



12/19/23

Only 6 days until Christmas! I wonder how long it took Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem. Scholars say it probably took 4 to 5 days to trek the 90-mile journey. Can you imagine? Was Mary having Braxton Hicks contractions??? How uncomfortable must she have been? Whoever says that the Christian life should have no trials might want to talk to Mary. I think she would disagree...and yet, I'm sure she had no regrets.

Merry Blessings,
Jonna

Hebrews 1

Most letters to the churches start out with the name of the author...like in Ephesians 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus..." And most of the letters in the New Testament are written to Gentile churches. But this letter is written mostly to Jewish believers, probably around 67 AD. And in the original Greek, instead of starting out with the name of the author, it starts out with the name, "God." In fact, though there is speculation about who authored this letter, we won't find out for sure until we get to heaven. We just know that the early believers respected whoever wrote it as someone who was given the words by the Holy Spirit... "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

Vs. 1-4 ~ God, through the Holy Spirit, spoke through the prophets at many times and in many ways to teach His people the truth. Why? Because He was always about relationship. What does anyone deeply want more than anything? They want to know and to be known, to love and to be loved. Why wouldn't the One who planned for us to be made in His image be the same? Even if the image of God in me is distorted through my sin, it is still there.

God spoke to and through the prophets in the Old Testament, but “when the fullness of time had come, He sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). When Jesus came, God spoke through Him. Who is this Jesus?

He is ~

- Heir of all things. He is “the firstborn of all creation”, “the firstborn among many brothers” (Colossians 1:15, Romans 8:29).
- Creator of the world. “For by Him all things were created, in heaven and earth” (Colossians 1:16).
- The radiance of the glory of God. He shines the light of the glory of the Father. “In Him there is NO darkness” (1 John 1:5). And, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).
- The exact representation or expression of the Father’s character and nature. Jesus said in John 14:9, “Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father.” There is no distinction between them. Jesus never went rogue. He never did anything that was not in complete unity with the Father.
- He upholds the universe by the word of His power. Simply with His word! He is never anxious. He knows exactly what He’s doing. The word for “uphold” means that it’s ongoing. He did not just start the world and go away. He is intimately involved in every aspect of life...even the parts I don’t understand.
- He made purification for sins...not HIS sin...mine. He was without sin. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Once He made purification for my sin through His own blood and death, He rose again, ascended to heaven, and “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” His Father. When He did that, He said, “There is no longer any offering for sin” (Hebrews 10:18). It “has been nailed to the cross” (Colossians 3:14).
- He became superior to the angels, as His inherited name is more excellent than theirs. He was always superior to the angels, but He proved it and earned it (though He shouldn’t have had to...He did it for me) through His suffering. What angel could have made purification for my sins? None.

In these seven statements about Jesus, I see His power...He is Creator and He upholds the universe with His word. I see His love...He made purification for my sins. I see His majesty...His is the radiance and the exact representation of the Majesty on High...now sitting on His throne. He sat

down because there was no more need for a sacrifice for sins. His was the perfect sacrifice.

Vs. 5-14 ~ At that time, there was a tendency to worship angels. Though they have an important role in our lives, they are still created beings. Why would I worship what's created when I get to be with the Creator?

I believe there are still so many who worship created beings today...but it seems like, even more than worshiping spirits or angels, the driving force is to worship self. The same questions raised about angels in these next verses which are prophecies from the Old Testament can be asked about man. The answer is the same. Only Jesus is worthy.

God spoke to His Son...

- "You are My Son." The original Greek says, "You are the Son of Me." No one else has the same title. God never said this to an angel. And only through Jesus am I called a child of God.
- God called Jesus His Son. He never called the angels His Son. And only through Jesus can I be called His daughter.
- When Jesus was born, God said, "Let ALL the angels worship Him." What did Gabriel say when he explained why what he said was credible? "I am Gabriel, and I stand in the presence of God." He knew where his value came from. Do I?
- He says He MAKES the angels winds and flames of fire. They are created beings.
- But the throne of Jesus is forever. His scepter of uprightness is the scepter of His KINGDOM. Scepter means authority. He rules from His throne with righteousness...forever. He rules over ALL angels and ALL man...even those who stand against Him.
- He has loved and always will love righteousness. He has hated and always will hate wickedness. Let me not be deceived. He will put all wickedness to an end.
- Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You...Jesus is God, and God the Father is His God...and He has anointed Jesus...this is a holy anointing of, not just gladness, but delight. The Father delights in His Son beyond all His "companions." He delights in Jesus more than anyone who shares with Him in His purpose.
- He laid the foundation of the earth and heaven. All heaven and earth will perish, but Jesus will remain. He is on His throne. Revelation 21 says He will give us a new heaven and new earth. He will roll up the old like a robe and make all things new...though He Himself remains the same. He was and is and always will be righteous and good. He

will live forever, on His throne. This is so reassuring. The one who is and always will be on His throne will always be righteous and without darkness.

- The Father never said to an angel (or a man)... "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." This honor goes to Jesus alone.
- Angels are His ministers serving for my sake. And I bet they LOVE what they do because they love the One who sends them to serve.

When I was in college, a friend told me he believed in the Bible but he didn't believe Jesus was God...At the time, I was not walking with the Lord. I had definitely told the Lord I didn't want to walk with Him (long story on the reason why). But when the person told me that, I said, "If I can prove to you from scripture that Jesus is God, will you believe?" The friend said yes. So I looked up a ton of scripture including this one to prove that Jesus is God...even though I wasn't walking with Him. Does that even make sense?

Well, I don't think my friend ever even looked at the long list of scriptures I gave him. But it totally changed my perspective. To say that Jesus is God is not enough. He has all authority and power and He's worthy. I believe God used that situation to bring me back to Him. What a wonderful, beautiful Savior! He healed my broken heart even though I didn't deserve it. He forgave me my sins, though I deserved death...because He made the final sacrifice for sin.

Jesus is God...all powerful...all loving...my Savior...on His throne forever.
Amen!