

THE EXCELLENCY AND GLORY OF CHRIST

HEBREWS 1:1-6 • TV141B

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Hebrews 1:1-6

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”

Hebrews 3:1-3

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.”

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Our subject this morning is: “**THE EXCELLENCE AND GLORY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**”

I will be reading from the **Book of Hebrews chapter 1 and also chapter 3.**

I would like very much, if you don't mind, for you to follow along in your Bible as I read the Scripture today. I think you will get a greater blessing from the message if you will follow it in the Scripture. You've got time, right now, to get your Bible and open it to **Hebrews chapter 1.**

Now, I am going to read a text, **verse 8 of Hebrews 1:** “*But unto the Son, (that is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ), he saith, (that is the Father saith); thy throne O God is forever.*” The Father said this to Christ the Son: “*thy throne O God is forever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.*”

Now, it's not always wise to seek keys to the books of the Bible. It's not always wise to try to find a key to a passage of Scripture because we could lay hold of the wrong key and we could go in the wrong direction or we could even lay hold on the right key and instead of finding all the precious treasures that are there, we might miss the blessing, looking for one particular point.

But, without a doubt, I can say this without a doubt: the key to the **book of Hebrews**, the key to the book of **Hebrews** is the excellence and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's absolutely right!

You can take the entire book of **Hebrews** and the key to this whole Book, the key to understanding it, the key to being blessed by it, the key to receiving the treasures that are there, is to understand that the book of **Hebrews** deals with the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and it sets forth His superiority over all things and over all creatures.

For example: Look at **chapter 1, verse 4;** do you see it there, talking about Christ, it says: “*being made so much better than the angels, he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*”

Take all of the angels of God, Michael, Gabriel, and all of those you cannot name, all of the heavenly hosts, the cherubim and seraphim and our Lord Jesus Christ is superior to all of them, “*being made so much better than the angels,*” this is talking about Christ.

Now, look at **chapter 3, verse 3,** it says, “*this man, (speaking of Christ the God-man); was counted worthy of more glory than Moses as the builder of the house has more glory than the house.*”

Now, Moses was a great leader and the people of Israel kept saying: “we have Moses; we believe Moses” and Christ is worthy of more glory, many times more glory, than Moses and all the Moses' who ever lived.

Then, it talks about Aaron and the priest, it says: “*they were many; Christ is one.*” They lived and died, His priesthood is forever after the order of Melchizedek.

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They offered many sacrifices; He only one. They came daily offering the same sacrifices into the holy place made with hands.

He went into heaven into the very presence of the Father. They brought the blood of animals. He brought His own blood. Their sacrifices could never put away sin. *“By one offering he perfected forever them that are sanctified.”* They died, and He lives forever.

So, the covenant of our Lord Jesus Christ is so much better than their covenant, His sacrifice is so much better than all of their sacrifices. Our Lord is far superior and more excellent and has more glory than all of the priests and the sacrifices put together with the tabernacle thrown in.

Listen to **Psalms 8:1**: *“O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name. In all the earth, thou hast set thy glory above the heavens, (above the tabernacle, above the priest, above the sacrifices, above Moses, above the angels), thy glory above the heavens.”*

Do you see what I am saying about the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ? Listen to the **Book of Proverbs**. Solomon, writing about the Lord Jesus Christ, said: *“when there were no depths, thou wast brought forth: when there were no fountains abounding with water, before the mountains were settled, before the hills were brought forth, when the Father prepared the heavens, thou wast there. When God appointed the foundations of the earth, then were you by him as one brought up by him, daily his delight.”*

Listen to this: *“Who so findeth thee, findeth life and shall obtain favor of the Lord. He that sinneth against thee wrongeth his own soul and those that hate thee love death.”*

My friends; this is the sum and essence of the book of **Hebrews**. If you want a key to the book of **Hebrews**, if you want a theme of the book of **Hebrews**, if you want to find a sum and substance of the book of **Hebrews**:

If you want to take the book of **Hebrews** and condense it into one word it would be Christ, Christ Jesus the Lord, for that matter, the whole Bible is the story of the redemptive glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at **Hebrews 1: verse 1**; it says here: *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manner (or different manners, different ways, in different ways or diver’s ways), spoke to our fathers.”*

How did God speak to our fathers? He spoke to our fathers *“by the prophets.”* We are talking about Moses and Elijah. We are talking about Samuel; we are talking about Jeremiah; we are talking about Isaiah and we are talking about Malachi; we are talking about all of the prophets.

