

**Christ is Superior to the Prophets  
(Part 2)  
Hebrews 1:2b-3**

**Introduction:**

**Henry G. Bosch**, the founder of *Our Daily Bread* and one of its first writers, penned these words: **Socrates** taught for 40 years, **Plato** for 50, **Aristotle** for 40, and **Jesus** for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ's 3-year ministry **infinitely transcends** the **impact** left by the combined **130 years** of teaching from these men who were among the **greatest philosophers** of all antiquity. Jesus **painted** no pictures; yet, some of the finest paintings of **Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci** received their **inspiration** from Him.

Jesus **wrote** no poetry; but **Dante, Milton, and scores** of the world's **greatest poets** were **inspired** by Him. Jesus **composed** no music; still **Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn** reached their **highest perfection** of melody in the hymns, symphonies, and oratorios they composed in His praise. **Every sphere** of human greatness has been **enriched** by this humble **Carpenter of Nazareth.**"

Over the last **2000 years** the question has been repeatedly asked, "**Who** was this **uneducated Carpenter** that has had a **greater effect** on the world than **all** of the rulers, kings, emperors, conquerors, generals, admirals, scholars, scientists and philosophers who have ever lived put together?" **Some say** He was merely a **man** but a **good teacher** or a **prophet**. **Some say** He was a **religious fanatic** and a **political**

**revolutionary.** While **others say** He was nothing but a **liar**, a **lunatic** and a **criminal**.

However, in the **opening three verses** of the **Epistle** to the **Hebrews**, which is a kind of **summary** of the **superiority** of Jesus Christ that is **maintained** throughout the entire letter, we see a **beautiful picture** of who He really **was** and **is** as the **God-Man**, 100% God and 100% man. In **stark contrast** to the Old Testament **prophets**, great as they were, God has now **spoken** to us in His Son, who is the **full** and **final revelation** of God. This morning we are going to see what He was like. Turn in your Bible to **Hebrews 1**.

**In Hebrews 1:2b-3 we see a series of seven truths about the Son of God that not only bring out His greatness, but also show why He is the climax of God's revelation and is superior to everyone and everything.**

The **first truth** about the Son is that He is:

### **I. The Messianic Inheritor**

- A. Look at **v. 2:** in these **last days** [God] has **spoken** to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed **heir** of all things, (Stop there)
1. Since **sons** are naturally **heirs**, the **text** naturally flows from **sonship** to **heirship**. The title "**heir of all things**" is one of **dignity** and shows that Jesus Christ has the **supreme place** in the universe.
  2. Here the **author** echo's messianic **Psalm 2** and is referring to the Lord's "**Anointed**" (v. 2) and "**Son**" (v. 7). Speaking of the **Messiah** in **v. 8** the **Father** says to the **Son**, "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the **nations** as Your **inheritance**, and the very **ends** of the earth as Your possession."

3. As the **only Son** of God, Jesus is the **heir** of **all** that God possesses. Although He has not yet **fully entered** into the possession of His inheritance, His **messianic office** is fully assured.
4. In **Colossians 1:16** Paul not only explains that “**by Him**” and “**through Him**” all things were created,” but also all thing has been created “**for Him.**” And in **Romans 11:36** he states that “**...from Him and through Him and to Him** are all things.”
5. In other words, **everything** that exists exists for Jesus Christ. What truth better **proves** His **equality** with God?
6. As the **Creator**, He is **heir** to the earth, the entire universe and the new creation to come; and as the **Redeemer**, His personal inheritance is His redeemed people (Eph. 1:18).
7. And as His people, we enjoy the **privileges** of being the **sons** and **heirs of God** only because we are “**in Christ**” by **faith**. For **Romans 8:17** says that we too are “**heirs** of God and **fellow heirs** with Christ.”
8. Since **Christ alone** is “**heir of all things,**” and we are “**in Him,**” we too are **heirs** of all. When we one day enter into His **eternal kingdom** we will **jointly possess** all that He possesses.
9. The **second truth** about the Son is that He is:

## II. The Almighty Creator

- A. Look again at **v. 2: through whom** also He **made** the **world**.
  1. Having **introduced** the Son’s superiority as “**heir of all things,**” the **author’s** thought naturally moves to Christ’s supremacy as the **Creator** of everything. Here we see that the

