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CHRIST THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 1
HEBREWS 1:1-2

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Today we begin the study of a new book. I always have mingled emotions as I set my mind and hand to something as great and as important as the Book of Hebrews. Let us, at the outset, ask that God will assist us with his Holy Spirit as we try to understand this portion of the "mind of Christ."

Five Different Views As To The Author Of Hebrews

1. Dr. Luke. Origen said that he felt Luke wrote it. The Greek in Hebrews is very polished Greek and sometimes is almost classical Greek. But this book has too much Jewish background to have been written by a Gentile, and Luke was a Gentile.
2. Clement Of Rome. Eusebius and Erasmus held to this view, but there is too much Jewish background in this book to have been written by Clement of Rome.
3. Barnabas. This view was supported by Tertullian. Barnabas was a good Levite with a good Jewish background. He was the mediator between Paul and Mark. Many scholars believe that Barnabas wrote it.
4. Apollos. This view was held by Martin Luther. Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria.
5. Paul The Apostle. This view has been held by Clement of Alexandria, by Athanasius and many others. But it is not like Paul to omit his name from one of his letters. This message is different from anything else Paul ever wrote. Paul always quoted Hebrew from the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and here the Hebrew is quoted from the Septuagint text. (This is a greek translation of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament.) The Septuagint was a greek translation of the Old Testament completed in 70 days by 72 scholars for Ptolemy II, King of Egypt in the 3rd Century before Christ.
There are Pauline ideas in Hebrews. But to be truthful, we just don't know who wrote Hebrews. This brings us to this idea--the important thing is not the man but the message.

The Date

The approximate date is 67 to 69 A.D. It was written just before the fall of Jerusalem in August of 70 A.D. It was the last warning to the Jews of the coming of the 5th cycle of discipline to the Jews. The first warning to the Jews of this coming 5th cycle of discipline is stated by Jesus in Luke 21:20-24.

LUKE 21:20 "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." "When ye shall see" and this is an aorist, active, subjunctive of "horao" indicating that some will see it and some will not. Jesus prophesied in 30 A.D. that this would take place in 70 A.D. The Romans actually began this invasion in 66 A.D. and not all will see it coming and many will die between 66 A.D. and August of 70 A.D. The word "Compassed" is a present,

passive, indicative of "Hukloo" and it means compassed under the authority of armies. There were actually three legions under Vespasian, the 5th, 10th and 12th legions. In 145 B.C. the Jews won their independence and it lasted until 63 B.C. when Pompey invaded. Herod the Great ruled Rome for forty years, down to about 4 B.C. and Palestine was a Roman province from then on. Nero tried to destroy the Jews, but Nero died by stabbing himself, saying as he died, "What a pity that such a great artist should die this way." He was neither great nor an artist. He was actually a monster. Vespasian, who couldn't stand Nero had been banished. Nero went on a tour of Greece and would play his flute in Greek Musicals. Nero naturally always won first place. He played the flute and sang. Vespasian would put his fingers in his ears to keep from hearing him. As a result of this insult, he was banished. When the trouble erupted in Palestine, Nero sent Vespasian to Jerusalem. So we read here in Luke 21:20 "Know that the desolation thereof is nigh." This is an aorist, active, imperative of "ginosko" and it means they will know it by observing it. (It is a constative aorist and it means there will be stages of devastation and it will get worse and worse until Jerusalem is destroyed.) The word for devastation is a perfect, active, indicative of "Eggizo." So since this is coming, when they see these things develop, they would know to get out and get out fast.

LUKE 21:21 "Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto." This is a present, active, imperative of "hugo" and it means get out and get out now. These are the mountains in southern Palestine, Edom, Moab and Ammon, just as they will be warned to do in the Tribulation. "Depart out" is a present, active, participle of "Ekchoreo" and it means to depart fast and don't stop to pick up anything.

LUKE 21:22 "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." These be the days of vengeance. This is referred to in the 5th Cycle of Discipline as described in Leviticus 26:27-46. Also described in Deuteronomy 28:49-67. this is a perfect, passive, participle of "grapho." May be fulfilled is an aorist, passive, infinitive of "Pleroo." This infinitive means that it was God's purpose to handle the Jews this way.

