

Title" Jesus Christ: The Same Yesterday, Today, and forever

Text: Hebrews 1: 10-14

We are in the book of Hebrew chapter 1 and beginning at Vs 10. Our Subject: Jesus Christ the same Yesterday, Today, and forever. This is a verse which is found in chapter 13. But, it is the main theme of these few verses in Hebrews 1. We are still talking about the person and work of Jesus Christ. And we are looking at his authority over everything. And the first way in which we are examining the authority of Christ over everything is over angels. Jesus is greater than angels. And we have looked at that in several ways. We are examining the motives of the heavenly father who wanted Jesus to be greater than the angels. And we have seen this so far, First, in his position. The position of Christ in Vs 2-5. Secondly, in Vs 6 his pre-eminence.... Third, in his purposes in Vs 7-9....And now we are going to examine his power in Vs 10-12

(Read 10-14)

Let us pray

Father we thank you again for your Word. How we rejoice in it. We remember that the Psalmist said that you exalt your Word even above your name. We pray that we shall look at it in that way today. Realizing that we are looking at the truth of God. Reveal to us understanding and application, Lord, I pray that today we will see Jesus again, exalted..lord of lords and King of kings. The only one worthy of praise here in our midst....And as we see Jesus help us to understand Christian commitment and service...Lord, I pray that this message would help all of us to be your servants. No matter what it cost us. No matter what is involved.....

Father there are some here today who have never bowed the knee to Jesus, who have never trusted him as their Lord. And God I would pray that in this service, that your Holy Spirit would draw them to Jesus who alone can save them and forgive them....Help us to see that there is no other name under heaven given by men whereby we might be saved.....And we thank you in Jesus wonderful name we pray.....Amen

(4D)As we examine the marvelous power of Christ and see how he is exalted above all the angels who do not have that power, there is a strange paradox here because in the O.T. it says that the angels actually had a part in creation...They did not create. God used them as ministers. And they had functions to perform. The Bible teaches that the sons of God even rejoiced and sang together as they saw the wonderful world and universe that God had designed and made. And God has used Angels in wonderful ways. And they certainly have great powers. But they do not have the power of Jesus Christ. And that is the purpose of this chapter to tell us how great Jesus Christ is.

Now, we come to the 6th quotation in chapter 1 from the O.T. The 6th time that we have quotation. And the quote is from Psalms chapter 102:25-27. And in this quote we have unfolded three important principles about Jesus Christ and his power being greater than the angels.

(1E)And the first principle deals with the matter of creation.

In creation we see the power of Christ. Now, some people when they read Hebrews 1 do not see that. What I mean is that they don't see it as referring to Jesus. Let's look at it carefully. Look at Vs 10 closely. It says, "thou, Lord, in the beginning".....

Now, is that talking about the heavenly father or is it talking about Jesus? It is the same problem we have been dealing with in our messages from this chapter.

Back up to Vs 8, it says "But of the Son, He says.".....Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom"....The Father, you see, is speaking to the son".....

"Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness"...Who has?.... The son...the Messiah...

"Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the Oil of Gladness" The "thee" is the Messiah.....

And so Vs 10 is not speaking of the heavenly father. It is "and thou, Lord,"....It is speaking of Jesus, again. The messiah...So, this is talking about the creative power of Christ.....How powerful he is and he part in the creative processes....

Now, there are two things about his creation that I want you to notice from vs 10.

One, is his prior claim: "thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the hearth.".....

Jesus has a prior claim to your life and to mine which is illustrated by the fact that he created the world. He laid the foundation.

The word "laid" in its verbal form means "in a moment of time"...This is not striched over time. But in a moment of time he laid the foundation of the world. In other words, at the moment the foundation of the earth was begun, he was there.....

A lot of people falsely believe that Jesus had his beginning as a baby in Bethlehem. That is not true. He has always existed. He said "before Abrham was, I am."....

