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Hebrews 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Hebrews 1.

INTRODUCTION: this letter is written to Hebrews who had been enlightened, endured sufferings, been publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, stood alongside others who were persecuted, had compassion on those in prison and joyfully accepted others plundering their property (probably the Romans) knowing they had an eternal possession (Heb. 10:31-36). It appears they had a faith in Christ, but were still bound by the Levitical priesthood and the Jewish religious system and because of this the author brilliantly uses Moses Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place and Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the only High Priest anyone needs and that it is by faith in Christ and God's grace not religious works that God's people are counted righteous. The blessing of this letter is not limited to the Hebrews since everyone who is seeking God or who is a brother or sister of Christ will be overwhelming awed as they read this well-crafted and awe-inspiring letter as it beautifully progresses through the chapters proving Jesus is the Christ (probably written about A.D. 68).

Topics.

- God in these last days has spoken to us by his Son.
 - God appointed Jesus to be heir of all things.
 - God created the world through his Son.
 - Jesus upholds the universe by the word of his power.
 - You are my Son, today I have begotten you.
 - God brought the firstborn into the world.
 - Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.
 - You, Lord laid the foundation of the earth.
 - Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.
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NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

HEBREWS 1:1-2

God in these Last Days has spoken to us by His Son.

- **Hebrews 1:1-2:** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world (aion).

Under the Old Covenant God spoke in visions, revelations, dreams, and inspiration through the faithful prophets of the Old Testament, , but under the New Covenant God spoke through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus not only spoke the words of God revealing God's eternal plan of salvation that He purposed in His eternal mind before the world began, but also manifested God in his lifestyle through the miracles he did and the compassion, kindness, grace and mercy he showed to all who came to him. Jesus was the perfect image of God on earth in every way, which is the reason he is often referred to as, "The word made flesh."

NOTICE: here the writer of Hebrews refers to the age that we are living in as the last days, meaning there will not be another age before Christ returns. This New Testament age (or world) that we live in at this time, is the last age, before that glorious and world changing day comes when Christ returns. This awe-inspiring event will totally change the world as we know it and introduce another period of time and a totally different new age.

God appointed Jesus to be heir of all things: God before the foundations of the world in His eternal mind planned and purposed that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the "Heir of all things" (v2). The "All things" in this context refer to the following promise God made to Abraham:

- To Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed which is Christ and this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect because if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Gal 3:16-18).

The promise to Abraham was that his seed would inherit the world this is the all things that the author of Hebrews is referring to.

THE MAJESTIC WONDER AND BEAUTY OF GOD'S ETERNAL PROMISE IS REVEALED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The promised seed of Abraham is of course the Lord Jesus Christ and the promise that he will inherit the world (all things) will be fulfilled when Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death)

(Revelation 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the book of Ephesians that all the promises of God have been extended to all who are baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ (regardless of whether they are a Jew or Gentile) and that the promises embrace whoever will come to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For further information see the title:

- Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

God created the world through His Son: the words:

- God has appointed Jesus the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world (v2).

Do not mean that Christ created the world or that he was even with God when He spoke our world into being (as some are taught to believe). The two most common understandings are as follows:

1. God when He planned creation in his eternal mind purposed that Jesus would be the head of all things and the pinnacle and central focus of His eternal plan, much like an architect who designs a majestic structure sees it all in vision form in his mind long before it is brought into reality or like a pregnant mother who plans with vivid colour in her mind her child's bedroom and even decorates it long before the baby is born. Likewise, Jesus though not yet in existence was from the beginning a reality in the eternal mind of God as a building is to an architect and as a baby is to a mother.
2. The world that Christ created is not referring to creation, but the new world i.e., his eternal kingdom that he created through his ministry, death and resurrection.

Though both of these understandings are correct it is the second one that applies to the context of this chapter since the entire focus of the author is firstly on proving to the reader (mostly the Jews) that God has exalted Christ far above all deities, divinities and angels and secondly on Christ eternal kingdom which is the word the author has in focus throughout this chapter. God the Father has spoken to those in the new world (or new age) through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. The world in focus is the world Christ has created. It is the New Testament world that began from the time John baptised Christ to the end of the Lord's millennial reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords during which time he will establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace. Jesus ministry, death and resurrection not only ended the Old Covenant, the holy days, the feasts and the sacrifices but also did away with the entire Levitical Priesthood and the ceremonial Law of Moses it could be stated that Jesus death and resurrection destroyed the old religious world. The appearing of Jesus, his ministry, death and resurrection did away with the Old Covenant and changed the entire religious and spiritual world forever and introduced a completely New Covenant and new way of reconciling to God and a new way of entering into eternal life. This is the new word that these verses have in focus it is the new spiritual world God has established in Christ that the author here has in mind. God has given Jesus all authority and exalted him above all principalities and powers over this new spiritual world that exists in the hearts of people world-wide and in every nation, who have made Christ their Lord. This invisible and spiritual world of faith is manifested outwardly (howbeit not perfectly) through the

lives of those who live to honour God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Though this new spiritual world is not yet realised in reality by those who deny the existence of God at this time there is an awe-inspiring day coming when the last trumpet sounds and Christ in glory will return, when this breath-taking event occurs no-one will be left in doubt as to who the King of this new world that has been established in Christ is (Rev 19:13-16).

