

SLIDE Introduction:

SLIDE IMAGE: Standing At the Threshold of a New Year

As we gather at the close of another year, we stand again at a threshold—a place where memory and hope meet.

We look back on a year filled with joys and sorrows, answered prayers and unanswered questions, moments of clarity and moments of confusion.

And we look ahead to 2026, **a year we have not yet lived**, a year known fully only to God.

At such a moment, we need a word that is steady. A word that is not blown about by the winds of culture or the anxieties of our age.

A word that does not shift with the day's headlines or tremble under the weight of our fears.

God in His kindness has given us such a word in Hebrews 1:1–3, a passage that lifts our eyes above the noise of the world and fixes them on the One who reigns above it all.

For this message we will limit ourselves to the majestic opening verses of the epistle to the Hebrews.

In these verses we discover that Jesus is God's final word to humanity and lest we misunderstand, the writer gives us a sevenfold description of who Jesus really is.

1. *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*
2. *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*
3. *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
4. *having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”*

The God Who Speaks (v. 1)

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.”

SLIDE: The writer of Hebrews begins with a simple but staggering truth: God speaks.

He is not silent. He is not distant. He is not indifferent.

From the beginning, He has been a communicating God—speaking through creation, through covenants, through prophets, through priests, through kings, through poets, through visions and dreams and burning bushes and thunder on mount Sinai.

But all of that speaking—rich as it was—was partial.

It was true, but it was incomplete.

It was glorious, but it was preparatory.

It was like dawn before sunrise.

Like sketches before the masterpiece.

Like whispers before the voice itself.

SLIDE: The Final Word: God Has Spoken by His Son (v. 2)

“...but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...”

Here is the heart of the passage—and the beating heart of the Christian faith:

Jesus Christ is God’s final, full, and definitive Word.

He is THE Word—the complete revelation of God’s heart, God’s character, God’s will, and God’s saving purpose.

Everything God wants us to know about Himself is found in Jesus.

Everything God wants to accomplish for our salvation is accomplished in Jesus.

Everything God intends for the world is centred in Jesus.

This is why the church must never drift from Christ.

This is why our preaching must be forever Christ-centred.

This is why discipleship must be Christ-shaped.

This is why our worship must be Christ-exalting.

Because God has spoken by His Son, and there is no higher authority, no deeper revelation, no greater truth.

SLIDE: The Supremacy of the Son (vv. 2–3) Quote

The writer of Hebrews piles phrase upon phrase to show us who Jesus truly is. Each phrase is a mountain peak; together they form a majestic towering mountain range of glory.

He Is the Heir of All Things

Everything belongs to Him. History is moving toward Him. The universe is His inheritance.

To say that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things means that God has given everything to His Son.

SLIDE: The deepest oceans. The farthest stars. The darkest corners. The highest mountains. It all belongs to him.

This means that when you come to the end of everything, Jesus is there!

As Isaac Watts put it in his great hymn written in 1719, “Jesus shall reign where ’ere the sun, doth its successive journeys run; his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

SLIDE: He Is the One Through Whom God Created the World - Verse 2

Jesus is not merely present at creation—He is the active agent of creation.

Every breath we take is borrowed from His power.

At the Father’s command He brought the universe into being, and He wrote the script for the unfolding ages. The galaxies are the work of His hands. The laws of physics are the expression of His mind.

Through Jesus God made everything. There are really only two choices a person can make as he studies the universe. Either you believe that everything is the result of blind chance, or you believe that the universe is the result of God’s divine design.

The Father delegated to His Son the work of bringing the universe into being and nothing was made except through him.

Let’s make this more personal. Not only did the Lord Jesus create the universe, he also created you and me. Psalm 139:14 says that we are “*fearfully and wonderfully made.*” We owe every part of our physical existence to the Lord Jesus Christ.

SLIDE: He Is the Radiance of God’s Glory Verse 3

Not a reflection. Not a shadow. Not a dim echo.

He is the radiance—the shining forth—of God’s own glory.

The word for radiance was used for sunlight streaming from the sun. **Jesus is the blazing radiance of the glory of God.** What sunlight is to the sun, Jesus is to God. It would be easier to try to separate sunlight from the sun than to separate the Son from God.

To see Jesus is to see the beauty of God unveiled.

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. He’s not some grimy, blurry image of the Almighty. He isn’t the sun peeking through the clouds. **He is the blazing, magnificent revelation of God himself.** Jesus is a clear picture of God. He radiates the glory of God.

SLIDE: He Is the Exact Imprint of God’s Nature - Verse 3

He is God made visible.

The invisible God has made Himself knowable in the person of His Son.