**pre-existent Son of God** was the **agent** through whom God created the world.

2. The term “**world**” here refers to **time, space, energy, and matter**—the **entire universe** and **everything** that makes it function. **John 1:3** declares, “**All things** came into being **through Him**, and **apart** from Him **nothing** came into being that has come into being.”
3. Whether it is the **farthest reaches** of **deep space** or the **smallest microscopic particle, everything** that **exists** was **created** by Him and through Him. Again **Colossians 1:16** states, “For **by Him** all things were **created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been **created through Him** and for Him.
4. Therefore, to speak of Jesus Christ as the **Almighty Creator** describes a function of **Deity** that **no human prophet** has the ability to perform. He is **God** in human flesh!
5. The **third truth** about the Son is that He is:

### III. **The Divine Radiator**

- A. Look at **v. 3**: And He is the **radiance** of His (i.e. the Father’s) **glory**... (Stop there)
  1. The word “**radiance**” occurs only here in the New Testament and means ‘to **send forth** light.’ And the “**glory**” of God is the full manifestation of His attributes.
  2. Here we see that the **shining forth** of the **Shekinah glory** of God **radiated** from Jesus Christ. The same **Shekinah glory** that dwelt in the **Tabernacle** and the **Temple** (Ex. 40:34-38; 1

Kgs. 8:10), which **signified** the very presence of God in the midst of His people.

3. Since **Jesus is God**, He **radiated** His own essential glory, but it was also the **Father's**. As the **divine Radiator**, Christ **shone forth** to the world the very **essence** and **character** of God.
4. Christ is to the Father what the rays of the sun are to the sun. Just as it is **impossible** to **separate** the rays from the sun, so it is also impossible to **separate** Christ's glory from the glory of the Father.
5. This is what John proclaimed in **John 1:1**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with** God, and the Word **was** God." **(Verse 14)** "And the Word **became flesh**, and **dwelt** among us, and we **saw** His **glory**, **glory** as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
6. And Jesus' **essential glory** was clearly displayed on the **Mount of Transfiguration** when according to **Matthew 17:2-5** "...and His face **shone** like the sun, and His garments became as **white** as light. And behold, **Moses** and **Elijah** appeared to them (i.e. Peter, James and John), talking with Him (i.e. Jesus). Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is **good** for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for **You**, and one for **Moses**, and one for **Elijah**." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am **well pleased; listen to Him**."

7. God makes it very clear that His Son, Jesus Christ, is **far superior** to even **two** of the **greatest prophets**. He alone is the One to **listen** to because He is the **God-Man**.
8. The ***fourth truth*** about the Son is that He is:

#### **IV. The Perfect Representor**

- A. Look again at **v. 3:** and the **exact representation** of His (i.e. the Father's) **nature**, (Stop there)
  1. The one Greek word translated "**exact representation**" also occurs only here in the New Testament. The term was used for a **mark** stamped on a thing or the **image** on a die or a seal that was impressed on a coin.
  2. Here we see that Jesus is the **perfect imprint** or **representor** of the **nature** and **essence** of God. He not only **manifested** the Father's **character**, but also was and is **one substance** with Him.
  3. This is why Jesus could say to **Philip** in **John 14:9**, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, **Philip**? He who has **seen Me** has **seen the Father**; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"
  4. Paul said about Christ in **Colossians 1:15**, "He is the **image** of the **invisible** God." The word "**image**" here means a precise copy, an exact reproduction.
  5. Jesus is **fully God** and when we **see Him** we **see** what the **Father** is like—how He **thinks**, how He **acts**, how He **talks**, and how He **relates**. And yet, Jesus is also a **distinct Person**.

6. This is what John meant when he said in **John 1:1**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with** God...” All of this is bound up in with the **mystery** of the **Trinity**.
7. Bottomline, God has said **everything** He has to say and given His **full** and **final revelation** in His Son, Jesus Christ; He has no **P.S.** This is because **Colossians 2:9** says, “For **in Him** all the **fullness** of Deity dwells in bodily form.”
8. The ***fifth truth*** about the Son is that He is:

## V. **The Powerful Carrier**

- A. **Verse 3** goes on to say: and **upholds** all things by the **word** of His **power**.
  1. Jesus Christ not only **created** all things and will someday **inherit** all things, but He also “**upholds all things**” in the meantime. The **idea** expressed in the word “**upholds**” is **dynamic**, not **static**.
  2. Jesus is not like **Atlas** who is pictured as supporting the **dead weight** of the world on his shoulders. The word “**upholds**” is more than just **sustaining** or **maintaining** the universe, it also includes **movement** and refers to **carrying** all things forward on their appointed course toward the fulfillment of God’s plan.
  3. And since the term is in the **present tense**, it indicates **continuous action**. In other words, “**all things**”—the **totality** of the entire universe would come **unglued** and go nowhere if it were not for the **continuous upholding** and **supervision** of Jesus Christ.
  4. This is clearly stated in **Colossians 1:17**, “He is **before** all things, and **in Him** all things **hold together**.”

