

Sermon: God's Final Word

Text: Hebrews 1

Introduction:

As we discussed last week in our introduction to the Book of Hebrews, the purpose of this entire book is to prove that Jesus is far greater—far superior—to anything or anyone else. He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. He is the One who spoke the galaxies into being—and who sustains the universe by the power of His Word. Jesus has existed for all eternity past with His Father and the Holy Spirit. These three persons (the Holy Trinity), co-equally God, were never created or “made” (which we, honestly, cannot wrap our minds around). The thought of worshiping anyone or anything else is ludicrous.

Let's think for a few minutes about worship.

Take some time right now to discuss (or consider) what worship really is. Talk about these questions:

- What is worship—and why do we engage in it?
- Who or what do people in our culture worship? How do they express this worship? Most importantly—why are these things worshipped? What are the reasons that these things are worshipped?

The Book of Hebrews was originally written to Jews who had put their faith in Jesus as the Messiah—the ONE who was promised and the fulfillment of all of the Old Testament prophecies. However, these Jewish believers have A LOT to overcome in terms of the things that they had been taught. For instance—Jews were taught from infancy on up that Moses was the ultimate messenger from God...there was no one greater. Moses was the one that God used to deliver the Jewish people out of bondage in Egypt. Moses was the one who gave the Jewish people the ten commandments and the other laws...which were they very things that made the Jews special in God's eyes. Moses was the one who heard directly from angels—who were the divine messengers of God's Words. The Jews worshipped Moses. They worshipped the Old Testament law. They worshipped angels.

I think we can all understand and appreciate how difficult it is to “let go” or re-order the things that we worship. Think about a person who has spent their entire adult life worshipping money...and the status and “stuff” that money can buy. This person has given their marriage in order to acquire money. This person has neglected their children in pursuit of money. This person has found their entire self-worth in the amount of money they have. [You know this isn't far-fetched. This happens all around us...all the time.] OK, now imagine how difficult it is to let go of this worship. It means admitting that they were wrong. It means facing the reality that this false worship has cost them nearly everything. This is no small thing.

This is precisely what the Book of Hebrews is all about. It's a message to people who were worshipping the wrong things. And the reason this was bad—is because it was misdirected. We don't find true hope and happiness in these things. Our only hope is Jesus. Jesus is better.

Examination:

The first idol that the writer of Hebrews addresses in chapter 1 are the angels. I guess we shouldn't be surprised one bit that the Jews worshipped angels. It was angels who often spoke with Moses—and other prophets. It was angels who were these mysterious messengers of God. It was angels who shone with great glory, and always caused such fear in people when they appeared.

In the very last chapter of the Bible, Revelation chapter 22, even the Apostle John was tempted to bow down and worship the angel that gave John a tour of the New Jerusalem. Listen to what this angel said to him:

"I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!" (Revelation 22:8-9)

Before looking up the following verses, brainstorm what you know to be true about angels. What are they like? What do they do?

Now look at the following passages and see what you can find angels doing in scripture:

- Luke 1:26-28
- Exodus 14:19
- Matthew 18:10
- Revelation 5:11-12
- Daniel 6:22
- 2 Samuel 24:1
- Luke 20:36
- Revelation 20:1-3
- Genesis 16:7
- 2 Kings 6:16-18
- Hebrews 13:2

Read **Hebrews 1:4-14**:

- Why do you think the writer of Hebrews builds his argument by using quotations from the Old Testament? What does that tell you about the authority of the Old Testament?
- According to Hebrews 1:6, who must the angels of God worship? Why?
- What do you learn about Jesus' reign in verses 8-9? Why would that matter to us?
- According to Hebrews 1:10-12, what things will change? What will remain? Why would that matter to us?
- According to Hebrews 1:13, what will eventually happen to all the enemies of Christ? Why would that matter to us?
- The readers of Hebrews were fascinated with angels and elevated their status to a position on par or greater than Jesus.
 - What types of things do people tend to put ahead of Christ today?
- What kinds of things do you put ahead of Christ?
- What can you do to keep Christ first?

Application:

Identify the things you worship (e.g. fear, worry, control). Surrender them to Jesus in worship.