“God spake to our fathers,” to the Old Testament saints, to the people who lived before Calvary, to the people who lived before the apostles; God spoke to them. *“He spoke to our fathers by the prophets.”*

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Well, what did He say to the people by the prophets? The prophets brought the message of God. The prophets came and said: *“thus saith the Lord.”*

Habakkuk talked about the burden of the Word of God. Jeremiah said: *“He that hath a dream, let him tell his dream; he that hath the word of God, let him preach the word of God.”*

What did these prophets say to the people? *“God spoke to the people by the prophets.”* Well, what did God say to the people by the prophets? Look at **Acts 10:43**. This will give you the key to everything that Moses preached and Jeremiah preached and Isaiah preached and all of the rest of the prophets.

It says in **Acts Chapter 10:43**: *“To him; (that is to Christ), give all the prophets witness.”* That’s right! Christ was their message. These people came to Christ our Lord and they said: *“we don’t want to hear you; we have Moses, (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) and the law.”*

Our Lord said to them: *“You don’t believe Moses; if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me. Moses wrote of me.”*

They said: *“Abraham is our father.”* He said: *“You didn’t believe Abraham; you are not the son of Abraham or you would do Abraham’s work: Abraham saw my day and he rejoiced and he was glad. Moses wrote of me.”* Christ was Moses’ message.

When our Lord took Peter, James, and John and went to the Mount of Transfiguration and He was transfigured there before them, Christ was in the center and Moses and Elijah appeared with him, talking with him, do you happen to know what they talked about?

It’s pretty important what they talked about. Here was our Lord Jesus Christ with the very glory of God shining upon him. A voice from heaven came down and said: *“this is my beloved Son; listen to him.”*

Here Moses is the greatest prophet that ever lived representing the law. Here is Elijah one of the greatest prophets who ever lived representing all the prophets. They appeared there with the Lord and talked to him.

What did they talk about? The Bible tells you, it says: *“they spoke with him about his death at Jerusalem.”* That’s what they preached about, that’s what they believed in, and that’s what they looked for and what they waited for and that’s what they declared: *“when Isaiah saw his glory he spake of him.”*

Isaiah said: *“He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was laid upon him: By his stripes we are healed.”*

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They wrote of him. In **Acts 10:43** it says: *“To him give all the prophets witness.”* Look at **John 5:39**. Our Lord was surrounded by a group of religionist, a group of Pharisees. They didn't have the New Testament, it wasn't then written. Christ had not yet died on the cross.

They didn't have the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians or any of those books. They had the Old Testament Scriptures, Genesis through Malachi.

Our Lord looked at them and said: *“you search the Scriptures; (you are busy searching the Scriptures, you do search the Scriptures),”* and they did. They were students of the Scriptures. They were Scribes of the Scriptures, translators of the Scriptures, and students and teachers of the Scriptures.

He said: *“In the Scriptures you think you have life but they are they which testify of me.”* Then, when our Lord appeared to his apostles in **Luke 24:44**, He said this to them, **Luke 24:44**; listen to it: *“all things must be fulfilled which were written in Moses, in the prophets, in the Psalms, concerning me.”*

What did Moses write in the Psalms and the prophets; they wrote: *“concerning me.”* They wrote that He would be the woman's seed, that's right, **Genesis 3:15**: *“the seed of woman shall bruise the serpents head.”*

They wrote that he would be Abraham's seed. God said: *“Abraham; I will make you a great nation and I will bless you. Through you I will bless the world.”* Abraham's seed is Christ, not the seeds, the seed, singular, (s-e-e-d) and that seed is Christ.

That is what Paul said: *“the seed of Abraham is Jesus Christ.”* They said he would come of the tribe of Judah. When the prophet was blessing his children he said *“the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes.”*

God declared by the prophets that the Lord Jesus Christ would be a man born of woman that He would be Abraham's seed, a Jew, that he would be of the tribe of Judah, not Levi, Judah, that He would be of the family of Jesse, a stem of Jesse and that He would be of the household of David and that's exactly what Jesus Christ was, and that He would be born in Bethlehem.

They came and said: “where is this king of the Jews supposed to be born?” These fellows got their Bibles out and went through and they said: *“in Bethlehem;”* that's where he was born, **Micah 5:2**.

They said in **Isaiah 7:14**: *“A virgin, (Mary) shall conceive and bring forth a son, thou shalt call his name Immanuel, (God with us).”* He said in **Deuteronomy**: He will be a prophet like Moses, a king like David, and a priest like Melchizedek.

The prophets said that he would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. They said that he would have his beard plucked out. They said that he would have his hands pierced and his feet pierced.

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They said that they would spit in His face. The Lord said that in the Word of God they would gamble at the foot of His cross for his robe.

It said that He would be buried in a rich man's tomb and on the third day He would rise again. All of that is in the Old Testament; it's all fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ.

He fulfilled every prophecy, every promise and every picture which was presented in the Scriptures: "*God spake to our fathers by the prophets.*" What did he say to them? There's a Prophet coming, like unto Moses, Him ye shall hear.