LUKE 21:23 "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people." This time will be so terrible that it will be no time to have children and it will be very difficult on little children.

LUKE 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Now we come to some future tenses. About two million will be killed and 92,000 will be led away captive. Trodden down of the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled, and this refers to the Second Advent of Christ.

So this was the warning that came from the Lord. This was the first warning.

Now Hebrews is the second warning. We know from Hebrews 6:6 that the Temple was still standing, so this had to be written before 70 A.D. So the Jews had a very short time to get with doctrine and build an Edification Complex before the Romans got there.

THE PURPOSE OF HEBREWS

1. TO WARN BELIEVERS REGARDING REVERSIONISM AND TO AID THEM IN STORING DOCTRINE IN THEIR SOULS.
If they didn't heed the warning, they would die the sin unto death. And many did just that.
2. TO DELIVER BELIEVERS. If believers would take the warning of the coming of the 5th Cycle of Discipline, then they could get out in time.
3. TO CLARIFY THE ISSUES OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
The Jews would see a great conflict with the Romans, but the greater conflict was the inner conflict with their old sin natures and with fallen angels and with Satan. They were in a great spiritual warfare.
4. TO LEAD BELIEVERS TO MATURITY. A believer is supplied with the potential so he can take in doctrine quickly and from this doctrine become a mature believer.
5. TO REVEAL THE MAGNIFICENCE AND GLORY OF THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST
It was also written to encourage believers to have fellowship with Christ. This is the only way to love Christ. Capacity for loving Jesus Christ is how you use the faith-rest technique. The promises of Scripture, principles of doctrine, and occupation with Christ all go together, and you can't have one without the other.
6. TO ORIENT THE BELIEVER TO GRACE PRINCIPLES.
The universal priesthood of all believers. Grace comes from this relationship. Since you are a believer priest, through grace God has found a way to work for the believer.
7. TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE JEWISH AGE AND THE CHURCH AGE.
8. TO RELATE THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER TO EVERY PHASE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Chapter one can be outlined as follows:

1. Jesus as victor in the Angelic Conflict. Verses 1-4
2. The Old Testament's documentation of the superiority of Christ to angels. Verses 5-13
3. The result of the superiority of Christ to angels. Verse 14

HEBREWS 1:1 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Jesus is the victor in the Angelic Conflict. It took "THE GOD" to bring this about "Ho Theos." This is a good way to start this book. There is no way Jesus can be victor in the Angelic Conflict apart from the plan of God. He became a member of the human race, lower than angels, but he ended up higher than angels. In order to understand the plan you have to understand the planner. It is to our advantage to know how the angels were defeated by a lower creature. Now Jesus Christ could have wiped out Satan and all the fallen angels before man was ever created. Long before man

came on the scene, all these unbelieving angels could have been destroyed. The Devil in all his pride and all his genius came up with a plan, which was to him, a sure way of getting out of the sentence to spend eternity in the lake of fire (to which he had been sentenced), and thereby, get all the fallen angels off the hook. But the devil came up with a plan, but God's plan was greater. God came up with the brilliant plan of creating some creatures lower than angels, but through regeneration allow the lower creatures defeat the angels who were higher than they were. One man will lead this conflict. In this paragraph, we will see one, Jesus Christ, made lower than angels, rise to the high estate of the Last Adam, higher than angels. Christ is the one, who, in his humanity, completely broke the back of Satan, and thereby, defeated all the fallen angels.

What Is God Like?

To have an understanding of this book, we have to start with the basic idea of what is God like? Who and what is God? In Scripture we find two answers.

The essence of God--Sovereignty, righteousness, justice, eternal life, love, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, immutability, and veracity. Now God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit all have exactly this same essence.

God The Father is the one who designed the plan.

God The Son is the one who executed God's plan.

God The Holy Spirit is the one who gave power to the plan. He is the power plant for the plan.

Three Important Adverbs

The first adverb is "plumeros" and it is translated here "at sundry times" but it means "in many parts" and is a reference to the Old Testament scriptures. In many parts of the Old Testament Jesus Christ is revealed. This is the one who will come and break the back of Satan and the fallen angels. In the Old Testament Jesus was manifest in many ways. As an angel, as a man, in a cloud, in a pillar of fire, in a rock, etc. The entire first chapter of Hebrews is a witness to the fact that the Old Testament is of greatest importance.

