The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Hebrews 1:1-4 (http://www.theberean.org)



Hebrews 1:1-4

(1) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (2) has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (3) 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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (4) having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

New King James Version

The first chapter of Hebrews lays the foundation for the theme that will run through the entire book. The author begins with the <u>truth</u> that *Christ is superior to angels*. He wants his readers to focus on the message, which is important, not only because it is thrilling and of weighty content, but also because of its Source. In times past, the message came through agents or intermediaries—either angels or <u>prophets</u> were sent. This message, however, came right from the top—throughthe Son of <u>God</u>, <u>Jesus Christ</u>. He is greater than or superior to any angel or prophet. All of those who came before Jesus Christ are "inferiors."

Thus, when God sent His message through His Son, it was introduced by the very highest Source that it could possibly come from. The author intends us to understand that this message requires us to give it the highest priority of our lives. *Nothing* supersedes the message that came through the Son of God. No one can present a message anywhere near as great.

The message that <u>Moses</u> gave was, of course, right and true and powerful, but it cannot even be compared to the message that came through the Son of God. That is the theme! Christ and what He has to give us—beit words, His ministrations as High Priest, His efficacious death, His covenant, etc.—arefar superior to everything else. Absolutely nothing in life can compare. He has given us the most awesome gifts that any human being could possibly be given.

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This is how the author begins his treatise—asif firing a cannon to get our attention! How dare we be apathetic toward this message! That is what he implies. Do we not realize where the gospel came from? It came from the One for whom all things were created and by whom all things were created. He created Adam and gave him the breath of life—andHe right now sustains us with His power! Yet the world and the pressures that it puts on us have a way of turning our attention toward other things, do they not? Unfortunately, we give into them so often, so easily.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

Hebrews: A Message for Today



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