5. **Imagine** what would happen if for a brief moment Jesus **relinquished** His **active power** over the laws of the universe? **For example**, if he **suspended** the **law of gravity** we would all be hurled off into space and perish.
  6. What if He **slowed down** the **rotation** of the **earth** or allowed the earth to get **closer** or **farther away** from the sun? We all would either **burn up** or **freeze** to death.
  7. And what if He let the **moon** not retain its **exact distance** from the earth? This would cause the **ocean tides** to **flood** the land **twice daily** and drown everyone.
- B. The Son of God **upholds** all things! But notice how He does this—  
“...by the **word** of His **power**.”
1. The term “**word**” here refers to His **spoken word**. This **word**, which is an expression of His will, is powerful and always brings about its intended purpose.
  2. It is by the **power** of His **spoken word** that Jesus Christ not only **created** the universe (Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3), but He also **sustains, maintains** and **carries** it forward toward the consummation of His sovereign purpose. Only **God** can do that!
  3. The **sixth truth** about the Son is that He is:

## **VI. The Priestly Purifier**

- A. Look again at **v. 3**: When He had made **purification** of **sins**, (Stop there)
1. This is the **most brief** but **comprehensive** statement in all of Scripture of Christ’s **atoning work** on the cross at His first coming. Although the Bible tells us that “the **wages** of **sin** is **death**” (Rom. 6:23), it goes on to say that “God **demonstrates**

His own **love** toward us, in that while we were yet **sinners**, Christ **died** for us” (Rom. 5:8).

2. As the **incarnate God** in human flesh, Jesus **came to die** as our **substitute** on the cross. He took upon Himself the **holy wrath** of God against sin that we deserved and **paid in full** the **penalty** for our sins.
3. Titus 2:14 says that Jesus Christ “...**gave Himself** for us to **redeem** us from every lawless deed, and to **purify** for Himself a **people** for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”
4. The word “**purification**” refers to the **removal** of sin by Christ’s **substitutionary sacrifice** of Himself at **Calvary**. The **aoist tense** of the word “**purification**” designates this as a **definite act** performed **once** for all time; and the **middle voice** of the term indicates that the Son made purification for sins **in Himself** as the **sacrifice**.
5. **Hebrews 9:22** tells us, “...and without **shedding of blood** there is **no forgiveness**.” And **1 John 1:7** states, “...the **blood** of Jesus His Son **cleanses** us from **all sin**.”
6. Therefore, by the **one act** of Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross the **defilement of sins** was **removed forever**. Now although the word “**priest**” is not used here, this strongly implies that God’s Son is a **Priest**, which will be explained in detail in **chapters 7-10**.
7. Jesus is **both** the **Sacrifice** and the **Priest**. He alone has dealt with man’s **sin problem** once for all time, for those who have **received** Him as their personal **Savior** and **Lord** by **faith**.
8. The **seventh truth** about the Son is that He is:

## VII. The Exalted Ruler

- A. Look at the end of **v. 3**: When He had made purification of sins, He **sat down** at the **right hand** of the Majesty on high,
1. The **marvelous thing** about this statement is that Jesus, the perfect **High Priest**, “**sat down.**” This is in **stark contrast** to the Old Testament **Levitical priests** who had to **constantly** offer sacrifices for **themselves** and for the **people**.
  2. No Old Testament priest could ever **sit down** while performing his duties because his task was never finally accomplished. This is why there were **no seats** in the **Tabernacle** or the **Temple**.
  3. Even **once a year** when the **high priest** entered the **Holy of Holies** to bear the sacrificial blood before the mercy seat he had **bells** sewn on the borders of his garment, so that people could hear him **moving inside** and know that he had not been struck dead.
  4. However, Jesus’ **one sacrifice** was totally different! It was **once for all time** and then He **sat down**. The fact that He “**sat down**” **after** making “purification of sins” indicates that His **atoning work** on the cross was **complete** (Heb. 7:27; 9:12-14, 26).
  5. This is why He cried out in **John 19:30**, “**It is finished.**”
  6. And notice that the **place** where Christ **sat down** was at the “**right hand** of the **Majesty** on high.” The phrase “**Majesty on high**” is a reference to **God Himself** in all His awesome greatness.
- B. Now the **fact** that Jesus **sat down** at His Father’s **right hand** **signifies** at least **six things**:

