

Hebrews 3 Chapter 1 con't

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To review: Hebrews is written to 3 different types of people ... the same 3 types of people in every Church and congregation... the same 3 types of Hebrews throughout Israel today.

1. Jews who are born again believers who are experiencing persecution from other Jews as well as from Gentiles...
2. Jews who are intellectually convinced of the truth of Who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what He has done but have not made the decision to commit to trust in Him as Lord and Savior.
3. Jews who are not convinced at all but who still keep coming around.

The writer has sought to present Jesus Christ as superior to all others and in this first chapter, especially superior to angels. The incomparable Lord Jesus Christ is the preeminent person in all Creation... He is the Creator and Sustainer of all that is. He is to be exalted because He alone is Worthy to be exalted by virtue of His complete righteousness and sinlessness and His willingness to suffer and die as the perfect sacrifice for sin, the spotless Lamb of God.

He is the focus of all God's Word, Old Testament and New Testament... He is the Word of God.

In Matt 5:17 Jesus said, '...think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets, I am not come to destroy, **but to fulfill.**' All the Law and Prophets were written of Him. He fulfilled all the requirements of the law for everyone who trusts in Him by faith. Every law, every statute... He obeyed completely and His obedience, His complete righteousness is imputed to every one of us who have been born again by His Holy Spirit. It's as if... back in High School... we had a big math test coming up but we are rotten in math... every time the teacher looks at us she scowls and says, bad student... you're a failure... but this time, Jesus sits in for us and takes the test, getting 100% for us! Now, every time the teacher looks over at us she smiles and says, 'You're my favorite A+ student... you never have to take another test again... ever... you pass with flying colors!

He not only fulfilled the law completely... He fulfilled it completely for us!

In John 5:39 He said, 'Search the Scriptures (Old Testament)... they are they which **testify of Me.**' When He said that, all they had was the Old Testament... but He also meant the coming New Testament... all of Paul, etc.

After His resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, it says in Luke 24:27, 'And beginning at Moses and all the prophets He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures, (the Old Testament) the things **concerning Himself.**' 'Beginning at Moses' meant beginning with Genesis, that is, the very beginning. Moses wrote Genesis. Immediately after the Fall, after Adam and Eve sinned, as He was pronouncing His curse upon the Serpent (Satan), God promised that He would eventually send a redeemer Who would bruise the head of Satan. Before they even left the Garden of Eden, God gave a promise of the coming Messiah.

Later, in verse 44, He said to all His disciples, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms **concerning Me.**"⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.'

He opened their understanding. The only way anyone can begin to understand the Old Testament is by seeing it in light of the One about Whom it is all written... and the only way anyone's understanding can be 'opened' is by the Sovereign work of the Holy Spirit... only He can give us understanding... just like He is the only One Who can cause a spiritually dead person to become alive to the extent they can understand and respond to the Gospel. Apart from His waking a person up and drawing them to Himself... everyone is spiritually dead in sin.

Before the coming of Jesus Christ, throughout the Old Testament, God progressively gave more and more revelation, but He never gave the full picture of Himself. Finally, with the coming of His Son, He fully revealed Himself. Jesus said, 'If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.' John 14:9

Jews have been blinded by God because of their rejection of their Messiah, Jesus Christ; they are blinded to the meaning of the New Testament because they are blinded to the true meaning of the Old Testament because they have rejected the true meaning of all Scripture, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

The blindness of Israel began at Calvary, at His first coming, and it will only be lifted when they see Him, recognize Him and mourn their unbelief and rejection of Him, at His second coming.

That moment of National salvation for Israel will come when Jesus Christ returns, in part, because throughout the 7 year Tribulation, as the Antichrist and everyone else is trying to destroy them, even worse than in Nazi Germany, beginning with the 144,000 saved right after the Rapture, Jews will have been studying not only the Old Testament, looking for the Messiah to come and rescue them, but they will have been studying this, the Book of Hebrews, and one by one, they will begin to recognize Who their Messiah really is.

Someone wrote: 'What the Old Testament concealed of Christ, the New Testament revealed. What the Old Testament contained of Christ, the New Testament explained. What the Old Testament gave in precept of Christ, the New Testament gives in perfection. What the Old Testament presented of Christ in shadow, the New Testament presents in substance. What the Old Testament presented of Christ in ritual, the New Testament presents in reality. What the Old Testament presented of Christ in picture the New Testament presents of Christ in person.' All of Scripture, from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 points to the Lord Jesus Christ, reveals the Lord Jesus Christ and explains the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God, the Light of the World.

And the Book of Hebrews shouts at the Jews...'This is Him! This is our Great High Priest! Wake up!'

The Book of Hebrews is aimed especially toward Jews, to wake them up to truth and reality... to draw them to their Messiah and Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 3:14 says, 'But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is (only) taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.'