HEBREWS 1:3

Jesus upholds the Universe by the Word of his Power.

- **Hebrews 1:3:** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe (All things in KJV) by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

The word imprint in this context carries the idea of an engraver stamping or engraving the exact copy of a person's character onto another. The stamped imprint is an exact representation of what has been copied.

NOTICE: the author is not saying (as some teach) that Jesus is God, but that he is an exact imprint or image of God's nature and character. Jesus not only perfectly revealed the exact character, nature and power of God, but also made God's eternal plans purposes and promises known to all, and in his own life manifest the heart of God, the mind of God and the mercy, grace, justice and love of God even unto death. It is in this sense that Jesus Christ is the exact imprint of God, though he is not God he perfectly manifested God in everything he said and did.

Jesus upholds the universe: the King James Bible is a better translation of the following verse:

- Jesus upholds the universe by the word of his power (v3).

This is because the King James instead of saying the universe uses the words all things which is a much better translation since the author of Hebrews does not have creation in mind but the new world (or new age) that Christ created after:

- Making purification for sins and sitting down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (v3).

This verse clearly refers to Christ's death and resurrection to the right-hand side of God. It is this world that Jesus upholds by the "Word of his power" (v3) which of course refers to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which has the spiritual power to, "Deliver a person from the domain of darkness and transfer them to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13). This Kingdom of Christ is the world that Jesus is upholding by the power of his word, it refers not only to Christ's present Kingdom of faith that spiritually dwells within the inner most being of those who have him seated as King on the throne of their hearts and minds, but also to his literal Kingdom when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

HEBREWS 1:4-5

Jesus has become Superior to the Angels.

- **Hebrews 1:4-5:** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

When Bible writers use the word name in this manner it does not just refer to the name of the person, but embraces all of who that person is (i.e., their authority, character and their titles), when the Bible says, "Pray

in Jesus name” it does not simply mean tag his name on the end of a prayer but pray in love, compassion kindness mercy and grace etc., it means pray in the Spirit and character of Jesus. To discover the name that Jesus has been given that excels the name of the angels we first need to know what the name of the angels is. The author of Hebrews states that, “All angels are ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” (Heb. 1:14) from this verse we see that the name of the angels is ministering spirits this is a common title used in the Bible for angels. Now the name that that Jesus has inherited that is far more excellent than the name of the angels is:

1. God’s Son no-one in heaven or on earth has this name, certainly all mankind in a general sense are sons of God since we all come from Adam who God created, and clearly those who trust in Christ are by their faith and adoption beloved sons and daughters of God, but Jesus is the Son of God through birth and not by creation or adoption and in this manner he is unique to any other son.
2. Saviour of the world no-one not even the angels have been given this name. Jesus said, “The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Matt 9:6). God the Father has given His Son the Lord Jesus Christ all power and authority to forgive sins there is no-other who can forgive sins and save to eternal life in heaven or on earth.
3. King of kings and Lord of lords this name by far surpasses the name of the angels since God has not given this name to any other than His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NAME GOD HAS GIVEN CHRIST THAT SURPASSES ALL OTHER NAMES IS, SON OF GOD, CHRIST THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

NOTE: we know that God will not give Christ’s name to any other therefore the highest name God can give any of us is the same name he has given to the angels (i.e., ministering spirits) who were sent out to serve those who are to inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:14). Therefore if we desire to receive a most glorious crown of praise from the Lord we should not set our minds upon ruling, but upon serving especially serving our brothers and sisters in Christ so that we also would be given the name ministering servants and be as pleasing to God as his eternal and heavenly angels are.

You are my Son, today I have begotten you? God called Jesus His Son in Psalms, at his water baptism and at the Mount of Transfiguration. In Psalms

- I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill, I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you (Psalm 2:6-8).

Though this is referring to King David we know that it is echoing by prophecy the Lord Jesus Christ by the words of Paul who wrote:

- We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, " 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you' (Acts 13:32-33).

At Jesus baptism:

- A voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

At the Mount of Transfiguration:

- Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matt 17:5).

God Brought the Firstborn into the World.

- **Hebrews 1:6-7:** And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." (Cited from Psalm 104:4).

Fire and flames: destroy everything in its path, thus flaming fire when used in reference to the angels carries the idea of God's judgment destroying everything wicked and corrupt. Most today think of God's heavenly angels as being angels of good which of course is a true understanding of God's angels, but their ministry is not limited to blessings since they are also ministering spirits of God's of God's judgment.

Firstborn: literally means first child born of a mother, but it can also mean the first in time, the first in place, the first in order or the first in importance, in the context of this verse it means the first to be born to be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. In these verses the author of Hebrew is continuing to show his readers (primarily the Jews) that God has exalted Jesus far above all principalities and powers by highlighting the divine truth that God has told the angels who are ministering spirits to worship Christ, which clearly shines a floodlight on the reality that God has exalted His Son far above the heavenly angels.