Occupation with Christ was just as real in Old Testament times as it was in New Testament times. This is the reason why the Jewish race was founded, to produce Christ. Jesus was not only born a Jew, but was born a little lower than angels, who would rise to be higher than angels. He will totally defeat all angels in the Angelic Conflict.

The second adjective is "polutropos" and means "in different ways."

By theophanies, through Christophanies, through anthropomorphisms, through types, by means of the Tabernacle and the furniture in it, by feasts and holy days, Christ was revealed. So in many places and in many varied ways Jesus Christ was revealed in the Old Testament.

The third adjective is "palai" and it means of old, and indicates in Old Testament times.

Now we come to the words "Ho Theos" and this means The God. This is the subject. And The God spoke, and this is an aorist, active, participle of "laleo." This is an ingressive aorist and means "Having spoken." Or "Having begun to speak." He began to speak in the Garden of Eden and he has never stopped speaking with people. There never has been a time when God wasn't speaking with people. Jesus Christ is the most important subject of the human race. The enemy has already

been defeated and we are in the mop up stage. Now there are pockets of believers who don't know this yet, but it is true. (Even in big wars, after the war has been won, some smaller battles still go on, but they soon play out. That is what will happen with Satan. He is headed for disaster and defeat.)

The Devil is able to make any real headway where people are who neglect doctrine and fail to build an edification complex. Reversionism is incompatible with the priesthood and with the grace of God.

This verse says, "unto the fathers" and it is the dative plural and is referring to the national ancestors of the Jews.

So this is what we have thus far--

"In many parts of the Old Testament, and in many different ways of old THE GOD having communicated to the fathers (Jews of the Old Testament) by the prophets." It is "en" plus the instrumental and it means "by means of the prophets." The writers of the Old Testament were all prophets.

DOCTRINE OF PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. THREE CATEGORIES OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS WHO WROTE.
 - a. One super-prophet, named Moses. He stands alone.
 - b. Then we have those who had the office of prophet.
 - c. Then we have those who had the gift of prophet but not the office.
(Then we have some who spoke the prophetic message but didn't write it.)
2. THE FIRST SECTION OF THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN BY THE SUPER-PROPHET. Moses
This section is called the "TORAH" and it is the first five books of the Bible and possibly Job as well.
(Moses, Jeremiah and Jesus were all super-prophets.)
3. THE SECOND SECTION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS CALLED THE "NEBIIM"
These are the ones who held the prophetic office.
 - a. The former prophets. Joshua, the one who wrote Judges (whoever it happened to be, author unknown) Samuel and Kings.
 - b. The latter prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the Twelve Minor Prophets (Yet they are not minor and their message is not minor.)
4. THE THIRD SECTION IS CALLED THE "KETHIBIM"
This means the writings. They had the gift of prophecy.
Psalm, Proverbs, Job
It contained the "megolith" and refers to five rolls.
The Song Of Solomon--Always read at the Passover.
The Book of Ruth--Always read at Pentecost.
Lamentation
Ecclesiastes--Always read at the Feast of Tabernacles
Esther--Read at Feast of Purim
Daniel is regarded as an historical book, though it has much prophecy in it.
Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles.
The original Old Testament had 22 books in it, one for each of the letters in the Hebrew Alphabet.

HEBREWS 1:2 "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;" In these last days--"Epi" and it means the New Testament Canon. Literally it means "Upon the last of these days" and means it has spoken for the rest of history. God reveals himself through the incarnate Christ. The New Testament is a revelation of the incarnate Christ. In Old Testament he is God and took many forms. Jesus Christ was seated at God's right hand before a word of the New Testament was written. He was already the victor before a single word of New Testament was written. This passage will emphasize his humanity for it was in his humanity where he won the victory of the Angelic Conflict and humanity had been created lower than angels.

The Book of Revelation is the panoramic history of Christ right down to the end of time. The Bible is the only written source of revelation with reference to God. God the Son is the only manifestation and revelation of God. He is revealed in one way in Old Testament and in another way in the New Testament and these two are brought together in a very dramatic way in Hebrews 1:5-13.