These Jewish readers and listeners who had come to faith in Jesus Christ had a hard time breaking away from the forms and rituals of Judaism (just like today) and the writer is telling them, Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all the forms and rituals... they all pointed to Him... you don't need them anymore... all you need is the true Messiah and true, saving faith in Him. The old things have been fulfilled and have passed away... the rituals, the forms, the types and symbols... they all pointed to Him... He is the reality... He is the fulfillment... in Him, all things have become new.

All of the Old Testament sacrifices never made anyone perfect. They were only shadows of the true light to come, the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God.

The writer has been telling them the same thing regarding angels also. Angels are, in a sense, shadows of the reality of God, Himself. Fallen angels had revealed themselves to humans and angels had been revered, even worshipped. People had seen angels, at least their ancestors had, but no one had seen God. Fallen angels sought to take the place of God... they were worshipped as gods and the writer has been presenting Jesus Christ as far superior to angels.

Last time we ended with chapter 1:9. In verses 8 and 9 God says to the Son... He calls Him God...

But to the Son *He says*:

“Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom.
⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

The writer establishes the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ... He is the exalted, Righteous King Who rules over all... over all Creation and over all angels... He is Messiah, the Anointed One.

Now we come to **verse 10**: 'You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.'

In the beginning... He was **before** the beginning... He was before there was anything... He has always been... He is God Almighty without beginning and without end... He is Eternal. We are not eternal like God is... we had a beginning but we will never have an end... we do have eternal life now... we have been given everlasting life... New Life from God.

He is the Creator of all that is and He, by Himself, laid the foundation of the Earth... Paul says that even before that... He chose us to be His own children: '...just as **He chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having **predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.' Eph 1:4

Imagine this picture: A huge rock... like Gibraltar, surrounded by a dark sea. Floating on the dark sea are millions of people... dead... dead in sin... and eventually, the sea will become a great swirling whirlpool into which every person will finally be sucked down to its depths and taken to Hell.

Standing atop the great Rock Mountain is a huge Jesus Christ with arms spread wide... like that great white statue on the hill in Rio de Janeiro. Jesus Christ is the Rock... the only sure foundation. Emanating out from Him in all directions is a great light... like a lighthouse. He is the Light of the World.

Before He created the great sea and all the people on it, before He created anything... He planned to create a special people for Himself and He specifically chose each one who would be part of that people.

Every one of those people... His elect... at the moment of their conception... God sent out a line which attached itself to each one of them... and by each of those many lines, God would hold on to all of His chosen ones and never let them go... like a long leash with a retractable handle button. Then, at the exact moment of His choosing, He would wake up each of those spiritually dead, but chosen ones and they would respond to the Gospel which God had sent to them and they would trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

At the moment God had planned for their physical death, He would push the button on their retractable leash and in an instant, draw them up to Himself. At the moment of the Rapture, all we who are left, He will push all the buttons at once and we will all be whisked up to meet Him in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

After the Rapture, after the Tribulation, after the Millennium and after the final Judgment of the lost, the Lord Jesus Christ will fold up the Creation and destroy it and replace it with a New Creation over which we will rule and reign with Him forever.

just as **He chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world...**

John 1:1 says "In the beginning was the word." He was already there before the beginning.

Verse 11, 12: ... the Heavens are the work of Your Hands... They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak **You will fold them up**, And they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.'

The writer is telling these Hebrews, 'Put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone, not in any form or ritual... He is the Messiah, our Perfect and Faithful High Priest, He is God Eternal.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Rev. 1:8

But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. Rev. 1:17

Now to the King **eternal, immortal**, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be honor and glory forever and ever.* Amen. 1 Tim 1:17

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. Matt 24:35

Peter tells us how the old Creation will pass away. '... But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.' 2 Pet 3

All Creation will perish but You, Lord will remain... and thankfully, praise be to Him... we will remain. We will remain with Him and we will rule and reign with Him over His New Creation forever.

He never changes. Hebrews 13:8 says, ' Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.'

Clothes get old... they wear out... they get holes... moths eat at them... they get stained and torn... you throw them away... or you wash them and fold them and give them to Good Will. The Earth is growing old... its expiration date is fast approaching... pretty soon, Jesus Christ will return, after the Earth has been nearly destroyed during the Tribulation, and then the countdown for the destruction of the Earth and all the Universe will begin... God's timer will be set for 1000 years during which time the Lord Jesus Christ will rule over His Earthly Kingdom as we rule and reign with Him. After that 1000 years is completed, He will destroy it all and create a New Heavens and a New Earth.

God will actually fold up the Universe... or roll it up like a scroll... That is how unimaginably mighty and powerful He is... He is big enough to hold the entire Universe in His Hand and roll it up like a scroll and yet, He will condescend to lower Himself to our level and even live inside our hearts.

When Jesus Christ opens the 6th Seal on the Scroll during the Tribulation, it says: '...and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then ***the sky receded as a scroll*** when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.' Rev. 6:13

Of this same time Isaiah wrote: 'All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And ***the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll***;
All their host shall fall down

As the leaf falls from the vine,
And as *fruit* falling from a fig tree. Isa 34:4

The Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty is Eternal, He never changes. Everything else will decay, grow old and die... except us... we will live and reign with Him forever and ever.

