



Are You Ready To Run? “The Race Marked Out”

Hebrews 1:1-14
The Great and Powerful
September 14, 2014

MEMORY VERSE:

“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.” (Hebrews 1:3, NIV84)

OVERVIEW

God has spoken to us: in the past and now through His Son. The course has been defined and the instructions for running the race of faith have been disclosed. Once again, God provides us with insight we could never attain on our own. We are told to fix our attention on the person of Jesus. The reason becomes obvious- Jesus is God’s son. Jesus’ deity is affirmed, his incarnation is referenced, His redemptive work is stated, and His glory is declared.

NEXT WEEK:

- Read chapter two and note how the focus on Jesus changes from chapter 1.
- Why do you think the emphasis in chapter 2 can be troubling to those who have decided to follow Jesus?

SERMON NOTES: Hebrews 1:1-14 (NIV84)

GOD SPOKE

¹ *In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,*

- God is **Proactive, never disengaged**
- God has chosen to **communicate** with us

GOD SHARES SOMETHING NEW . . .

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

- **Taking Us Deeper Into God's Thoughts And Ways** (cf. Colossians 1:16-17; Proverbs 8:22-36)
 - Jesus, our inheritance, **provides continuity** in the redemptive story

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.*

- **Leading Us Further Down The Road To Spiritual Maturity**
 - From **Glory**, to **the Cross**, to **the Throne** of God

⁴ *So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

- **Helping Us To Gain A Greater Appreciation Of Our Salvation**
 - Jesus "**a name above all names**".

DID YOU HEAR THE MESSAGE?

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “**You are my Son**; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “**Let all God’s angels worship him.**” ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” ⁸ But about the Son he says, “**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.**” ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” ¹⁰ He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.” ¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

- Jesus Stands Alone In His **Baptism And Resurrection** (cf. Luke 3:22; Acts 13:33)
- Jesus Is **Worshipped** (cf. Hebrews 1:6)
- Jesus **Reigns** As King Of Kings For All Eternity (cf. Hebrews 1:8)

Jesus, great and powerful, is **God’s guarantee** that He will keep His promises.

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Hebrews 1:1-14

OPENING

- I'm certain everyone can recall a time in life when a promise wasn't kept. How did it affect you? Are you now a bit less trusting? What must be in place for you to believe a promise will be met?

GOING DEEPER

- The writer of Hebrews (whose identity remains cloaked in mystery) felt compelled to validate the fact that God reveals his thoughts and will to mankind. What are some of the unique ways God has revealed himself in scripture? How has God shown himself to you?
- Pastor Bruce mentioned in his sermon that God shared something new in these last days. The disclosure of the person and work of Jesus provides a platform that takes us deeper into God's ways, further down the road to spiritual maturity and enables us to gain a greater appreciation of our salvation. As you look over Hebrews 1:2-4, what are some things that you learn about Jesus?
- In addition, read Colossians 1:16-17 and take special note that Jesus' creative power encompasses "all things . . . visible and invisible". What does this imply about Jesus' role in the world? How might this truth help you to develop a greater confidence in Him?

CHALLENGE

- Jesus is presented as great and powerful. He is declared to be more than able to accomplish what He has started. The writer of Hebrews suggests that a closer look at the person and work of Jesus will ensure that we are ready to run the race marked out.

Embrace the following challenge:

1. Commit the next 10 weeks to participate in this study
 2. Commit to a Connect Group to share your thoughts and questions
 3. Commit to prayer, asking God to reveal himself in a fresh way
- Remember, there are further resources at www.bethanychurch.com