

**Intro:** About twice a year, all the major news magazines have the same cover, “Who is Jesus?” Most will ascertain through liberal scholarship that He was a man that was “canonized” by the early church.

**Need:** But this question is not one that we can just skim over. For it is THE question. How you answer this determines everything...your orientation in this life, and, perhaps, more importantly, your orientation in eternity. To miss this question is to miss it all. Even for us who are sold on Jesus at a theological level, the question is still important. Who is Jesus to you in the mundane moments of your daily life? Who is Jesus during times of trial in your life?

**Context:** Hebrews is a book shrouded in mystery. We don’t know who wrote it, can only piece together a general idea of when it was written and to whom. But as near as we can tell, it was written to a group of believers in Rome who were facing this very question. Most of these, as we’ll see, came from Jewish backgrounds, and, in the face of persecutions that were taking place in first century Rome, were flirting with the idea of punting the whole Jesus is Messiah thing and heading back into the “safe and familiar” waters of Judaism. For them, the question did not rest so much at the level of “was Jesus really the divine Son of God or not?” as much as at the level of “Is Jesus a reliable anchor that will hold when times get rough?” In this sermon called Hebrews, the author will say that Jesus is the exalted Son of God – you can hold fast to Him no matter what. And you better, because there is hope in no one else.

- I. Jesus is the final fulfillment, the climactic communication of God (**1-2a**).
  - A. Progressive Rev. means God has revealed Himself over time, as slowly uncovering something.
    1. OT was a partial, incomplete revealing. There were things left open-ended. The OT is expansive, but incomplete. Not less true or of any less worth...just partial (**1**).
      - a. “**In the past**” – in the days of old, pre-Christ.
      - b. “**to our forefathers**” – those who came before us.
      - c. “**through the Prophets**” – through all those God used in speaking.
      - d. “**Many times and diversity of forms**” – *God spoke in storms and thunder, in a burning bush, in a still small voice, in dreams and visions, through floods, fruit, angels, symbols, fire and smoke. He even spoke through Balaam’s donkey. He used variety.*
    2. But He has spoken finally and completely in Christ (**2a**).
      - a. “**Last days**” – Day of Messiah. It is the age of the consummation of God’s grand plan.
      - b. “**To us**” – to those who have received the Christian message.
      - c. “**Through One who relates to Him as Son**” – Jesus is not just the last in a line of Prophets. He is the Son, the essence of God who is uniquely qualified to finally reveal.
      - d. No longer does God speak in a diversity of ways. Now He has spoken singularly, finally, and completely in His Son. **John 1:18** – Jesus is the explanation of God. So much so that Jesus can say to Philip in **John 14**, “**if you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.**”  
*Incidentally, if 2 24 year old “elders” tell you God doesn’t do anything without a prophet (Amos 3:7), take them here and say, “right, He doesn’t. But that was then and this is now. And now He has spoken through one who is more than merely a prophet. He has spoken through His Son...Jesus, and in Him, finally & completely so there is nothing left to say.”*
  - B. Revelation is completed because there is nothing left to say, no promise left to answer.
    1. Everything that went before pointed to something more. It pointed to Jesus as the culmination of God’s Word to us. There is nothing more to say because Jesus has said it all.
      - a. This is the key theme in Hebrews: The Son’s superior status as God’s final revelation. The key exhortation in the Book is to hold fast to your belief and trust in Jesus because there is salvation in no one else. You can’t do better than Jesus.
      - b. God is shrouded in mystery. We can’t know Him unless He reveals Himself to us. In the past, there was only a partial, cloudy telling. But now, in Jesus, He has finished it.
    2. There is nothing else to say. Every promise in the OT is fulfilled in Christ. Every hope is validated in Christ. This is how Paul says it in **2 Corinthians 1:20. [READ]**
      - a. So does God still speak to us today? Another sermon for another day. Yes, but it isn’t canonical & not to fulfill. He uses the Holy Spirit to shine light on the Word to lead us to understanding and application of it. He speaks to our hearts through others, He gives wisdom. But He has completed His work of fulfilling and explaining who He is in Jesus. God isn’t going to uncover any more promises fulfilled. They’re all there in Jesus.
      - b. God is not a mystical force that we cannot know. He has spoken to His Church in XC.

II. The *Curriculum Vitae* of Jesus is quite impressive (2b-4). CV is a life path employers use to see if you are worthy to do the job you are applying for. I want to show you 7 things the author says about Jesus that demonstrate His worth as the exalted Son of God. But more importantly, demonstrate for us why He is absolutely worthy for us to anchor our lives in. You can't do better than this guy Jesus.