NOTE: for there to be a firstborn there must be others born, thus the words, "God brings the firstborn into the world" (v6) implies that God will bring many others into the world. Paul wrote of this in his letter to the Romans, saying, "God has called those who are justified and glorified to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that Christ might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

HEBREWS 1:8

Your Throne, O God, is Forever and Ever.

- **Hebrews 1:8:** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. (Cited from Psalm 45:6-7).

Sceptre: refers to a flag, a rod, or staff that symbolises a ruling tribe or king, in this context it symbolises righteousness as being the strength of the King and of his Kingdom. The words, God has said of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever" is most likely one of the most misunderstood verses of the Bible and has been used by many religious teaches to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God, but this is not what the author of Hebrews or of Psalms where it is cited from mean. The following seven points help to understand the words, "Your throne, O God."

1. The context the verse is in is of the author of Hebrews proving to his readers (mostly the Jews) that God has exalted Jesus above the angels.
2. The English word God as used by the writer of the Psalms is the Hebrew word ('elohiym) which refers to gods in the ordinary sense and though it can refer to the supreme God it is also used as a way of honouring or showing reverence to magistrates or to gifted or superior angels.
3. The English word 'God' as used by the author of Hebrews is the Greek word (theos) which though it can refer to the supreme divinity it also refers to any deity since it figuratively means a magistrate and in Hebrew language can mean very or exceedingly God, godly or Godward.

4. The Psalm that the words, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever" are in and which the author of Hebrews is citing is not written to be used for legalistic or dogmatic teaching, since it is a love song written in poetic language to be sung by the people of Israel to glorify God and His Son.
5. The author of Hebrews is citing a verse that was written during the Old Testament and directed to the people of Israel. Clearly all of the people of Israel (unlike us today) would have had a clear understanding of the word ('elohiym) and had no doubt that God was saying of His Son that he is the most exalted of all deities, divinities and angels
6. It is God telling (howbeit through a prophet) His Son that he is the supreme deity and divinity in his Kingdom and his eternal throne in this Kingdom will be forever and the strength (Sceptre) of his Kingdom will be righteousness.
7. It would never enter the mind of the people of Israel to think that God the Almighty Father and creator of all was actually telling His Son that He is in reality God Himself, this is mental gymnastics and foolishness yet the teaching that Jesus is God is a common belief amongst many Christian churches today. For further information see the title:
 - Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

HEBREWS 1:9

Jesus Loved Righteousness and Hated Wickedness.

- **Hebrews 1:9:** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." (Cited from Psalm 45:6-7).

The key to having inward happiness and joy that is totally independent of outward circumstances and worldly wealth, riches and possessions is to love righteousness and hate wickedness, it is to love the things God loves and hate the things that He hates and that are opposed to the law of love and of justice (what is fair and right for all people). When the human heart and mind is in tune with the heart of God and the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ and the law of love and justice, God by His Spirit fills the inner most core of the heart with joy.

NOTE: this does not mean that a person will never experience sorrow, grief or sadness (no one is exempt from these), but that beneath these emotions there is a quiet and strengthening joy of comfort that not only surpasses human understanding, but also self-effort and self-will.

HEBREWS 1:10-12

You, Lord laid the Foundation of the Earth.

- **Hebrews 1:10-12:** And "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they 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." (Cited from Psalm 102:25-27).

The word *and* at the beginning of these verses show that the mind of the writer has now shifted from Christ back to verse eight in which God was speaking and says that His Son's throne will be forever. The authors focus now is on God, it is God who he has in mind when he wrote, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the

work of your hands” and not the Lord Jesus Christ, but because Christ is hidden in much of the Old Testament language and there are faint glimpses of Christ in Psalm 102 the verse by prophecy can be seen to be referring to the Lord Jesus Christ laying the foundations of his eternal Kingdom of righteousness through his ministry death and resurrection. These understanding are not only in harmony with the entire teaching of the Bible, but also with the context of the chapter of the Psalm the author of Hebrews is citing these verses from.

HEBREWS 1:13-14

Sit at My Right Hand until I make Your Enemies Your Footstool.

- **Hebrews 1:13-14:** And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

The author is continuing to prove (by citing Old Testament verses) to his readers (primarily the Jews) that God has exalted Jesus above all deities, divinities and angels. Here he cites a Psalm of David in which he wrote: -

- The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool (Psalm 110:1).

This refers to Christ resurrection to the right-hand side of God where he is seated until God has made all things ready on earth for the Lord’s return. The author of Hebrews in chapter ten wrote:

- When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet for by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified (Heb. 10:12-14).

This is another glorious Psalm that shows the glory and wonder of Bible language and how Christ is interwoven through Scripture.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

(re-notes following Hebrews 1:1-2)

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew). The apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers

and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone²¹ in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you: if you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.