

I. Review

- A. We are doing a verse-by-verse study of the book of Hebrews as a church family. We encourage you all to be reading a chapter a day in the book of Hebrews for the duration of this study. As you do, invite the Holy Spirit to help you understand, know, and love Jesus more through it.

- B. Introduction
 - 1. Recipient - Messianic Hellinst Jews
 - 2. Purpose - Many were denying Jesus and going back to Judaism because of increasing persecution.
 - 3. Message - The supremacy and worth of Jesus in the new covenant revelation and relationship versus the old covenant revelation and relationship.

- C. 7 Fold Supremacy of Jesus - This first portion of the book of Hebrews is widely held as one of the premier passages that proclaims the majesty, supremacy, and beauty of Jesus in the entire Bible.
 - 1. Heir of all things
 - 2. Creator of the worlds
 - 3. Brightness of God's glory
 - 4. Express image of His person
 - 5. Upholding all things by the word of His power
 - 6. Purged our sins
 - 7. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

II. Verse by Verse (Heb. 1:3b)

“and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”

- A. **The express image of His person** - Jesus is not an image of God like a portrait or a plastic model is an image of something. He is the exact same in essence and substance as God. Jesus is one with the Father and Spirit. Everything He says and does perfectly and completely reveals the person of God to us because He is God. There is no deviation from the God of the rest of scripture and the person of Jesus Christ. The beauty of the Father’s love, wisdom, purity, and humility is shown through Jesus’ humanity. (Jn. 14:9-11; 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Col. 1:15, 2:9)

1. The line of demarcation of Christianity is that we ascribe love and worship that is only to God, to a man who was born of a woman, named Jesus. All other world religions consider Him a man only; however, the essential doctrine of Christianity is that Jesus was and is fully God. (Mt. 28:9; Lk. 24:51-53; Jn. 20:28)

B. Upholding all things by the word of His power - The Greek word translated “uphold” means to maintain, sustain, and support continuously. The man who walked the earth 2000 years ago was upholding the integrity of the ground He was walking upon. He was actively holding together the molecules that made up the cross He was being nailed to and actively gave life to the arms that nailed Him to it. (Gen. 1; Col. 1:17)

1. All of us are here and breathing right now in this moment because He wants us to be and is actively giving us power to exist. True thankfulness and worship arises when this reality is grasped, and all pride and selfishness falls down under its weight. We are nothing and have nothing apart from Him now and forever. (Ps. 75:1-7; Jn. 19:11; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 4:11)

C. He by Himself purged our sins - The original Greek word translated “purged” speaks of both removal and cleansing. Not only did He remove the penalty of sin (justification) from us but he also removes the reality of sin (sanctification) from humanity. Justification is instant and sanctification is progressional but He Himself has done, and is doing, the work of purging our sin. For all humanity and for all time there is no sin that He has not justified through His death, and there is no sin that He will not totally sanctify through His resurrection life. (Jn. 1:29; Gal. 1:3-5; Heb. 7:27)

1. As a man - The Father had to find a man untainted by sin to solve the crisis created by sin. God gave humanity dominion over the earth and through their dominion sin and death was given permission to rule. Jesus had to become human forever and live in perfect righteousness to qualify as the offering for sin and to take dominion from sin and death back for humanity. Jesus, the innocent One, became guilty so that guilty ones could become innocent. Nothing is difficult for the God who governs all things merely by His word. Accomplishing our salvation was complex and difficult. The way in which a righteous God restores people to Himself without violating His justice or their free will is complicated. (Heb. 2:10-16)

D. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high - In the original manuscripts, the grammar is clear that this statement is the definite article of which the previous statements indicate as to why it is appropriate. To understand it correctly we would read as follows:

“He is the heir of all things; therefore, He sat down at the right hand. He is the creator of the worlds; therefore, He sat down at the right hand. He is the radiance of the Glory of God; therefore, He sat down at the right hand.....etc.”

1. In biblical theology, to be seated at the right hand of God was to be equal with Him in power and equally receive the worship and laud of the creation. This claim is the very statement which sealed Jesus’s death in the sight of the Sanhedrin and sentenced Him to death. (Mt. 26:63-68; Heb. 8:1)
2. Jesus’ enthronement to the highest position of honor is proof that the Father received His offering for our sin. The right hand of the Majesty is the ultimate place of power. Both Ezekiel and Daniel saw a Man on a throne in heaven. There is a Man who is forever seated at the very pinnacle of power and glory forever, who beckons us to fellowship and rule with Him forever. (Eze. 1:26; Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 3:21)