- A. He is the exalted Heir of all things (2b) – cf **Psalm 2:8**. Messianic Psalm speaking prophetically of the enthronement of Jesus as King. That the whole of the created order will be His. cf **Psalm 110 in Heb. 1:13 and Psalm 8 in Heb. 2:8**. Jesus has the supreme place in the universe.
- B. Agent of creation (2c) – Idea same as above: “ages” all space and time brought about by Him. Jesus is the One God the Father used to create the universe (cf **Heb. 1:10; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rom. 11:36**). Father is source, Son is agent. *This implies His Pre-existence.*
- C. He is Divine (3a) – He eternally existed as the One who reflected the glory of the Father.
  1. “reflection” – full reflection of God’s glory “radiance” as the rays of the sun travels 93m miles to earth, so in Christ, the light of God reaches us (**John 1:9**).
  2. *karakter tas hupastaseos* - term used in the minting of money. *An impress made on a coin.* “exact representation of His essence:” construction speaks of timeless essence. As the radiant glory of God is in Jesus, so also the very Being of God is in Jesus.
- D. Sustainer of all (3b) – He upholds all things. But not like Atlas who holds the world on his shoulders. This speaks of Jesus’ ability to providentially carry forward everything to its appointed end (cf **Col. 1:17; Ps. 119:90-91**). All this by “His mighty Word.”
- E. He is the Incarnate One who made purification for sin (3c) – Major theme! Jesus did everything necessary to deal with sin for us. *Sin stains...infomercials for cleaning products with stains. Jesus cleansed us.* In fact, He was the only thing that could. Jesus is the superior offering for sin.
- F. He is the exalted One (3d) – He sat down at the exalted place (**Psalm 110** as central text in Hebrews). The idea in this Psalm speaks of the supremacy of Christ. To be seated in authority.
  1. His work is completed. “having made purification...He sits”
  2. His work is accepted. Now He is to be highly honored and exalted (**Heb. 10:11-12**).
- G. Heir of God (4) – He inherited the exalted title “Son.” He is the eternal Son, the earthly Son who died, and the exalted Son who sits enthroned above all else. Expand on this next time. But for now, angels guard the presence of God...pretty high. Jesus is higher as evidenced by name Son.

*[Welcome to Hebrews...the exposition of the exalted Son. Pretty impressive, isn't it. What do you think? Can you do better? Can you find anything better than this to build your life on?]*

MT. Everest is the highest mountain on the planet. It extends more than 29,000 feet into the sky. Look up into the sky at a plane and it's probably at 30,000 feet. The Jet Stream, a current of super fast air that effects weather around the world, slams into the side of Everest's summit. It's way up there. At and near the top, the summit is pummeled by winds between 80MPH on a calm day, up to 150MPH in a storm. The temperature in the wind can get to 100F below zero. And, amazingly, human beings actually can climb to the top. But not all at once. You have to make stops at camps that have been set at different altitudes on the way up. The final camp, Camp 4, sits at a very uncomfortable 26,000 feet...just at the start of the so-called “death zone.” And, amazingly, people sleep there...at least get some shelter from the weather. Now if you need a tent to take to the top of Mt. Everest, you don't just go to Argos and flip through the catalog to find one. You'll go flying off the mountain. Tents at Argos weren't made for 120 MPH winds on -100F nights. You go get you one of these bad boys [PICTURE]. This thing will set you back about 500 euro...but it will also get you through the night at Camp 4. What's so special about it? Well, among other things, it has some significant pegs that bury themselves deep into the snow and ice...these anchor it to the side of the mountain so that whatever the wind blows, it's gonna stay put. You can know you're anchored well if you're in one of these guys. you can't do better.

This is the message of Hebrews...you'll hear it through the whole book, and it starts right here at the very beginning. You can't do better than Jesus. He's the only One you can anchor your lives to. He's the only anchor that will hold. For these believers who, in the face of persecution, were toying with the idea of going back to their previous way of life in Judaism, the author here says...you're not going to do better than the pre-existent, incarnate, Son of God who is God Himself. The One who purified you from all sin and sits exalted at God's right hand...fully fulfilling every promise as God's final Word.

“Who is your anchor?” When the storms of life blow my direction, who do I trust in? I have to confess that I've been on Everest with my Argos tent of self-reliance...and it's no match for the storms that come. I have to be reminded, as here, that I can't do better than Jesus. He is the Prophet who has given God's final Word and fulfilled every promise...you can't do better. He is the priest who made full payment in purifying me of all my sin...you can't do better. He is the forever exalted King of Kings and Lord of Lords...you can't do better. He is the calming voice of a sovereign God saying, “don't worry, I'm in control.” He's the authoritative voice of God saying, “don't go there.” He's the living voice of a merciful God saying, “you've been forgiven.” You can't do better than Jesus. He is our hope in uncertainty, our help in times of need, our security in times of doubt. Nothing else that we can find; no other way of thinking can offer the complete Word of God. No other way of thinking can withstand the pain and difficulty that this life brings. You can't do better. I want you to hear this ringing in your ears throughout this book...You can't do better than Jesus. So cling to Him, trust in Him, worship Him.