

**Hebrews 1:1-4
(John 14:6-11)
“God’s Majestic Son”**

Introduction

The book of Hebrews is one of the most interesting and helpful, as well as one of the most difficult and perplexing, books of the New Testament. It does not have the form of a letter, but it is clearly addressed to a particular group of people. However, there is no way to know for certain who those people were, just as it is impossible to know who wrote the letter.

This much we do know: the author wrote in the most beautiful and polished Greek found in New Testament. He had a deep knowledge of the ceremonial rituals and sacrificial system of Israel, but knew the Hebrew Scripture in its Greek translation, which he quoted frequently. The people to whom he wrote had faced serious persecution and personal loss when they first came to faith in Christ, and in view of further persecution, some were now abandoning the faith (10:32-39). The author wrote what he called “a word of exhortation” (13:22) to encourage them to remain faithful in the face of whatever might come.

His exhortation focuses on God’s Son, the Messiah, who alone can satisfy the three basic requirements for our lives to have a lasting meaning and significance. *First*, we need to know who God is and what he expects of us. We need to know the story that is universally true, that binds us all together and explains life’s meaning, the story that only God can tell. *Second*, we must find freedom from guilt and shame due to our rebellion and brokenness. And, *third*, we need someone to guide us to our journey’s end, and show us the way through death into unending life. *In biblical language, we need a prophet to tell us the true story of life from God’s perspective, a priest to atone for our sin and plead our case to the living God, and we need a king to lead us through life and death into eternal life.*

Both the Hebrew word “Messiah” and the Greek word “Christ” mean “the Anointed One.” The three offices in Israel that required that one be anointed with oil were that of prophet, priest and king. In the opening four verses, the author makes clear that Jesus Christ alone fulfills those offices, and in doing so, meets our deepest needs.

Body

1. Jesus is the Prophet who supremely reveals God’s Word to us (1:1-3a).

The problem is not the silence of God, but the deafness of humanity: God has been speaking all along through creation, conscience, and messengers. But he has spoken finally and supremely through his Son. If you would know who

God is, study Jesus. If you would know who you were meant to be as one created in God's image, study Jesus. If you would know what you will one day be in Christ, study Jesus.

2. Jesus is the Priest who supremely reconciles us to God (1:3b).

We need a priest to do three things for us: to atone for our sins, to intercede for us, and to bless us. These three things Jesus does and in doing so, he deals with our past, our present and our future.

3. Jesus is the King who supremely rules over God's creation (1:3c-4).

We need, in our democratic age that emphasizes equality, to consider the majestic Lordship of Christ. He is the one before whom one day every knee will bow. He is the answer to the justice question of why the wicked often seem to flourish and go unpunished and to the mercy question of the problem of pain and suffering. He is our sovereign ruler, our gracious shepherd, and our righteous defender.

Conclusion

God has answered the deepest questions of life, has met our deepest needs, has shown us the way to life and joy and peace. Why would we turn away to the false gods of this age that always disappoint? God's Word calls to us across the ages and invites us to look to the One who is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature, and to find our life at last in him.

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