There's a king coming like unto David, "*King of kings and Lord of lords.*" There's a priest coming: "*after the order of Melchizedek*" who met Abraham even when the whole tribe of God's people was in his loins and he paid tithes to Melchizedek.

My friends, God spoke to the people in the Passover. God spoke to the people in the rock that was smitten. God spoke to the people in the serpent that was lifted up on a pole. God spoke to the people in the tabernacle and the Feast of the First Fruits and all the other sacrifices. God spoke of Christ, Christ, Christ and His redemption.

I hear men talking about dispensationalism and I have no quarrel with dispensations; there are dispensations; there are certain dispensations; there are different ways in which God reveals Himself. There are different ways in which God Almighty manifests His grace but His grace is always in Christ, His grace is always in Christ.

Whatever dispensation, the way that God saves men is by Christ. Men have never been saved by keeping the law because no man has ever kept the law. Men have never been saved by animal sacrifices because the blood of an animal cannot put away the sin of a man.

Men have always been saved by looking to Jesus Christ, whether before He died or after He died, rather the coming King or the King who has come, whether the coming crucified Lamb or the Lamb that has been slain; they are saved only by Christ and Christ alone.

"It's the blood of Jesus Christ God's son that cleanseth us from all sin. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

So, "*God in sundry times (different ways and in different times), spake to our fathers by the prophets, hath, (watch the next verse) hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son Jesus Christ (who tabernacled among us).*"

I want you to read **verses 2 and 3** very carefully. I believe that we ought to commit these two verses to memory. You will see three very important facts about the Lord Jesus Christ, three undeniable facts, three important facts, three imperative facts about our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now listen to me: "*God hath in these last days spoken to us, (you and me), by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom he made the worlds, who being the brightness of his glory, the*

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express image of his person: who upholdeth all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, he sat down on the right hand of God."

God spake to our fathers by the prophets about Christ and God has spoken to you and to me personally, by His Son, who came to this earth in human flesh.

Right here, in these two verses, he tells us three important, imperative truths, about Christ. Listen to me now:

First of all: He tells us who He is!

Secondly: He tells us what He did!

Thirdly: He tells us where He is now!

Notice the first one: God tells us who He is. Who is this man Jesus Christ? They looked at Him and said: *"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?"*

"We knew your father Joseph. Who do you think you are? Is this not the carpenter? Just who is this man?" Read that in **verse 2** and it will tell you: He is God's beloved Son. That's what it says.

He's not the Son by creation like the angels are. He's not the Son of God by adoption as I am but the Son of God in very truth, the eternal, only begotten Son of God. He is God's Son: *"This is my Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him,"* the Father said.

Not only that but He is *"the heir of all things,"* everything is given over to Christ, everything; He is the heir. You might say: "Well, I am an heir of God; *"you are a joint-heir with Christ."* Christ is the heir and whatever you have you have in Him.

Listen, who is this man? He made the worlds. *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made."*

Read on: *"He is the brightness of the Father's glory."* The Father's glory is in Christ, centered in Christ and revealed in Christ. He is the exact image of His person.

One of the disciples said to the Lord one day: *"show us the Father and that will satisfy us."* He said: *"Have I been this long time with you and you don't know me? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. I and my Father are one."* He is the exact image of the Father's person.

Notice: *"He upholdeth all things by the word of his power. In him we live and move and have our being."*

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Let me tell you something: he who thinks little of Christ thinks little of God. He who thinks little of Christ or nothing of Christ knows nothing of God. He who thinks much of Christ has a saving knowledge of God because God is in Christ *“reconciling the world unto himself.”*

So, in those two verses: Who is this man? He’s the Son of God, heir of all things, *“by whom he made the worlds, the exact image of God’s person and the one who upholds all things by the word of his power.”*

Well, what did he do? Listen: *“When he had by himself purged our sins.”* Do you read that? That is about as plain as a word can be spoken, isn’t it? *“By himself, he purged our sins.”* Who purged our sins? He did. How did He do it? He did it by Himself.

Well, didn’t the preacher help Him? No sir! Didn’t I help Him? No sir! Didn’t faith help Him? No sir! Did Moses help Him? No sir, *“by himself.”* He’s our Redeemer. *“He walked the winepress of God’s wrath all alone.”*

Even the Father deserted Him on the cross. He bore our guilt and shame and filth and sin in His body on the tree, *“by himself.”* Do you see that, it’s *“by himself?”*

The royal bath of mercy in which black souls are washed white from their guilt and shame and sin was drawn from the veins of Immanuel, Jesus Christ. No blood of noble martyrs or noble confessors, popes, priests, cardinals, evangelists, missionaries, preachers, or well-meaning religionists enter that stream.

**“There is a fountain
Filled with blood
It’s drawn from Immanuel’s veins
And sinners plunged
Beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains.”**

The banquet of mercy is served by one host, the Lord of glory, *“by himself.”* What did He do? He purged, put away our sins.