Verse 13: But to which of the angels has He ever said:

“Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?

Again... he is proving the superiority of Jesus Christ, especially over angels.

He is quoting from Psalm 110:1: The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

The Son of God sits at the Right Hand of the Father in the place of Honor... His work of redemption is finished. We see Him standing only once... when Stephen is stoned... probably He stood to welcome His first martyr home... the first of many millions to follow... even to this day.

The writer is saying to these Hebrews... 'Here is King David himself, saying that the Messiah, his descendant, is actually his **Lord**... He is God.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation, at Armageddon, every enemy of His will be killed. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever while Satan and His demons will be imprisoned in the Bottomless Pit for the thousand years of Christ's Millennial Kingdom. At the end of that time, those who chose to reject Him will all be killed and later resurrected to then face the final judgment after which they too will be cast into the Bottomless Pit along with Satan and all His demons. And finally, the Lord Jesus Christ will destroy the present Heavens and Earth and recreate them new.

In 1 Cor 15 Paul writes, 'But now Christ is risen from the dead... Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. ²⁷ For “He has put all things under His feet.'

Verse 14: 'Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?'

Once again, the writer makes the sharp contrast between The Lord Jesus Christ and angels. His destiny is to rule and reign forever over all creation, to sit on His throne. No angel sits... their work is never done... their work now and their destiny is to serve those whom God chose for salvation. Angels will serve us forever. The contrast could not be more clear... He alone is worthy of honor and worship... He is God Almighty, our perfect and faithful High Priest. Angels are created beings... they are servants.

Angels serve us now, even though we don't see it or recognize it. He tells us in Psalm 119:11, 'For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. ¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Angels pulled Lot and some of his family to safety. An angel protected Daniel in the lions' den. Those were famous believers, but God has given His angels charge over us... the little people... His children.

I was driving home late one night on the winding two lane road to our home on Sauvie Island through farm land. There were no other cars anywhere... no lights coming at me at all, so when I come to curves in the road, I would drift over into the other side of the road to shave off the corner. As I was coming around a sharp curve, I clearly heard a commanding voice say, 'Slow down! Get over now!' I did and just then, coming around the corner right at me, was a huge, black Angus bull... he had gotten out from some farm and he was just trotting down the dark highway... I would have smashed right into him. There was probably an angel riding on top of

my car who called out, loud enough for me to hear. He's here with me now... I don't know his name... but I'm sure he's always been with me since he was assigned to watch over me at birth and I've kept him really busy over the past 65 years... I look forward to meeting him one day soon and saying 'Thanks, big guy! I hope we'll be pals in Heaven forever.' That's just one example of about 10,000 in my life... so far.

So... in this short, first chapter, the writer of Hebrews has established for his readers the absolute certainty of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. His name is the Son, the Lord, God Almighty. He is God by virtue of what He has done... He created all that is, He sustains and upholds it all, He redeemed His own for eternal life and He is God Who is eternal, Who never changes, the same, yesterday, today and forever and He alone is to be worshipped.

Even though he has proven who this Messiah and perfect High Priest really is, some in this congregation of Hebrews still refuse to come to the truth... they still resist... so he comes right into the second chapter and gives a dire warning:

Chapter 2: *'Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.'* ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ ***how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation***, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

He says, 'Wake up! Pay attention! God won't keep reaching out to you through His Word forever... decide! Commit! Put your whole faith and trust in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't let yourself drift away from the Truth. Just because you are a Jew, you will not escape God's Wrath if you reject His Son. He spoke the truth out of His own mouth... there were hundreds of eye witnesses... He proved Himself with miracles by His own hand and through His disciples. Wake up! Salvation is offered to you... don't neglect it... don't end up in Hell because you were too lazy to do something about the truth that you knew to be true.

A person doesn't have to be a murderer or thief or adulterer to go to Hell. They don't have to actively hate God to be condemned... they can even be relatively good people... but they have drifted off into condemnation and eventually Hell because they simply neglected to act on the truth that they heard concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel. Many will be in Hell because they had heard the truth and even believed the truth, but they neglected the truth until it was too late. They never responded to the call of the Gospel. Those are the people the writer is warning here in the first part of chapter 2.

Remember... 3 kinds of people he is writing to... this warning is written to the second group... intellectually convinced of the Truth but still unwilling to commit to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

They had heard the Truth, they even believed the Truth and they kept coming around to Church meetings, but they would not commit. Those same people are in every Church... even here.

This warning is not to true believers. A Christian cannot 'neglect' Salvation. He already has it... he already has eternal life... God's Spirit resides within him. A Christian can neglect his spiritual growth... he can neglect obedience... he can neglect his relationship and fellowship with God, but he cannot neglect so great a salvation because he already possesses it forever. It is the gift of God.

Next time, maybe we'll even finish Chapter 2...