In John 1:3 it says that all things were made by him and without him ~~was~~ not anything was made that was made....Jesus...all things made by him... And here it simpley states it. He laid the foundation of the earth

Now, whoever created the world has the prior claim. That is a very important fact to understand. Who has the prior claim to your life? some people say "My parents do." I came into the world by my parents....No.... Why had to come from some where. And soon, you see, you go all the way back to the beginning of man and human history. And you go back to the foundation of the earth; and regardless of your view, what ever power designed the univrsy has a prior claim to your life. He knows why you are here. He knows what he wants to do with your life. And he knows where you are going. The whole text is saying that Jesus is greater than the angles because he laid the foundation of the earth. He was there in the beginning and therefore he has a prior claim in your life and to mine.

The second thing about his power under this matter of creation is his personal construction of all things.

Jesus was not just simplely there....But he acturally did it....He was active. According to Vs 10 "the heavens are the works of thy hands"....

Now, what does it mean "the heavens are the works of they hands."?
When you have the plural "heavens" it is speaking of all "outer space"...
"Everything that man's microscropes ~~that~~ see and discover. Everything that
has been designed. All of the heavens combinded. All of the universes...
All of the glaxies of stars. Adll are simplyly the work of the hands of
Jeuss christ.

Do you know how powerful Jesus really is? He made everything. The
Bible says in Psalms 19:1 that "the heavens are his handiwork." In Psalms
8:3 it says "that the heavaens are the work of his fingers."

The Bible says that all this beauty we see, all the magesty, all this
university is a result of the work of his fingers. Jesus is all powerful.

And I ask you, on the bases of his creative power, what right do we have
to question him? Or, to ask him "why is it that you want me to do something
for you?"....The answer is based upon his prior claim. He created you. He
knows what you are here for, And he knows what he wants in your life....
We have no right to question the one who designed us and made us....

And the Bible teaches in ^{Hebrews 1:10} Ephesians 2:10 ~~that they are~~ ^{are} the heavens the
work of Christ's ^{fingers},...And the word "work" or ~~workmanship~~ is the
greek word "poem". We get our word "poem" from that Greek word. God wrote
a little love message to all of us in the universey.

What is that love message of God?.....Namely: I DID IT....I DID IT...
And I can do it for you...That is the love message that God wrote to us in
the univsere. The heavens declare one message. And that is that God is
powerful. Romans 1:20 says that. "The invisible attributes, his eternal
power and divine nature, have been clearly seen and understood by the things
that are made, so that we are without excuse."

And the word "made" is the word "poem"...God wrote a love message to all
of us saying that "I have power to do in your life what you are asking me
to do." He is all powerful...

And in Ephesian 2:10 again, it says "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...."

Now, don't you want your life to produce good works?..I mean, really be productive and effective for God/?

The Bible says we are his "workmanship". And it is the same word "poem". The heavens are the poem the work of thy hands. The Bible says we are his poem...

Notice, God wrote one love message in the universe. He wrote another love message in believers. We are the love message to the world. Do you know why that is? The average person takes one look at a christian and says: "Do you mean to tell me that that person, and I know what he is really like, do you mean to tell me that God changed him?".....

God writes a little love message to them and says "I can do it for you to". That is what he tells us in the universe. That is what he tells us in the life of a believer. And every believer, uniquely designed by God, we are his workmanship. We have been saved by his power. We have been created as new creatures in Christ Jesus. We sometimes put that in the ~~background~~ background and play up our old sin nature. Like: what am I going to do with all my old problems which I still have. Instead off playing up the fact that we are new creatures....The potential of living a ~~old~~ Godly life unto good works is in the heart of every believer. God designed you to go through a radical change. God can take your old problem, whatever it is, and change it. Because he is the same God who created the world.....And we are talking about Jesus. He has tremendous power in your life and mine...

Now, not only in creation do we see this power, but also in contrast to the world itselfLook at vs 11....What a fantastic contrast to Jesus C. "they" meaning "all the universe" "they shall perish, but thou remainest; They all will become old as a garment".....

Two things, here, by way of contrast in looking at Jesus in compared to the universe that he designed.

One, deals with destruction.....The text says in Vs 11 "they shall perish"....Literally "they shall be destroyed".....

