

LET US DRAW NEAR

Introduction

The writer of the Book of Hebrews has a consistent and major theme throughout, “**LET US DRAW NEAR.**”

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated (Gr enkainizō – dedicate, renew, inaugurate, introduced a policy or period) for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;* ²¹ *And having an high priest over the house of God;* ²² *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.* ²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

Hebrews 10:19-23

The book of Hebrews was completed about 68 – 80 AD, about the time Galatians and 2 Timothy were written. By this time the Christian church was in its **second or third generation of believers** and composed of **Jews and Gentiles**. The **Gentile** world historically viewed another world that was perfect. **This world** was simply a rather sad and imperfect shadow of that world. The **Jews** had evolved to believe that it was dangerous to come too near to God. “**Man, shall not see me and live, wrote Moses.**” Even on the great Day of Atonement (one time per year) the **High Priest** could not linger in the **Holy Place** according to the **Law** because he might be struck dead.

The **Greeks** were looking for the perfect society. The **Jews** were looking for the perfect priest, the Messiah, who can bring the perfect sacrifice and provide access to God. Into this world comes the book of **Hebrews** which declares the **Lord Jesus Christ! He and He alone can open the way to God** which had been closed by sin for the Jew - as well as provide reality to the ideal of a perfect world to come for the Greek!

Lesson

It has never been completely settled who wrote the book of Hebrews. Candidates are, **Paul**, (an unknown **Hebrew scholar** whose work was translated to Greek by **Dr.**

Luke), **Clement** was an early priest of Rome (2nd, 3rd, or 4th), **Barnabas** (native of Cypress, an island known for its excellence in Greek), Apollos (from Alexandria, Egypt - eloquent in Hebrew scripture and Greek), or **Aquila and Priscilla** (but women were not allowed to teach at that time).

I like what some scholars concluded which states that **while the writer of Hebrews is known only by God, the book has been canonized on the basis of the content itself as Holy Scripture inspired by God no matter who wrote it. As with other books, the author was God's voice through man.** Hebrews was submitted as a possible book by Paul with the understanding there may have been a different writer.

God has spoken to us through Christ, His Son.

*God, who at sundry times and in **divers** (Gr. polytropōs – In many ways, and many times, methods or form) **manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,** ² Hath in these last days **spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;***

Hebrews 1:1-2

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Colossians 1:16

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

A basic truth (beginning here) **of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ alone brings to men the full revelation of God and that He alone enables man to enter God's presence.**

We are told this strong beginning to Hebrews is consistent with the customs of the best of Greek orators of that day. **"The writer of Hebrews must have been trained**

in Greek oratory,” scholars have concluded. Do not abandon your talents or abilities. We are to use the talent and abilities we **have** or **develop** in life to serve God.

The Jews divided all time into two ages. The present age is **bad** and the age which is to come is the **golden age of God**. In between those two was the “**Day of the Lord**.” This “**Day of the Lord**” was to be like the birth pangs of the new **golden age of God**. So, Hebrews begins by announcing the “**Day of the Lord**” **has dawned in Christ**. It is **a new beginning with Christ**. **Eternity has invaded time** and things can never be the same again.

Jesus is contrasted with the prophets who spoke to our fathers **in times past** (vs. 1). God used the prophets as His spokesmen when speaking to His people. But **God would not and will not reveal more than men can understand**. His revelation comes through the hearts and minds of men. Yet, revelation through prophets has always been **fragmentary** and presented in a way that men **could** understand in spite of their limitations. Or, simply what God wanted men (us) to understand at the time.

Prophetic words by the prophets were often characterized by one idea. **Amos’s** words were a cry for **social justice** in Israel. **Isaiah’s** words grasped the **holiness of God**. **Hosea’s** words expressed the **forgiving love of God**. People saw a fragment of the truth in prophetic words by each prophet, but never the whole truth.

But, it is different with Jesus. **JESUS IS THE WHOLE TRUTH OF GOD. In Christ, God displayed not just some or part of Himself, but all of Himself**. The prophets used speech and dramatic action. These were methods to transmit their part of the truth of God. **JESUS IS ONE WITH GOD**. Therefore, **JESUS REVEALED GOD BY BEING HIMSELF**. It is not so much what Jesus said or did that showed us what God is like as wonderful as those times were; it is more **WHO AND WHAT JESUS IS**.

