermon. The people the author was writing to were facing persecution, and on the verge of giving up their faith and returning to Judaism. The writer writes a sermon, to be read aloud to them, to urge them not to do that.

We are going to study Hebrews for a number of reasons: it is said to be the New Testament book most written about by scholars, but least read by actual Christians. Some parts are hard to understand. We want to see just how very relevant it is to our lives. But also, whilst the source of the pressure we face is different from theirs, we also face the temptation to give in and turn our backs on Jesus.

Today we will just look at **Hebrews 1:1-4**.

The first four verses set the scene for what is to come – they are like an overture to a symphony.

God Has Spoken

Many people want to connect with God, but dislike organized religion. Hebrews tells us we don't need to search in the dark: God has spoken to us. But His message is not about us, first and foremost, it is about Jesus.

In the past God spoke through prophets, but now He has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus. He is the final and decisive message from God. He is the plumb-line by which all other truth claims, or faith systems must be judged.

But why should Jesus, rather than any other religious teacher, be that plumb-line? The writer gives us two reasons: because of who Jesus is and because of what He has done.

Who Jesus Is

He tells us that Jesus is the heir of all things; the one through whom everything was made; the radiance and image of God (so He is uniquely qualified to reveal God to us) and He upholds everything – which means He is intimately interested and involved in your life. So if that's who Jesus is, doesn't it stand to reason that He should be the one whose word you listen to and build your life upon, regardless of what anyone else says?

What Jesus has done

The Bible identifies sin as the fundamental problem with humanity. We know its effects in our own lives. The writer tells us that Jesus has dealt with it – he purifies sins, and then He has sat down, meaning He has done all there is to do to save us. All we need do is trust Him and what He has done for us.

So Christ provides the answer everyone is searching for: for those longing to fill the inner void; for those wondering which voice to listen to; for those wondering if the price is really worth paying.

The writer finishes by telling us that Jesus has become 'superior to angels.' But that will have to wait until next week.