That’s the reason there is no purgatory. The believer has no sins to purge, they have already been purged. Calvary is the believer’s purgatory. *“He purged our sins.”* How many of them? He purged all of them, all of them.

The Lord said, *“He’s cast them behind his back. He’s cast them into the depths of the sea. He separated them from us as far as the east is from the west. He’s blotted them out. I will remember them no more.”*

He’s purged our sins. How did He do it? He did it by Himself, *“by the sacrifice of himself he appeared to put away sin.”*

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Where is He now? You see, God has spoken to us; *“he spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (the same message). He spoke to us by his Son, His beloved Son by whom he made the worlds, “who by himself purged our sins.”*

Where is he now? *“He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.”* That’s where He is. Our great high priest having finished His work, sat down.

Let me tell you something; if you know anything about the tabernacle or the temple, there were seven pieces of furniture in the tabernacle, but not one chair, not one chair. There was the altar; there was the wash basin, the candlestick, the table of showbread, the incense, the mercy seat and the Ark of the Covenant, but no chairs.

Why no chairs? Why, those men ministered in there every day 365 days a year, every year in the decade and the millennium they ministered in that tabernacle with no chair. They never sat down. Why did they never sit down?

They never finished their work. Their work was not effectual. Their work was representative. *“Christ, by one offering, perfected forever them that are sanctified.”* Having completed His work, He sat down.

The great, high priest, Jesus Christ, has finished His work. He said that from Calvary so that heaven, earth, and hell could hear Him: *“it is finished.”* What a fool I would be to try to add anything to it. What a fool I would be to try to add anything to the glorious, grand work, of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is finished.

He sat down and there at the right hand of God He is our Mediator, the only one we have; there is no other Mediator. You needn’t pray to Saint Jude, Saint Christopher, or to any other saint. He can’t help himself, let alone you.

Don’t pray to me, I can’t help you. We pray, but to Christ, who is our Mediator, Christ is our Intercessor. *“There’s one God, one mediator between God and men and that’s the man Christ Jesus.”* God almighty will not speak to or be spoken to except through Jesus Christ.

Now watch this, and the father spake of His excellent glory. Look at **verse 5**; He said: *“thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”* In **verse 6** He says: *“let all the angels of God worship him.”* In **verse 8**; (this is the text that I read a moment ago) *“Thy throne O God is forever.”*

Who is Jesus Christ? He’s God in human flesh. Christ is God. If you wanted to select a passage of Scripture that would show you that Jesus Christ is God almighty, where would you go in the Word?

I would go to **Isaiah Chapter 9:6** where it says: *“unto us a child is born, a Son is given. The government shall be upon his shoulders. His name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.”*

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All right; go to **Isaiah 7:14**, where it is repeated in **Matthew 1**, where it says: “*a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a child, a son, and thou shalt call his name Immanuel (God with us).*”

All right; go to **John 10:30** where Christ said: “*I and my father are one.*” The religious people took up stones to stone Him and He said: “*many good works have I done among you, for which of these do you stone me?*”

They said: “*We are not stoning you for good works; we are stoning you because you are a man and you claim to be God.*” That’s what He did; He not only claimed to be, He was God and is God.

Go to **Acts 20** where the apostle Paul was preaching to the elders and “*he charged them to feed the church of God which God purchased with his own blood.*”

I will tell you this: this is an undeniable Scripture here in **Hebrews chapter 1:8** it says: “*the Father said to the Son; thy throne O God is forever. Let all the angels of God worship him.*” God almighty commands His angels to worship.

My friend, the only one who is to be worshipped is God. You have respect for men and you give honor to which honor is due and respect to whom respect is due and obedience to which obedience is due, but worship nobody but God. Our God is commanding us to worship the Son because Jesus Christ is God.

He said: “*His throne is forever.*” His throne is a throne of holiness. **Isaiah** said: “*I saw the Lord, (the Lord Jehovah) sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and all the angels and the cherubim’s and heavenly host cried saying: holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty.*”

Holy, His throne is a throne of holiness. His throne is a throne of justice. “*Shall not the judge of the earth do right? Yes, he will do right: holy and righteous are his judgments.*”

But, His throne, thank God, is a throne of grace also. He tells us “*come boldly before the throne of grace that we might obtain (find) mercy to help and grace in time of need.*” His throne is forever. He has established His throne and His people shall reign with Him and His enemies will be His footstool.

Those who love Him will trust Him, who believe Him, will share His glory. It says: “*They shall reign with Him.*” It says here: “*That his enemies shall be his footstool.*”

God the Father says: “*Sit thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool. God spake to our fathers by the prophets and God hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son.*”

And the message: Jesus Christ is both Lord and Christ!