*Who **being the brightness** (Gr. **apaugasma** – the light which shines forth) **of his glory** (Jesus is God’s glory!), and the **express image** (Gr **character** - character – an engraving, and exact copy) **of his person**, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself **purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Hebrews 1:3

*Who is the **image** (Gr **eikon** – An exact copy or representation, LUL) of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

Colossians 1:15

When people of the day looked at a **wax impression** on a document they would know exactly what the **original seal** looked like. Jesus is the “**character** –the exact image of the being of God! When people look at Jesus then and now, they know **exactly** what God was like.

Just as there is light which is produced from a **source** or **reflected** light, the **prophets** were the **friend** of God and grasped **part** of the **mind** of God - at times. They (and we) could be the reflection of God's **mind** and **light** in specific times when the Holy Spirit is working through us. But Jesus is the **Son of God**. **Jesus was and is that ACTUAL MIND** (of God). **Jesus** was (and is) the **SOURCE OF LIGHT**. The prophets and the rest of us who have given our lives to Christ can be the “reflection” of God's light, but “**Jesus is that light,**” the shining of God's glory.

By the **word** of Jesus' power all things are upheld and sustained (**Hebrews 1: 3**), “*and upholding all things by the word of his power.*” And, by His atonement for our sins, **our sins are purged**. Not by water baptism, the Lord's supper, or any other form of religion as meaningful and important as they are, but by His act of atonement for our sins, (Hebrews 1: 3), “*when he had **by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.***”

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰ Who verily was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹ Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

1 Peter 1:18-21

*Who is gone into **heaven**, and is on the **right hand of God**; **angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.***

1 Peter 3:22

*Being **justified** freely by his grace through the **redemption that is in Christ Jesus**: ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare **his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance** (Gr *anechō* – To put up with, endure, bear with, forbear, suffer) **of God**;*

Romans 3:24-25

Christ is over the prophets and the angels.

The Jews of the day had evolved to overthink the superiority of the angels **in error** because they thought there was too much distance between man and God. It happens **in error** among certain Christians today, as well. The fact that these verses were placed here proves it. This distance is called the “**transcendence of God**” (absolute **distinction** from all creation.)

*Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ⁵ For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, **I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?** ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, **And let all the angels of God worship him.** ⁷ And of the angels he saith, *Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.**

Hebrews 1:4-7

The Jews began **in error** to think of angels as intermediaries between God and man. Even that angels carried the prayers of man into the presence of God. They believed **in error** that angels received the Law from God and passed it on to Moses because direct communication between God and man was unthinkable.

The doctrine of angel's existence may contain a dangerous and grave error in the minds of men (**in error**). It can also introduce a series of beings other than Jesus

through which man makes his approach to God. Christ has broken every barrier down and opened a direct way for us to commune with God. **Jesus alone is our intermediary!**

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. ⁵² Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: ⁵³ Who have received the law by the disposition (Gr diatage – arrangement, assignment, an order) of angels, and have not kept it.

Acts 7:51-53

*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was **added because of transgressions**, till the seed should come to whom **the promise was made**; and it was ordained by angels **in the hand of a mediator** (Moses was mediator of the Law to one group only. **Jesus is** mediator of the New Covenant for all of mankind).
²⁰ **Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.***

Galatians 3:19-20

*But unto the Son he saith, **Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever**: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness **above thy fellows**. ¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast **laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands**:
¹¹ They shall perish; but **thou remainest**; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but **thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail**. ¹³ But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to **minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation**?*

Hebrews 1:8-14

Conclusion

Jesus was made lower than the angels because the angels never die. Jesus was sent to suffer and die. It was necessary for Christ to die so that He could die

for every man. **This was God's plan of divine justice.** God knew He must offer Jesus as a sacrifice in order to bring many souls into His saving grace. **But you cannot die without dying.** Without His **suffering** and **dying** Jesus could not have made atonement for sin.

*But we see Jesus, who was made **a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death**, crowned with glory and honour; that **he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*** ¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the **captain** (Gr **archēgos** – chief leader, author, bring or bring forth) of their salvation **perfect** (Gr **teleioō** – complete, accomplish, consummate, finish the labor, make perfect) **through sufferings.*** ¹¹ *For **both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one**: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,* ¹² *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.* ¹³ *And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

Hebrews 2:9-13

*Not as though I had already **attained** (Gr **lambanō** – received, obtained), either were already perfect: but I **follow** (**diōkō** – pursue, as a minister or servant) after, if that I may **apprehend** (**katalambano** – take, possession, to seize upon) that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 3:12

Paul was saying that he had not yet finished his course and was not yet glorified, not that he was lacking spiritual discipline. He was pressing toward the prize others had already obtained.

These truths are just the beginning of the wealth of theology that is in just the beginning of Hebrews. The book that is canonized because of its heavenly content through the Holy Spirit – not because of its earthly author.