1. **First**, it was Christ's **exaltation** to the place of **highest honor**. In **Philippians 2:9-11** we read, "For this reason also, God **highly exalted** Him, and bestowed on Him the **name** which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father."
2. **Second**, it was Christ's **exaltation** to the **position** of **supreme authority**. After His resurrection and ascension, Jesus **sat down** on the **throne** of God as the **exalted Ruler** (8:1; 10:12:12:2).
3. This depicts a **victorious Savior** who is **actively ruling** over history as the **sovereign Lord** until all of His enemies have been subdued.
4. **Psalm 110:1** says: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
5. In **1 Corinthians 15:25** we read, "For He must reign until he has put all His enemies under His feet."
6. We are told in **1 Peter 3:22**, "Who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been **subjected** to Him."
7. And **one day** after **taking back** the earth that is **rightfully His** as the **King** of kings and **Lord** of lords, **Revelation 11:15** states, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will **reign** forever and ever."
8. **Third**, it is also the **position** of Christ's **subordination** to the Father. We read in **1 Corinthians 15:27-28**: For HE HAS PUT

ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.”

9. **Fourth**, it was a **posture** of **rest**. The atoning work of Christ has been completed. **Hebrews 10:11-12** states, “Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered **one sacrifice** for sins for **all time**, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.”
10. **Fifth**, it is the **place** from which Jesus now **intercedes** for all of us who belong to Him. We are told in **Romans 8:34**, “Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also **intercedes** for us.”
11. And **Hebrews 7:25** says that “...He always lives to make **intercession** for (us).”
12. **Sixth**, it is the **place** from which Jesus, as our Great High Priest, continually dispensing mercy, grace, and help to us in time of need. For **Hebrews 4:14-16** says, “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot **sympathize** with our **weaknesses**, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the **throne** of

grace, so that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace to help** in time of need.”

- C. What a **beautiful picture** of Jesus Christ! In these **seven truths** about the Son of God we see that He is **far more** than a mere man.
1. Jesus Christ is the **God-Man**, who is the **Messianic Inheritor, Almighty Creator, Divine Radiator, Perfect Representor, Powerful Carrier, Priestly Purifier, and Exalted Ruler.**
  2. In these **three opening verses** of Hebrews we have seen the **threefold character** of the Son’s messianic office set before us:
    - He is a **Prophet** through whom God has spoken His full and final word to us.
    - He is a **Priest** who has accomplished the perfect work of purification for our sins and is now interceding on our behalf.
    - He is a **King** who sits enthroned at the right hand of the Majesty on high controlling and sustaining everything He has created.
  3. Jesus Christ is truly **superior** to the **prophets**. He is **supreme** over everyone and everything, because **He alone** is God Himself in human flesh.
  4. **No wonder** the apostle Paul said to the Corinthian church regarding his **preaching** in **1 Corinthians 2:2**, “For I **determined to know nothing** among you **except** Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”

### **Conclusion:**

In closing, let me **ask** you this morning: Is Jesus Christ **supreme** in your life today? Or have you put **someone** or **something** before Him? If

He isn't, then when you encounter **various trials** (Jam. 1:2) you will not be able to **stand against** them and **grow through** them.

**Leonardo da Vinci** was a wonderful painter, and one of his masterpieces was *The Last Supper*, which has been called the most perfect composition in the history of painting in all ages. It was painted on a **convent wall**, and the artist put all his talent into it. Even the **cup** the Lord used he painted as a **perfect** and **ornate golden vessel** richly set with jewels. When he completed the picture he **admitted** a few of his friends to see it.

“What a **wonderful cup!**” they exclaimed, “How it **sparkles!** Such a cup was never painted before.” Immediately **Leonardo** splashed some dark colored paint over the **glittering chalice** and made it look like an ordinary cheap vessel. He made it clear to them that the **glory of Christ**, and not the **beauty** of the **cup**, must be the **central object** of his great work. He wanted everyone to know that in **all things** Jesus Christ must be **pre-eminent**.

May this be **true** in our lives as well! For **only then** will we not **shrink back** and **turn away** from Him when **trials** come.

All things find their purpose and meaning only as they relate to Him.