

HEBREWS



RADIANCE &  
REVELATION

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

# Paul's Purpose and Message

*to persuade the Hebrews to persevere to the end (just as they had begun) and not to fall back into Judaism.*

## Hebrews 13:22

<sup>22</sup> Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

# Jewish Persecution of the Church

## Acts 6:7

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

# Jewish Persecution of the Church

## Acts 6:8–9

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)...who began to argue with Stephen.

# Jewish Persecution of the Church

## Acts 8:1

<sup>1</sup> ...On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.



# Jesus is *Better*

1. He is better than prophets (1:1-3), and the angels (1:4 – 2:18),
2. He is better than Moses (3:1-19), Joshua (4:1-13), and Aaron (5:14 – 7:18)
3. He offers a better rest (3-4), a better priesthood (4-5; 7-8), a better sacrifice (7-8), and a better covenant (8-9).

# God's Revelation

## Hebrews 1:1

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

- *Of course God exists.*
- *Of course God has revealed Himself (spoken) to mankind.*

# God's Revelation: **Through Prophets**

## Deuteronomy 18:18-19

<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

# God's Revelation

## Hebrews 1:1

<sup>1</sup> In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets **at many times** and **in various ways**,

# God's Revelation: **Through His Son**

## Hebrews 1:2

<sup>2</sup> 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.

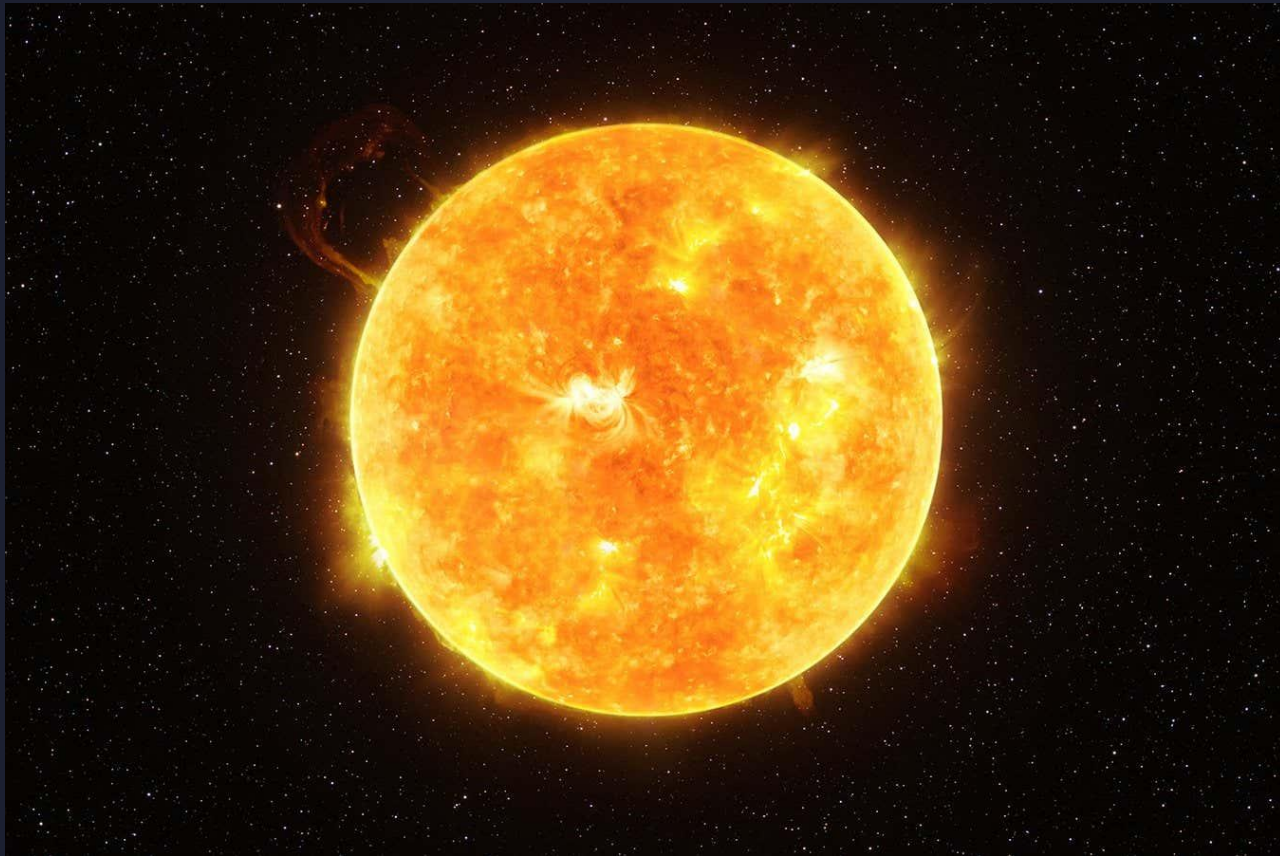
- *Jesus is more than a prophet*

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)

# God's Revelation: **Through His Son**

- *Jesus is better than the prophets.*
  1. The Heir of all things (v. 2)
  2. The one through whom God made the universe (v. 2)
  3. The Radiance of God's glory (v. 3)
  4. The exact representation of His being (v 3)
  5. Sustains all things by His powerful word (v. 3)
  6. Provided purification for sins (v. 3)
  7. Sat down at the right hand of God (v. 3)

# God's Radiance



# God's Revelation: **Through His Son**

- *Jesus is better than the prophets.*
- *Jesus is better than the angels.*
  1. Christ has a more excellent name (vv. 4-5)
  2. Angels worship Christ (v. 6)
  3. Christ is king (vv. 7-9)
  4. Christ is the unchanging creator (vv. 10-12)
  5. Christ is Lord (vv. 13-14)



# The Warning: **Don't Drift**

## Hebrews 2:1-3

<sup>2</sup> We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup> For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

# Hearing Hebrews in the Church Today

## 1. Does your testimony of Jesus cost you?

- How does it threaten the moral relativism—the “to-each-his-own” attitude—that is so prevalent in the United States today?
- How well does it “fit” into the network of secular social values and political priorities of the American Empire?

# Hearing Hebrews in the Church Today

## 2. What threatens to cause you to drift away/ to ignore salvation? (2:1-2)

- What old influences and impulses tempt you to give up on Jesus and turn back?
- Who are the people in your life that you can count on to call you out and call you back?

# Hearing Hebrews in the Church Today

## 3. Jesus is God's *better* and *final* word— is He yours?

- Are there areas in my life where Jesus does not have the final word?
  - Where patterns of sin persist?
  - Where forgiveness is withheld?
  - Where bitterness has taken root?
  - Where truth is exchanged for a lie?

## Hebrews 1:3

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory  
and the exact representation of his being,”

*Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:*

*Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heav’n can boast!*