

Who is this Man – part 3

Hebrews 1:1–3 ¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

There is a boat load of things being said in the passage about ...

- Who Jesus is and all that God is for us in him.

Let's unpack it bit by bit ...

¹ In the past God spoke ...

What do we learn from that?

- God speaks, he is not silent, he wants to talk to you.
- He is not distant, he is not aloof and uncommunicative.
- Up there in the sky minding his own business.

He desires for you to know him, love him and be loved by him ...

- To listen to him, to enjoy him and to understand him ...
- And to live in joyful obedience to him.

Therefore, in order to initiate the relationship, God speaks.

HOW?

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors [call it his phase 1 of speaking] through the prophets at many times and in various ways ...

DRAWING

So you had Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, Jonah, Zecharia ...

- And if you didn't get the one you maybe got the other.

You might have some difficulty grasping his word in the book of Leviticus.

- But hear him more clearly in Proverbs.

If you don't see the point clearly in Zechariah ...

- You may still be deeply moved by the message of Jonah.

If you don't yet grasp the strange visions in Ezekiel ...

- You may be sustained by the sufferings of Job.

The point is this ...

- God means to provide a lot of possibilities in the OT ...
- Where you can hear him and pursue a relationship with him.

So, ¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² **BUT in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ...**

So what God did in the past was spectacular ...

- But, what he has done in the last day is even greater.
- For, in the last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

He has spoken to us by coming to us in the person of his Son ...

- And speaking to us, not only through what he said.
- But by who he was ...
- And by what he accomplished through his death and resurrection.

Every time you get to a place where you find your time in the word boring ...

- You have to stop and ask yourself ...
- Is this Word from God, spoken in the Son of God ...
- So short and simple that you have seen all that there is to be seen ...
- And that you have heard all that there is to be heard.

Or does it have an infinite depth of wonder?

Let's go back to v.2

² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

Let's talk about those two phrases ...

- Whom he appointed heir of all things.
- And through whom he also made the universe.

Whom he appointed heir of all things.

God appointed Jesus as the heir of all things.

- What does that mean?

In the end, as final owner, ruler and reigner of all things

- Jesus will have at his disposal and at his command all that is.

All land, all water, all fire, all wind, all energy, all-natural resources ...

- All nations, all military might, all buildings, all bacteria and viruses ...
- All angels, all demons, all spiritual and material beings – except God the Father)?
- Will be under his authority and command.

What is the relevance of that to you and me?

- It means that he can make good on all his promises.

If he says ...

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth" – Matthew 5:5

- Then he can make good on that promise ...
- Because he will own the earth and have it under his control.
- And can give it to whomever he pleases.

If he says, **"Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ ..." Romans 8:39**

Then he can make good on that promise ...

- Because he will own all creation and have it under his control.

If he says, **"There shall no longer be death or mourning or crying or pain ... Revelation 21:1**

- He can make good on that promise because he will own life and death
- And he will rule unhindered over all that causes pain and crying.

For God has appointed him heir of all things.

Back to verse 2² ... in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, AND through whom also he made the universe.

Through whom he made the universe

...

Universe – aiōn – [a-jon] “the ages”

- Aka, time and space in which the universe exists.

God, through Jesus, created not only earth as we know it.

- With all its splendor and beauty.
- All of its oceans and mountains and rivers and rainforest and waterfalls.
- Animals and insects and spiders and ...

He also created all matter, all atoms, all protons, neutrons and electrons.

- All molecules and comets and asteroids and moons and planets
- And magnetic fields and solar systems and stars ...
- And black holes and galaxies

He then takes things to the next level

- And explains the Son’s “relationship” to God and to the universe ...
- In three statements.

Statement 1 – ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory ...

- Glory = Doxa – splendor/ beauty, majesty ...
- Radiance (apaugasma) describes a brightness that bursts out of brilliant light.
- Jesus is bursting forth out of the splendor, beauty and greatness of God.

So, if you want to know the glory ...

- And the moral beauty of the glory of the father.
- Read the gospel and behold the person of Jesus ...
- Because he’s the radiance, the streaming out of the glory of God.

Statement 2– ... and the exact representation of his being ...

- An “exact imprint, impression or engraving” of God’s nature.

John 14:9 "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."

Statement 3 – ... sustaining all things by his powerful word.

- Some other translations says, "By the word of his power."

The word "sustains" – pherō – mean to bear, uphold or carry.

- Jesus is the one who sustains the universe.
- He is infinitely powerful.

For not only has he spoken the solar system, the Milky Way ...

- And all the other galaxies and molecules into being.

He is also holding our flesh and hair and skin and lungs and tissue ...

- And finger nails in being right now.
- If he were to stop thinking you into being, you would cease to be.

We do not only depend on Jesus for the purification of sins ...

- But we depend on him for our very existence.

He then continues saying ... After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Let's start with the "HE."

After HE had provided purification for sins, HE sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Never forget that this "he" who provided purification for sins is a person.

- A person who was alive back then and ...
- A person who's alive today in the heavenly realm.

He is a person who loves, who thinks, who feels and who wills.

- And how has a physical body.

His body after his resurrection is different from ours with special qualities ...

- Yet physical and recognizable by his followers.

They could touch it.

- He was able to eat fish with this new body.
- In order to prove that he was not a ghost.

He was alive back then and he is still alive today.

- He's at the Father's right hand.
- He is personal.
- He promised never to leave us or forsake us.
- He promised to be with us.
- He is here in this room right now by his spirit.
- He is as close to you as the person next to you.

So, that is the 'He.'

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

That seating at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven ...

- Is an enthronement.

In other words by taking that seat he became

- The active ruling heir of all things.
- By taking that seat he became the king of the universe.
- Who is at the right hand of God the Father ...
- And he reigns over all government.
- He reigns over the devil.
- He reigns over weather.
- He reigns over heart attacks and cancer and Parkinson's disease.
- He reigns over depression and anxiety.
- He reigns this morning.

And he took that seat "After he had provided purification for sins ..."

So, he not only has the right to be seated at the right hand of God ...

- Because he is the heir and ruler and reigner of all things ...
- Because he made all things and because he holds all things together ...
- By the power of his word.

But he also has the right to be seated at the right hand of God.

- Because he through his death he accomplished God's will and work ...
- By purchasing and rescuing a lost people from ...
- The power of sin and death and destruction.
- SO THAT they could live out their purpose ...
- Of bearing God's image into the world.

So, he provides purification of sins

- And holds our soul and our body and our being together
- By the power of his word.

So, in this passage Jesus is doubly worthy ...

- Of our dependence and trust and love and worship.

And When we see him sitting at the right hand of the Majesty

- It is not only to honor the work of his purification in saving us ...
- But also to honor the word of his power in preserving us.
- We owe our purification to him and we owe our being to him.

And in the midst of this all we have to remember ...

- That he is a person who is alive today.
- He is hearing everything that is being said in this room.
- He can be known and trusted and loved and worshiped.