



**HEBREW** **S**  
AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

WEEKS 1 - 2

# WEEK ONE

## READ HEBREWS 1:1-3

Have you ever wondered what God is like? In today's society and culture, there are many different interpretations of what God is like. You have different worldviews such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and others. You also have different personal ideas of what God *should* be like. But if someone asked you, "What is God like," what would you say? The author of Hebrews, which is unknown, gives us the answer in these short but incredibly important three verses of the Bible.

The Bible answers the aforementioned question in a person. But not just any person, the God man, Jesus Christ. The Bible says that he is the exact "imprint" of God's nature, he is the glory of God revealed and personified, he is the one who is the heir of all things, and he created all things! This is no ordinary person, as you can see. One often missed, yet obvious fact is that God spoke in order to communicate to his people. God showed his love for His people in parting the Red Sea in order to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. God also made a covenant with Abraham, where he promised to give the elderly Abraham descendants that numbered the same as the stars in the sky! That's quite a promise for someone who was over 100 years old! Nevertheless, according to the Bible, God has been speaking to us for a long time. The problem for those in the Bible and for us today is that we are not eager and wise enough on our own to listen and obey God's instructions. God sent prophets to Israel, yet they killed them because they had hard truth in their mouths. God rescued Israel from slavery and gave them the Law to instruct the people how they should live as God's people, but instead the people turned to idolatry, worshiping a golden calf. Even today, God has given us his word and the Holy Spirit, yet we are so prone to wander from him in our actions and hearts, just like the hymn says, "Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love."

The beauty of the Gospel is that God speaks to us and has given us a final word! If we were to think about these verses as a movie, typically the end of a movie (if it's a good one) gives us a resolution or happy ending. It gives us the solution to the struggle presented during the entire movie. It's only at the end of the Lord of the Rings that we see Frodo and Sam finally accomplish their mission to destroy the ring of power in Mount Doom. God's final act is at the cross. It's what the Bible points to, foreshadows, and centers around. God has spoken by sending himself! No other worldview says anything close to this: Islam says that Allah has spoken to Mohammad by sending him the Quran in a cave alone. Buddhism believes all of life is suffering and to obey the noble truths of the Buddha. But God doesn't only send words; he sends a person! He sends himself in the second person of the Godhead, to feel the feelings of humanity, to experience physical pain that you have felt in your life, and to be crucified for our sin. The Bible gives us a word from God, a word that becomes "flesh" as John 1:1 so eloquently tells us. Jesus is unlike any other religious figure because no one did the things he did nor said the statements he said. He cannot be on the same page as Buddha, Mohamed, or Krishna. His life and ministry display that he is greater than those figures. Jesus loved us to such a high degree that he, being God and man simultaneously, lived the obedient life to the Law we could never live and took the penalty for our sin and shame. He is the perfect high priest who is the sacrifice for us. And he is God, meaning that Jesus upholds the universe by his power. Jesus is so magnificent and glorious that Colossians says that everything is "from him, to him, and through him." Jesus is the creator and sustainer of the universe; there is no one quite like Jesus.

We often want to know what God would be like if we got to spend just an hour with him. Yet, the Bible answers that question for us. We need not wonder as if the question is impossible to answer. He is as Hebrews says, "the exact imprint of his nature," meaning that we can know what God is like by looking at the person and work of Jesus. Jesus, the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature, willingly came to give himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. He loves you that much. Do you want to know the character and nature of God? Look at the life and beauty of Jesus.

### EXAMINE AND JOURNAL:

*Use a journal to write down all of your observations of the text. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions. Also, ask basic questions such as Who? What? When? Where? Why?*

1. What is your heart's posture toward Jesus? What is most lovely to you about the person of Jesus?
2. What fuels your affections towards obedience to him?

### APPLY:

*Use the SPECK method to make an application from these verses.*

**S**in to Avoid

**P**romise to cling to

**E**xample to follow

**C**ommand to obey

**K**nowledge to gain

# WEEK TWO

## READ HEBREWS 1:4-14

We come to our second week in Hebrews where the author is clearly depicting Jesus as supreme and more glorious than anything else in the world, including angels! This is quite a statement on the role and nature of Jesus. How can someone be more glorious than an angelic being? The answer lies in who Jesus is.

Most modern day people are not asking themselves, "Is Jesus on par with angels or are angels better than Jesus?" What's all the commotion around angels for the author? Although this falls on deaf ears today, it did not fall on deaf ears during the time Hebrews was written. Angels have a prominent place in the Old Testament, as beings created and used by God to execute his purposes on earth. In Genesis, Jacob wrestled with an angel, Jesus was ministered to by angels in the wilderness when he was being tempted by the Devil, and angels were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Space on this page is not long enough to describe the attributes of angels and all of their beauty, power, and magnitude. And yet, the author is saying that they exist to glorify God and glorify Christ. One of the common misinterpretations or heresies during the dawn of the church was the veneration or worship of angels. Some churches would worship Jesus plus angels, as if they were on the same level of glory and significance. The author anticipates this and refutes it. Yet the way that he refutes it is with the Bible, which is to note that the author is committed to biblical authority and clarity especially when it comes to pointing to Jesus' authority. The author doesn't just see the Old Testament as speaking about Jesus, but that the Old Testament is all about Jesus, he is the Lord of Israel, the God of the Old Testament. In other words, Yahweh has come down in the person of Jesus Christ.

Another fact that the author says is that all of the angels worship Jesus, for we see in verse 6, "And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." One theme we see in the Old Testament is people's reactions to angels when they encounter them. There are two reactions: either, incredible fear or worship. In Isaiah 6, the prophet sees incredible angelic beings flying around, and yet they are not the focal point of the worship ceremony, God is. The angels are worshipping something else other than themselves. And Isaiah is struck by what it is, that being God himself. Yet, in this passage in verse six, we see angels worshipping Jesus. Jesus is the focal point of angels' dutiful worship. We see that angels, who were often feared or worshiped in the Old Testament, are now doing the worshipping. Jesus is worthy of all of the angels' worship and all of ours too.

Summarizing the message of the author in verses 4-14 would be: Jesus is worthy of our worship. For all Christians, everything we do is in some way worship. We cannot help but to ascribe worth and beauty to someone or something: whether that be a spouse, a career, money, sex, or possessions. We are creatures hardwired to worship something; the question is, what is it? The author is driving home that any object of worship other than Jesus, is false worship. To live a life worshipping wrongly is a tragedy. For it would be like setting out to summit a specific mountain, embarking on the rigorous and treacherous upward climb, and getting to the top only to realize you have climbed the wrong mountain! How devastating it would feel? How much wasted time and energy? The Bible encourages Christians, by grace and faith, to recalibrate our worship through a personal relationship with the one who rules on his throne and whose enemies become his footstool. Jesus, who created the angels and is the heir of all things, intimately knows you and died to save you. Let the glorious Gospel pour gasoline on the fire of your affections for him.

### EXAMINE AND JOURNAL:

Use a journal to write down all of your observations of the text. Don't be afraid to ask hard questions. Also, ask basic questions such as Who? What? When? Where? Why?

1. What do I rejoice in, find more attractive, or run to more than Jesus?
2. How is his supremacy something to rejoice in as a believer?
3. How can you pray so that Jesus becomes more glorious to you today?

### APPLY:

Use the SPECK method to make an application from these verses.

Sin to Avoid

Promise to cling to

Example to follow

Command to obey

Knowledge to gain

# NOTES