This word here was used for the impression made by an engraving tool when it was stamped into metal in order to make a coin. The image on the coin was precisely the image on the engraving tool.

So Jesus is stamped with the image of God.

He is the “radiance of God’s glory” and the “exact representation of his being.”

These two expressions taken together are a powerful statement of the Son’s full deity.

We can truly say that not only is Jesus the Son of God, he is also God the Son. When we see Jesus, we have seen as much of God as it is possible for us to see.

SLIDE: He Upholds the Universe by the Word of His Power - Verse 3

Right now—this very moment—Jesus is sustaining the cosmos.

Every star stays in its orbit because He wills it.

Every atom holds together because He commands it.

Every heartbeat continues because He upholds it.

There is a vast movement in science today seeking to discover what makes the universe hold together.

What is the power behind the power behind the power? **What is** the Ultimate Force in the universe? **Our text makes clear that the answer is not a What but a Who.**

What makes the universe hold together? **Jesus Christ is the power behind all power.** He holds the universe in place by his powerful word.

His power is greater than any nuclear power and his force is mightier than the so called mystical Force of the Star Wars movies. **His might is mightier than the might of all the mighty men on earth.**

SLIDE: He Made Purification for Sins – He Is Our Saviour - Verse 3

The One who created our world also redeemed it. The One who sustains the universe also saves sinners.

The One who radiates divine glory also went to the cross and shed His blood for us. **This is the gospel:**

The King James version adds the words “**by himself**” after the word “**he**” and I think it is correct.

Jesus died once for all time. His death on the cross was the complete payment for our sins.

That is why he cried out, “It is finished.”

By Jesus’ atoning death that we are forgiven by God. Jesus died that he might save us.

This is why we heard over Advent from Luke 2:11, “*Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*”

When the world wants to water down what we believe, let us declare this truth very plainly.

Away with those who try to add anything to or diminish the work of Christ.

SLIDE: He Sat Down at the Right Hand of Majesty - Verse 3

His work is finished. His authority is absolute. The Son is supreme.

He sat down when he returned to heaven because his work was done. Nothing can be added to the work Christ accomplished on the cross.

He sat down at the “right hand” of God, the place of highest honour.

If there were another crown, he would wear it. If there were another honour, he would have it.

SLIDE: God has given him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father

Today we confess this by faith. One day the whole universe will bow—willingly or unwillingly—to openly declare that Jesus is Lord.

Even now Jesus reigns from heaven.

He reigns over the elements of nature. He reigns over the past, the present and the future.

SLIDE: Why Does This Matter to the Church Today? Spurgeon Quote

We live in a time when many churches have drifted from this truth— perhaps not always intentionally, but subtly, gradually, quietly.

Some have replaced Christ with Moralism.

“Moralism is when we reduce faith to rules and behavior, instead of listening to God’s final Word in His Son.”

Moralism: “Be good so God will accept you.”

The gospel: “Because God has accepted you in Christ, you are being transformed.”

Moralism can turn sermons into self-help talks, faith into rule-keeping, and discipleship into behaviour management, rather than heart transformation and grace-shaped living.

Moralism says, ‘Clean yourself up and then come to God.’

The gospel becomes “be good” instead of “be born again.”

The gospel says, ‘Come to the Son—He cleanses you.’

Some Have Replaced Christ with Activism

Promoting causes overshadow the central cause:

That is the glory of Christ and the salvation of precious souls for who Christ died.

Some Have Replaced Christ with Entertainment. Worship becomes performance.

But Hebrews calls us back. Back to the centre. Back to the foundation.

Back to the One who is better than angels, better than Moses, better than priests, better than sacrifices.

Back to the supremacy of God's Son.

SLIDE: What This Means for Us as We Enter 2026

1. We can face the future with confidence

The One who upholds the universe upholds us.

2. We can endure trials with hope

3. We can commit ourselves to a Christ-centred life

A new year is a new opportunity to reorder our lives, our habits, our priorities.

4. We can commit our church to a Christ-exalting mission

First Baptist Church does not exist to preserve tradition or maintain programmes.

We exist to lift high the name of Jesus, in Petrolia, in Lambton County, and to the ends of the earth.

5. We can worship with renewed awe

When we see Christ as He truly is, worship becomes not a duty but a delight.

SLIDE: Conclusion: Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus

As we close this year and step into the next, Hebrews 1:1–3 calls us to lift our eyes above the noise, above the fear, above the uncertainty—**and fix them on the Son.**

Who is God's final Word. Who is the radiance of God's glory.

Who is the exact imprint of God's nature.

Who is the Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and reigning King.

Who is Supreme.

SLIDE: And because He is supreme, we can walk into 2026 with courage, with joy, and with unshakable hope.

To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.