

Hebrews 1:1-4

Literal Translation

¹In many parts and many ways long ago, **God**, **having spoken** to the fathers in the prophets, ²upon the last of these days **spoke** to us in Son, whom He **appointed** heir of all things, through whom He **made** the ages, ³**who** (Son), **being** the radiance of His (God's) glory and the exact representation of His (God's) nature and **upholding** all things by the word of His (God's) power, **having made** purification of sins, **sat down** at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven, ⁴as much **having become** better than the angels as a more excellent name than they He **has acquired**.

The Son's Superiority of God's Revelation

Chart 2.1

Hebrews 1:1	Hebrews 1:2a
GOD	
"having spoken" (dependent clause) (syntactically inferior)	"spoke" (independent clause) (syntactically superior)
"in many parts and in many ways" (fragmentary; progressive)	"in Son" (singularity; Complete)
"long ago" (Hebrew Scriptures)	"upon the last of these days" (Greek Scriptures)
"to the fathers in the prophets" (only to the Jews)	"to us" (both to the Jews and Gentiles)

Abrahamic Covenant 

Old Covenant (obsolete)	New Covenant (perpetual)
-------------------------	--------------------------

Davidic Covenant 

The Logos Became Flesh (John 1:14)

Revelation of the Logos	Jesus' Birth and Earthly Ministry	Jesus' Resurrection and Exaltation
← In the beginning WAS the Logos, and the Logos WAS with God, and the Logos WAS God. This one WAS in the beginning with God (John 1:1-2)	→ • Logos no longer exists • Jesus is NOT the Logos • Jesus is flesh and blood	→ • Jesus is flesh and bone • Jesus' indestructible life • Jesus as King-High Priest
	• Jesus as the Son of Man → • Jesus as the Son of God →	
		• Jesus as King → • Jesus as High Priest →

- The phrase “the God-Man” never occurs in the Scriptures
- The phrase “the eternal Son” never occurs in the Scriptures
- Jesus never pre-existed before the Logos became flesh
- The Logos divested itself of all Divinity before Jesus' conception

“¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world” (1 John 4:1-3).

Hebrews: Part 4

Review and Practical Application of Hebrews 1:1-4

Summary

The complex single sentence of Hebrews 1:1-4 functions as a preamble to the enlarged introduction that the author evidentially illustrates in 1:5—2:18, and then further enlarges his themes in the rest of his brief word of exhortation, all of which we call the letter to the Hebrews.

The practical out working of these great truths are foundational for those who want to be companions with this Son, who will be visible as the King and High Priest in His kingdom in the ages to come.

Review and Application

Son's Superiority in God Revelation (Hebrews 1:1-2)

Review

1. The preamble contrasts God's previous communication as recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures with His ultimate revelation "in Son."
 - a. God's revelation in the Hebrew Scriptures was "in many parts and in many ways," fragmentary and incomplete.
 - God spoke to the fathers in the prophets.
 - Angels were the mediators of God's message through other mediators (Acts 7:30-31, 38, 51-53; Galatians 3:17-19; Hebrews 2:1-3a).
 - b. God's revelation in the Greek Scriptures is singular and complete "in Son."
 - The angels serve the Son, and they are no longer the primary mediators of God's message.
 - Jesus is the messenger and the message (John 1:18; 14:9; The Letter to the Seven Churches dictated by the Son to the Apostle

John, Revelation 1:1-2, 17-21; 2:1; the voice the Apostle Paul heard of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, Acts 9:1-6; the Mysteries of the Kingdom, Matthew 13; The signs of the coming of Jesus and the end of the age, Matthew 24, the mystery of Jew and Gentiles in one body, etc.).

2. God's revelation as recorded in the Scriptures is His self-expression of Himself and His plans and purposes to His people, with Jesus being God's ultimate self-expression.
 - a. Jesus is God's ultimate self-expression, the Logos that became flesh (John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:1-11), known now as the Son of Man (John 6:62).
 - After the Logos became flesh, Jesus' preferred way of identifying Himself was "the Son of Man." Jesus knew that the Logos became flesh and that He is the Son of Man. Thus, it is impossible for Jesus to be the "the God-Man," or the "eternal son." (See the reference to Judas as the "son of perdition;" John 17:12; in the Gospels Jesus referred to himself 84 times as the Son of Man; He only referred to Himself as the Son of God 4 times; Matthew 16:13; Mark 8:31; Luke 6:5; John 5:25-27).
 - No one else referred to Jesus as "the Son of Man" in the Gospels. Only Jesus used this term to describe Himself.
 - b. God, who is spirit (John 4:24), whom no one has ever seen or heard (Exodus 33:20; John 5:37, etc.), expressed Himself through the Logos who made God known (in all of creation and special revelation).
 - Until Apostle John introduced the term "Logos" in John 1:1, no one knew about the Logos.
 - Chart: The Logos Became Flesh (John 1:1-14)
 - c. What the Scriptures DO NOT testify to are pre-existing manifestations (i.e., Christophanies) of the Son.
 - Genesis 18:1-33 (Abraham & the 3 "men")
 - Joshua 5:13-15 (Captain of the LORD's host)
 - Daniel 3:19-26 (Daniel's three friends)

- John 8:58 (“Before Abraham was, I AM He”)
- d. He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature (Hebrews 1:3a; John 14:9).
- e. The fragmentary and incomplete revelation in the Hebrew Scriptures finds its fullness and fulfillment “in Son” who spoke the words of God and did the works of God (John 5:31-47).
 - A great bible study exercise is to read through the Gospel of John and note all the places where Jesus states that He speaks the words of God and does the works of God Exodus 19:6).