

Let me encourage you to take your Bibles and be turning to Hebrews 1:1-3. H. G. Wells, a well-noted and highly respected historian, on one occasion made a list of the ten most influential people that had ever lived and number one on his list was Jesus Christ. Now you might think that is a tremendous compliment he gave to our Savior, but in a sense it was an insult because it equated Jesus with other men. Jesus is not simply a man among men. Jesus was God among men and there is nobody else like him. There is nobody like Jesus.

An anonymous author wrote this about Jesus. *More than 1900 years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and lived in obscurity. Only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which he lived and that was during his exile during his childhood. In infancy he startled the king, in childhood he puzzled the doctors, in manhood he ruled the course of nature and hushed the sea to sleep. He never wrote a book and yet all the libraries in the country could not hold the books that have been written about him. He never wrote a song and yet he has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college but all the schools put together cannot boast about having as many students. Though time has spread many years between the people of this generation and the scene of the crucifixion yet he still lives. Herod could not destroy him and the grave could not hold him. He stands forth on the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory; proclaimed by God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints and feared by devils as the living personal Christ, our Lord.* There is nobody like Jesus. Jesus is distinctive and he is different because he is divine and because he is different, Christianity is different. Christianity is not simply a creed or a cause or a collection of moral rules. CHRISTIANITY IS CHRIST. He is the central figure of our faith and so everything we believe stands or falls on the basis of who Jesus is.

In these verses in Hebrews, the inspired writer tells us why he is unlike anyone else who has ever lived. **First he talks about his supreme power.** Now you expect if he is in a class all to himself that he would have a power unequal, unsurpassed and

unparallel in the history of humanity and that is exactly the case. Jesus exercised the kind of power that no one else ever has and the writer of Hebrews calls our attention to three manifestations of his power.

First there was the power of creation. Verse 2 speaks of him as being God's Son *by whom also he made the worlds*. The Christ of the New Testament was the creator of the Old Testament. He brought it all into existence. **(Col 1:16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.** John had the same message in **(John 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} The same was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.** If it exists, then Christ made it. He is the God of creation. *A little boy was talking to his mother one day and asked who made the sun and she said that God did. Then she asked who made the moon and she said that God made that too. Then he asked about the stars, the trees, the grass and she replied to each category that that they were made by God and then it was obvious that the boy was getting frustrated and then he finally asked, what I want to know is what did Jesus do?* A lot of people have that same misconception. They think that God the father is the one totally responsible for the creation but it was a combined effort by God the Father and God the Son and God the Spirit. Listen to **(Gen 1:1) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.** Now the word for God there is the Hebrew word "*elohim*" and it is in the plural. God the Father planned it, God the Son created and God the H. S. shaped or formed it. Since Jesus created, He had dominion over the world while he was in the world.

You think about the power and the dominion that Jesus displayed. For instance, he displayed power over disaster. He stood up in the middle boisterous sea and said "peace be still" and the waves would lie down at his feet.

- He had power over demons. He could speak to a man that was possessed by such a large number of demons that his name was Legion and he commanded the demons to depart and they had no choice but to obey.
- He was one who had power over disease so he could speak to a man whose body was eaten away by leprosy and heal that disease.
- He had power over death so he could go to the little village of Bethany and stand outside the tomb of Lazarus and issue a command that reached into the very pits of eternity and at such Lazarus emerged at the mouth of that tomb alive.
- He had power over defilement so he could go to a place where men lives were filled with sin and he could say “*thy sins be forgiven thee*” and immediately the stain of guilt was removed.

So we have Jesus power of creation.

There is also the power of continuation. Not only were the worlds made by him, but the text says ***{3} upholding all things by the word of his power.*** He put it together and He holds it together. Note that passage in ***(Col 1:17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*** That word “consist” literally means to “bind or glue together.” Jesus is the glue of the galaxy. He didn’t make this world and then walk away from it to let it fend for itself. Jesus made the world and then continues to supervise the world. I’ve been told that there are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand in all the beaches. That means there are literally millions upon millions of them moving rapidly through space. What keeps them in orbit and from colliding? Well the answer is Jesus. Now what Jesus can do for the universe, he can do for your life. He can put a person’s life together and keep his life together. The reason so many lives are falling apart is because they don’t enjoy the cohesive power that Jesus can bring. They try to live by their own standards and values and then they find out that

life doesn't work. Jesus can put you life back together and when he does, the world is a better place.

