

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 7 | LESSON 22b




Letters – The Promise Explained Through the KING’S Church

God is a PROMISE Completing God

JESUS as the 1) **PROMISED KING** has 2) **RESCUED** His people through His Perfect Law Keeping Life and Sacrificial, Substitutionary Death on the Cross, whereby 3) **DEFEATING** the enemy of sin and death, and is 4) **RESTORING** them to the PLACE OF REST where Heaven and Earth are rejoined and God reigns and abides 5) so that His people shall be with Him forever for their **JOY**.

“Jesus is Superior to/Better than the Prophets” Hebrews 1:1-3

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.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how the Bible records the Words and Works of Jesus as the final and fullest revelation from God. Q – What can you do to increase our knowledge of the Bible?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose the Bible as our final and fullest authority / record that is to be loved and followed. Q – What are some competing “voices” that seek to discredit the Bible?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey all that God has said. Q – What are the things that pull us away from obeying God?</p>

EMPHASIS

In Jesus Christ we have the fullest and final word from God concerning our purification from sin and it is to Him we must look and listen. All biblical revelation comes to a head in Jesus. He is God’s fullest and final Word to His people **concerning our purification from sin AND THIS IS GOOD NEWS!**

The Bible tells us that **Jesus Christ is the fullest and final Word from God concerning our purification from sin.** John 1:18 says, “He has explained Him.” This text reinforces that simple idea. Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of God’s *Story*. Everything before Him points to Him, and everything following Him flows from Him. Jesus Christ is God in flesh. Although there were Theophanies [“God Appearance” i.e. burning bush] and Christophanies [“Jesus Appearance” i.e. Angel of the LORD] before the incarnation, in neither case did God take on human nature (Phil. 2:5-11). All that is God dwells in bodily form in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:19).

LITERARY CONTEXT

- Christ is superior to/better than the Prophets (1:1-3)
- Christ is superior to/better than the Angels (1:4–2:18)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Hebrews was probably written before the destruction of the Temple in AD 70. There is oppression and persecution of the Christian Jews by Non-Christian Jews and Rome. The writer of Hebrews reminds his Jewish audience that it is Jesus, and not the Law, that brings them into God's covenant community; that it is Jesus, and not the Law, that keeps them in God's covenant community. All that preceded Jesus finds their fulfillment in Jesus.

STRUCTURE

In teaching this lesson show the overall structure and then focus on verse 3 as provided below.

- I. God's Revelation through His Prophets (1:1)
 - A. "In many portions"
 - B. "In many ways"
 - C. "In these last days"
 - D. "By His Son"
- II. God's Revelation through His Son (1:2-3)

The fullest and final revelation of God came in and through the person of His Son. "While the former revelation was given through a definite class, the prophets, the new revelation is given through one who is a son as distinguished from a prophet. He belongs to another category."¹

- A. His position as **heir** makes the revealing more complete (v. 2a).
- B. His position as **creator** makes the revealing more complete (v. 2b).
- C. His position as **the radiant splendor** of the Father's glory makes the revealing more complete (v. 3a).
- D. His position as **icon** | **image** makes the revealing more complete (v. 3b).
- E. His position as **sustainer** makes the revealing more complete (v. 3c).

All of the above descriptions **tell us who He is**. It is because of who He is that He is able to purify His people from their sin. This is now what He does.

- F. His position as **purifier** makes the revealing more complete (v. 3d).

III. Humanity's Purification by His Son (v. 3d)

Notice three highlights of His work of purifying His people from sin and death.

A. His work is legal/ceremonial/moral ("He made purification of sins")

When he had by himself purged our sins. "By himself"--not by the blood of bulls and lambs, but by his own blood. This is designed to bring in the grand feature of the Christian scheme that the purification made for sin was by his blood, instead of the blood which was shed in the temple-service. The word here rendered "purged" means purified, or "expiated." The literal rendering is, "having made purification for our sins." The purification or cleansing, which he effected, was by his blood. See 1Jo 1:7: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin." This the apostle here states to have been the great object for which he came, and having done this, he sat down on the right hand of God. See Heb 7:27; 9:12-14. It was not merely to teach that he came; it was to purify the hearts of men, to remove their sins, and to put an end of sacrifice by the sacrifice of himself.²

The religious/historical context for this statement is embedded in the Mosaic Code and the Laws of Israel. What the blood of bulls and goats could not do, Jesus did. He fully and forever washes away our sins.

B. His work is final ("He sat down" [His ascension] See also Heb. 1:13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; Col. 1:13)

The verb denotes a solemn, formal act; the assumption of a position of dignity and authority.³

Nowhere in the Temple furniture was there a place for the priest to sit. Jesus however sits for His work is done. "[He] took his seat, a formal and dignified act."⁴ He sits as one who conquered/conquers.

C. His work is received ("at the right hand of the Majesty on high")

The idea of sitting at God's right hand speaks of power and approval. The Father says of His Son, "This is my Beloved."

The idea that God the Father would restore to His Son His pre-incarnate glory/position confirms the Father's pleasure in the person and work of His Son. His person and position make the purification of sins terminal. **Once the Son acted nothing more was necessary. Jesus Christ is not only necessary, He is enough!** No angel could do what the Son did. No angel measures up to who the Son is. For these reasons and more, Jesus is better than the angelic realm and heaven's hosts.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

It is because Jesus is God's final answer for sin's defilement that His people can enter into His rest (Heb. 4:1ff).

Our passage and this entire book say Jesus is the fulfillment of the Seed Promise and the completion of the Blood Picture.

Because of Jesus, His people can with boldness enter into His presence and approach His throne as one of grace and not of judgment (Heb. 4:14-16). This IS THE BLESSING.

APPLICATION

You and I must check our understanding of this Book and thus life itself. If we come to any other conclusion other than Jesus Christ, we are wrong.

1. This is true for our justification/initial salvation and . . .
2. This is true for our sanctification/ongoing Christian walk and . . .
3. This is true for our glorification/ultimate arrival in heaven.

Friend, Jesus is not only necessary, but He is enough! Jesus is our FINAL ANSWER.

VISUALS | CRAFTS

1. Show food items and show why one is 'BETTER' than the other.
2. Show a "play" hammer and then show a "real" hammer. The one is "better" than the other for pounding real nails.
3. If a child tells you to do something, do you listen? If your parent tells you to do something, is it different than having a child tell you to do something? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 1:¹Long 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.

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ <http://vws.biblecommenter.com/hebrews/1.htm> *Vincent Word Studies* on Hebrews 1:1.

² *Albert Barnes' NT Commentary* on Hebrews 1:3.

³ <http://vws.biblecommenter.com/hebrews/1.htm> *Vincent Word Studies* on Hebrews 1:3.

⁴ *A.T. Robertson's Word Pictures* on Hebrews 1:3.