When it says "thou remainest". Literally it is saying "thou art continuing to remain through." Through what? Through the time in which all the heavens are destroyed.

Notice, that...Jesus is still alive. Now, the heavens haven't been destroyed yet. So, therefore, he is still alive. He died. He rose again. He ascended unto heaven. He is still alive.

And even when the heavens are destroyed, when all of this tremendous universe which he created is destroyed, Jesus is still there.....

Notice, prior claim again. He was there before it started. He will be there after it is destroyed.

Now, the Bible uses several words to describe this event. In one passage it says it ~~is~~ is going to pass away....In one passage it goes into great detail....2 Peter 3....Would you turn there, please....2 Peter 3.... And notice the description of what is going to happen to the universe... in the future. 2 Peter chapter 3.....Some speak of this as a change. Others as a destruction. But, one thing is for sure there is going to be some changes soon. Some tremendous changes in this old world. If I were you I would not worry a great deal about the stock market.....Or whether your house is all that it should be. Or, whether it has great value or not...As a matter of fact, I wouldn't even be upset when they tell you that inflation is going out of sight and money is going to be worth nothing in the future. Don't worry about it. God has already said it isn't worth anything.....

I mean, what is the matter with us. Just don't get alarmed. People get all shock up...Our government is falling apart...

Have you notice the number of government that have fallen apart through out the world this past year? What is happening?.....Prophecy....That is what is happening. It is just happening the way God said it would.....

So, just relax. It is really more peaceful now then it has been in a long time. Have you notice that. The more the world goes to pot, literally, the more peace comes into the believers heart. You know, I get a little nervous when everything is going smoothly because I know that isn't predicted in the Bible. So, the lord must be delaying his coming.....

Now, when the whole thing is blown to bits, man, that really brings peace...Hay, his coming is near.....This is exciting.

Now, listen, the Bible says everything that exist is going to past away...Everything..including the gold and the silver...everything is going to be destroyed. So, notice this language in 2 Peter chatpter 3...Vs 8.... "Bud do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you."...He is speaking to believers in the "you" there...."not wishing for any to perish"....that would be unbelievers..."but for all to come to repentance."

The reason God is patient towards believers is because he has voluntarily limited himself in this age to believers takening the Good News to ~~non-beliey~~ non-believers....So, he is not patient in this text towards the non-believers He is long-suffering and very patient towards believers because he has made his instructions quiet clear. Believers are to tell non-believers about the Gospel of Christ. So, the reason he is delaying his coming is our fault. ...

(Read Vs 10-13)

Now, getting back to Hebrews chapter 1....And notice the tremendous point being made...The intire universe according to 2 Peter is going to be destroyed by fire.....All is going to be destroyed by a ~~fix~~/intense heat..

And isn't this assuring in Hebrews 1:11 "Thou remainest'..... When everything is destroyed, Jesus is still there.....Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

And listen, in a small way, when our little world just goes to pieces. I mean when everything around us just fars apart. Jesus is still there. He remains through it all. He said I will never leave you nor forsake you. He said "low, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." There is there. What a comfort in time of need. He reamins through it all.

And there is also a process of deterioration going on. Not only the problem of destruction as to how it would effect the person of Jesus Christ. And it willn't effect him at all. He will be there. But, also, a problem of deterioration. Everything deteriorates. Including us..

And the illustration here is so vivid because he says in Vs 11 "they all shall become old as a garment."

The whole universe will become old just like a garment becomes old. It is deteriorating. The entire universe is. And it has been seence Adam fell. The entire world is under a cruse. And it is deteriorating. But Jesus is not....Isn't that great to remember?.....He is not decaying..He is not getting old.....Even through we change....Jesus doesn't....He is the same.

Let's look at this matter of change. We said there were three ways in which is power was manifested in creation by way of contrast. Now, the third principle...In the matter of change, itself..... Vs 12 says, "And as a mantle thou wilt roll them up; As a garment they will also be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will not come to an end."

You are the same.....Isn't that amazing that Jesus has the power to fold up the entire universe like a piece of cloth? Just fold it up. And there will be change. But God never changes....