Then there is his power of communication. From the very beginning, God has tried to communicate to man who he is, what he is like and what is expected from us. Now the only way for us to know those things is for God to reveal it to us. Now verse 1 of our text tells us that during the Old Testament period, God revealed himself to man through the prophets in "*divers manners*" and that means many different ways and methods. During that period of time, God revealed himself to man verbally. Then prophets spoke God's word on his behalf. But now in the last days, God has spoken to us by his Son. During the New Testament era, God revealed himself to us visibly through His Son. So Jesus could say to his disciples in **(John 14:9) *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father*** or **(John 10:30) *I and my Father are one***. All you have to do to understand what God is like is to look at Jesus. Jesus is God's revelation to man and his revelations is better than the prophets because they were God's spokesman but he is God's son. Through the prophets we hear God's voice but through Jesus we see His person.

Jesus is not only God's best word to man but he is God's last word to man. When you say Jesus, there is nothing more to say because that says it all and if we are going to have any hope for heaven when we leave this world, then we are going to have to listen to God's revelation through Jesus the Christ. You know long ago during what we call the patriarch age, God spoke to the head of households and reveal to them what he wanted but nothing was written. Later when God's people became a nation, he gave them written commands to govern them. This was the Law of Moses. This law was not universal for all mankind but rather it was specific to God's people, the people of Israel. It was superior to what had gone before, but it still was not a perfect revelation so something better was to come. But when Jesus came and the gospel was revealed, he provided all that there is going to be.

■ **(Jude 1:3)** *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once (once and for all) delivered unto the saints.* There is nothing more to come. So there is nobody else like Jesus because of his sovereign power and his sinless perfection.

Now look how Jesus is described in **{3}** *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person.* This is simply saying that God and Jesus are unified. They are one. They express the same image. They are distinct personalities but they share the same nature. Jesus is divine. Those two words “*express image*” are from the one Greek word *Cha-rak-ter* from which we get our English word “*character*.” Originally it was use to refer to a stamp that left an imprint on something. The image that was impressed on a seal or coin corresponded to the stamp and bares its likeness. So you might think of this verse, as “*Jesus is the mirror image of God. He is a precise copy or replica of God.*” He is the “*expressed image of his person.*”

Since one of the characteristics of the Father is perfection; that means that one of the characteristics of Jesus is perfection. Jesus lived a sinless life. Now that can't be said of any of us. All of us have at one time or another said things or done things that we regret. So we have to apologize and try to make amends the best we can. But Jesus never had to apologize. Jesus never had to pray to God for personal forgiveness. On the cross, he prayed for the forgiveness of others but he never asked such for himself. **(Heb 4:15)** *but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Jesus is also like no other because of his sovereign position. Jesus holds a position that nobody else ever held. **First, he is the recipient of all things.** Look as verse 2 that God ***hath appointed heir of all things.*** Paul says in Col 1:16 that not only were things made BY him but that all things were made FOR him. Jesus not only made all things but he also possesses them. Jesus being the heir of all things ought to be exciting to you because **(Rom 8:17)** *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-*

heirs with Christ. This means that everything that Jesus has we will one day share with him. We too will be able to enjoy the things that belong to him. *There is a story about a wealthy Roman citizen years ago who had one son and a faithful servant name Marcellus. The son was disappointment to his father because the boy lived a wild and reckless life. When that wealthy Roman died, they read his will and found that he left everything to Marcellus, his servant. The only provision to his son was that before the estate was settled he could choose but one and only one thing. After a bit of thought, the son chose Marcellus. That was a good choice because by choosing Marcellus he got all.* When we choose Jesus, we have everything that God has to offer.

He also the redeemer of all things. So we are told in verse 3 that **he had by himself purged our sins.** The only hope that you have for forgiveness is the blood of Christ that he shed on the cross. It was his death on Calvary that made forgiveness possible.

Jesus is also the ruler of all things. After he made provision to purge our sins, the text says that **he sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.** The right hand was a place of position and authority. Jesus has the most prominent position in this entire universe. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Regardless of what your needs may be Jesus is adequate. What a great Savior we serve and one day he is going to come again and when he does, this same Jesus will be your judge.

Are you ready?

Invitation.