"Hath Spoken" is an aorist, active, indicative of "laleo". So God spoke in the Old Testament and now in New Testament this is the ultimate revelation of Jesus Christ. "Unto us" means we are the recipients of the things the Old Testament crowd never saw. Moses longed to see our day but he never saw it.

We are alive in one of the dramatic times of human history. Christ has already won the victory in the Angelic Conflict. We are merely living out the details of the completion of the body.

The Lord said to man in the Garden, "It is not good for man to be alone" and he created a companion for him.

God The Father said to Christ, "It is not good for you to be alone" and God created a companion for Christ, namely his bride, the Church. The bride is not to be taken from the Jews, but from the Jews and the Gentiles. This is to happen "By his Son." It is "en" plus the instrumental of "Huios" and it means an adult son. He is now true humanity and as such he broke the back of Satan. There is no pronoun, no definite article before the word "Son". This word stands alone, for he is unique. None other like him. He is set apart "The only Son ever like him. In Old Testament there were many voices. In New Testament there is one voice--SON.

Summary

1. There are separate revelations in different passages in Old Testament regarding Jesus Christ.
2. Each revelation sets forth a truth about Jesus Christ.
3. In Old Testament each generation needed a different voice. A fresh voice, and God would raise up a prophet.
4. But now Jesus appeared on the scene and when you have him, you don't need any other voice. He is the ultimate voice. He is the final voice.

JOHN 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

JOHN 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

The law was given by Moses but Grace and Truth came from Jesus Christ.

5. The Old Testament dealt with shadow revelation, but when Christ arrived the shadows were removed.
6. Christ is the reality that removed all the shadows.
7. While the revelation in the Old Testament and the New Testament differ in content and mechanics, the source is the same. The source is the same, namely, God. The subject is the same, namely, Christ.
8. All revelation centers and focuses on Christ who is the victor in the Angelic Conflict.

"Whom he hath appointed heir of all things."

"Whom" is "hos" and it is accusative singular and refers to Jesus Christ. It is the aorist, active, indicative of "tithemi" and means "to decree." God is the subject and Jesus Christ is the object of this decree. This all happened in eternity past. Christ was there when this appointment was made.

He was appointed heir, and the word is "kleronomos" and it means the possessor of all things. It means angels and all mankind. Christ inherits all the regenerated kingdom, both human and angelic. He inherits all the Old Testament saints, all the Church Age believers, all the Tribulational believers, all the millennial believers, and every born again person of all times.

THE DOCTRINE OF HEIRSHIP

1. AS THE VICTOR OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT AND AS A PART OF THE DIVINE DECREES, JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS.
Hebrews 1:2
2. SONSHIP MEANS HEIRSHIP.
John 1:12, Romans 8:16-17, Galatians 3:26
3. HEIRSHIP IS BASED ON THE DEATH OF ANOTHER.
We inherit his kingdom on the basis of his death.
1 Cor. 15:3-4, Romans 5:8
4. TO INHERIT FROM GOD ONE MUST POSSESS THE LIFE OF GOD.
Titus 3:7, 1 John 5:11-12
So the cross is not only the place of securing eternal life, but it is the place of breaking the back of the opposition in the Angelic Conflict.
5. THEREFORE SALVATION IS THE QUALIFICATION FOR JOINT INHERITANCE.
Colossians 1:12
6. HEIRSHIP REALLY MEANS WE WHO ARE SAVED SHARE THE SAME DESTINY THAT IS CHRIST'S.
Ephesians 1:11
7. HEIRSHIP IS ALSO RELATED TO ELECTION.
Since we are joint heirs, we have all he has.
Hebrews 9:15

8. THE PRINCIPLE OF OUR HERITAGE IS RELATED TO ETERNAL SECURITY.
1 Peter 1:4-5
9. OUR INHERITANCE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF GRACE.
Galatians 3:9
10. THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S DOWN PAYMENT ON OUR FINAL INHERITANCE.
Ephesians 1:14

JESUS IS THE GOD OF ALL ETERNITY--HE IS THE FOCAL POINT OF HISTORY.