

Hebrews 1:1-4: Jesus is the Center of the Universe...Is He the Center of Yours? Part 2

Ricardo Campos, Pastor Grace Chapel, Orange, CA June 3, 2018

I. Introduction

God says to us, “Do you know that everything that ever was, is, or ever will be begins and ends with My Son? He’s the center and focus of ALL THINGS. He made everything, controls everything, He even bears My exact image, He even took human form so that He could die in your place and set you free...did you know that? What’s more, I sent Him specifically to save you! And I’ve got something to say to you through Him?” What’s our response? If Jesus is the source of my oxygen, if He controls history, if He has the power to give me a brand new life, if He came to save me from everything that’s wrong in my life, how should I respond, life as usual or follow His every word?

II. Hebrews 1:1-4: Jesus is the Center of the Universe...Is He the Center of Yours?

The book of Hebrews was written by an unknown author. He was Jewish and his audience was Jewish. He cared deeply about them and was encouraging them not to go back to the Levitical sacrificial system, not because they were in danger of going to hell. But because to do this would be not only to re-crucify the Lord—who had sanctified them and made them God’s children through His blood—it would mean neglecting the privilege and position He died to give them: entry into the very presence of God where they could find help anytime they needed it.

1:1-2, God had a message for humanity and that message came through the chosen seed-line which eventually became the nation of Israel. He spoke to them at various times and through various ways (directly, dreams, visions, miracles, the Law, types, prophecies). One of those means was the prophets, or as the original text says, “*in* the prophets.” But even though God spoke through all these means, there was always more to the story, it was never a complete message. But now “in these last days” God has given us the rest of the story. “In these last days” signals that the message God had for mankind is now complete. Everything He has to say has now been said.

And God wants us to notice something. Yes, He may’ve spoken through the prophets and by many other means, but now God has spoken to us by His Son, or as the original text says, “in Son.” The reason God says it this way is that He’s making a point. God is in Jesus; when Jesus speaks, it’s God speaking, which is why Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father,” (John 14:9). Yes, God spoke through the prophets; it was His Spirit that moved them to speak (2 Peter 1:21), but now God is speaking directly to us as in the beginning, in and through His Son. Jesus is not just another prophet; He is the Son of God, that is, God Himself, which is why God goes on to say that Jesus is heir of all things. And by all things, He means ALL THINGS, not just things here on earth but the entire universe. In fact, Jesus created space and time! The word “worlds” doesn’t just mean planets, but everything that is part of this universe, stars, planets, time, gravity, all of it. What’s the point of God’s message to us? That Jesus is the beginning and the end of the universe; He is the ultimate meaning of life...your life.

1:3-4, that’s not all, Jesus is also EVERYTHING that God is. In Jesus you find all the glory that God has and everything that He is. By this, God doesn’t mean “like father, like son.” What He means is that He and Jesus are one, i.e., Jesus is God in the flesh (John 1:1-14; Colossians 2:9).

That's not all, Jesus is carrying the entire universe by the word of His power. This means that He keeps the entire universe running and that He's guiding it all to the final conclusion determined by the Father. If Jesus can do that, if He's in control of when nations—or birds—rise and fall (Colossians 1:16; Matthew 10:29), what can He do for you? And that's not all, Jesus cleansed us from our sins and this work is finished, which is why He sat down at the right hand of God (Romans 8:34; 1 Peter 3:22). If you've ever tortured yourself with a past sin, you need to realize that Jesus has cleansed you from that and every other bad thing you've ever done. And if you're having trouble living in that freedom, ask Jesus for help and He'll show you how (Hebrews 4:16).

Finally, Jesus has become (by far) much greater than any angel. When God says that Jesus "became" so much better than the angels, He doesn't mean that Jesus had a beginning, that He was created by the Father. Before Jesus was born of a virgin He existed from all eternity alongside the Father. He was with God before creation ever was (John 1:1-3). The original Greek word for "become" can mean "to experience a change in nature." And that's exactly what happened to Jesus: though He existed from all eternity alongside God, at a specific point in time He became a man. But He wasn't just a man; He was and is the God-Man. Thus, by His very nature, He is greater than any angel. But He's also greater by inheritance. That is, because He humbled Himself and set aside His glory and became a man in order to die for mankind, He became so much better than the angels, which is why He obtained a more excellent name than they (Philippians 2:6-11). Why does God make a point of stating that Jesus is greater than the angels? By Jewish tradition (possibly from Deuteronomy 33:2), Israel received God's Word through angels. If Jesus is greater than the angels, then Jesus is greater than any messenger (angel or otherwise) that came before.

What does it mean to make Jesus the center of your universe? What does it mean to make Jesus the center of our existence? Jesus has every answer we'll ever need (Colossians 2:3), we have access to His mind (1 Corinthians 2:16), and it's ours for the taking (James 1:5). Here's what it looks like in real life: a woman struggles to confront her husband. Here's what she thinks: if she says anything to him, he'll get angry. If she asks for help, people may find out and he's not going to like others knowing his failure. If her kids find out, they'll hate their father. All this makes her feel trapped with no way out. Can Jesus help?

First, what's Satan want her think? He wants her isolated, he wants her to believe that she's a bad wife, that she better not tell anyone or else her kids will hate him, or else she'll embarrass the family, etc. (Genesis 3; 1 Peter 5:8). Second, what's Jesus want her to think? Can she get help from others? Yes, (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26). What if the kids hate their dad? Jesus can give them a heart of forgiveness (Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:26). What if others find out? Jesus will teach her how to be wise about who she trusts (Proverbs 11:13; Matthew 10:16). What about her failure to submit to her husband? True, wives are to submit to their husbands in everything (Ephesians 5:24), but this ain't it! Yes, she's to submit, but it doesn't mean that she's to be weak. God designed her to be his helpmate, a helpmate that at times needs to speak up to help her husband avoid error (Genesis 2:18; 21:8-14). Will we walk in Satan's darkness or Jesus' light (1 John 1:7)? If you follow Jesus, He'll take care of the rest (Matthew 6:33)...and He did for her.

III. Conclusion

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 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; 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, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.