You know, God loves you today just as much as he loved Abraham in the O.T./ God never changes....He is the same.....God deals with you in love just like he deals with every other person in love...He never changes..... Everything else changes. The universe changes. We change. All of life changes. Governments change. Businesses changes. People change. But Jeus never changes.....

In other words, if you are looking for stability in life there is only one person to go to. And that is Jesus. He never changes....

Finally, in Vs 13-14, I believe in the motives of the Father there is a fiveth way in which Jesus is greater than the angels. And that is dealing with his place at the Fathers right hand.....

"Right hand" means the place of authority. It also means the execution of the will of the one who is on the throne. It is a position of authority and influence. In his place at the Father's right hand, he is greater than the angels.

And the 7th quote in Hebrews 1 is found in Vs 13. It comes from Psalms 110:1....We read "But to which of the angels has He ever said, 'sit at my right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool"....

What does that mean?.....

First of all, that is a prophecy. And it has a fulfillment in scripture. I would like you to look at a useage of it by Jesus in Matthew 22....Would you turn to Matthew chapter 22 and look at verse 41 to 46.....

(Read Vs 41-44a)

Now notice, Jesus is saying that David called the Messiah Lord....And he is giving us an interpretation of Psalms 110 that both the Father and the Messiah are both called "Lord."

(Read vs 44-46)

Isn't that fantastic? You know why they didn't want to ask any more questions? Because the logical conclusion is that Jesus is Lord. And they didn't want to call him Lord. The very thing that a lot of people, today, don't want to say. Do you know why you don't want to call Jesus Lord?.... Do you know why?....Because "Lordship" demands obedience...A servant is not greater than his Lord. For me to say "He is my Lord" means "I am his disciple. And I am going to do what ever he wants me to do." No matter what is involved. He is Lord. He is Lord of Lords a.. and a servant has no right to question him.....

Is he Lord? ~~He~~ Is he the ruler of your Life?...It is ~~very~~ obvious why people don't want to call him lord...And yet, the Bible teaches that one day all the world will say Lord of Lords, king of kings; and everyone will bow down at his feet. And all the angels will break out in praise. And the redeemed of all the ages saying "worthy is the lamb to receive glory and honor and praise. For thou alone are worthy and all were created for thy pleasure.....Who are we talking about.....Jesus.....

Is he your Lord? Is He your master?

Back to Hebrews chapter 1, again.....By the way, if you want to take this down for future study in I Corinthians 15:22-28 it tells us that one day this prophecy is going to be fulfilled. That everything will become his footstool. All of his enemies will be his footstool. The same thing that is quoted from Psalms 110:1. There is a coming day when Christ will rule in everything and all will be subjected to him and to him alone....King of kings and Lord of lords...

In Vs 14 there is a second area that is important and that is the position of the angels. You see, in contrast to the Son who is seated at the right hand of the father, the angels are called "ministering spirits."

The word "ministering" means to "perform a function"...Like the priest in the O.T. tabernacle... Notice, the angels are designed as ones to perform functions. Yet, it is Christ who sits at the right hand of the throne of God. WHAT IS THE POINT?.....

Guess who it is who is giving the angels things to do?....Jesus..... Who is sending them forth?....Why the one who is exercising the authority of the Father. Namely he who sits at the "right hand" which is the place of authority. Jesus sends forth the angels to do his will...Thus, he is greater...

And then he adds that last point...."sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?"

He is talking about Christians. You know, the angels are serving us. They are ministering unto us. They are helping us....The Bible says that there is a whole host of angels surrounding those who trust him....And I have often said that some of us need more than others..... Jesus is greater than the angels.

And this, really, is what Hebrews is all about. Hebrews was written to Jewish people who believed in the Messiah but were scared to death of the persecution they were now receiving....And ~~Paul~~ Paul wrote to them to tell

them, "Listen, the one to whom you have come to believe is greater than all. He is king of kings and Lord of Lords. And we ought never to fear anything. Knowing that he is the same. When all falls apart, Jesus^{is} the same. He never changes.....

Let us Pray