

# SUPERIOR

January 28 & 29: Superior Savior

## Series Overview

Our faith is rooted in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Like the rays of the sun, Jesus Christ is the radiance of God's glory. But the book of *Hebrews* tells us that Jesus was no mere man, that He is not just another prophet or the face of another religion—He is the Son of God! And it's through Him alone that we've been given a superior message, a superior promise, a superior faith, a superior everything. During this series we will be learning how to see Him more clearly, love Him more deeply and serve Him more passionately.



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## Sermon Highlights

The book of *Hebrews* is a concise summary of the Old Testament and the New Testament. There are many details about the writing of the letter that are uncertain, but it is possible that the book was written to show that Jesus is not only Priest, but King and Prophet ... the Messiah! The early Christians were in danger of putting laws, prophets or angels above Jesus. But every message in *Hebrews* can be summed up in one word: *Superior!*

### 1. The Savior is the Superior Revelation: Hear Him!

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

- *Speaking prophets*

*Hebrews 1:2, 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.*

This is the concept of...

- *Progressive revelation*

God has been revealed to us one step at a time. From the beginning, God spoke whenever He chose to speak, saying whatever He wanted to say, in any way He chose to say it. But this verse says, *In these last days ... He has spoken to us by His Son ... period.* Jesus Christ is God's Superior revelation.

### 2. The Savior is the Superior Representative: Worship Him!

Reasons why we worship Jesus:

- He's the *Heir* of all.

*Hebrews 1:2, ...heir of all things...* He becomes the heir of all things because He is the Son. And if you become a Christian, *Romans 8:17 says, ...since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory... (NLT)*

- He's the *Creator*.

*Hebrews 1:2 also says, ...through whom he made the universe. John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16-17*

- He's the *exact representation* of God.

*Hebrews 1:3, The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...*

It's the idea of a stamp that reproduces the exact same image each time it is used. It's like a high resolution photocopy. Jesus is the exact essence of the Father. *Colossians 1:15, Colossians 2:9, John 1:1*

- He's the *Sustainer* of all.

*Hebrews 1:3, ...sustaining all things by his powerful word. Colossians 1:17, He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. All the atoms are held together by Him, and if He released His power, the universe would fall apart!*

- He's the *Purifier*.

*Hebrews 1:3, ...he had provided purification for sins...* He provides the grace for us to accept or reject Him. Now there is a way to be cleansed of sin. *Hebrews 9:22, ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

- He's the *Great High Priest*.

*Hebrews 1:3, ...he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* To say that Jesus "sat down" refers to the fact that He has finished the work. He's provided everything we need for salvation. If we accept it, He intercedes for us. *Hebrews 7:25*

*Hebrews 1:4-6, <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. <sup>5</sup>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"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."*

Today we have the privilege of worshiping the Superior Savior. We can fall at His feet—the One who is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, the One who is superior to all the prophets and angels. Will you surrender to Jesus as your Superior Savior?



## Take it to the source ... Bible Study

**Introductory question:** What do you think is the best sport to watch in America? Why? What makes it better than the rest?

**Read *Hebrews 1:1-2, Romans 8:17, Colossians 1:16-17* and *John 1:1-3*.**

1. What are some reasons that Christ is the last word that God has to offer? Why is nothing else needed after Him?
2. If Christ is heir of all things, meaning that all things will ultimately belong to Him, what does this mean for us if together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory? How might this realization help you view eternity a little differently?
3. When you think of Jesus of Nazareth, do you think of Him as the Creator of all things? Why or why not? What does it mean for us that the Source of everything came and lived a simple life as a man on this earth?

**Read *Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:15, Colossians 2:9* and *John 1:14*.**

1. If Christ is the exact representation of God, what does that say about the way we should view God?
2. Many people seem to separate God and Jesus and make them different somehow. How can the two verses from *Colossians* help you understand that when you have seen Jesus, you have seen God?
3. What do you think the radiance of Jesus' glory actually looked like? How can you reflect God's glory in our society today? What are some ways your small group can reflect the glory of God?
4. How do you respond to the idea that Christ sustains all things and holds all things together? How can you even get your head around that? What implications might this have for someone who daily walks faithfully in union with Christ?

**Read *Hebrews 1:3, 9:22* and *7:25*.**

1. What do you think it means when we say that Christ has finished His work? What does that say for people who feel that they still have to somehow win God's favor? What are some of the benefits of resting in the finished work of Christ and the boundless grace of God?
2. Do you feel confident in Christ's work to cleanse you of all sin and open the way for a relationship with God? Why or why not?
3. How often do you think of Christ interceding before God on your behalf? How does that make you feel? How can that reality encourage you and help you to be confident in your spiritual journey?



## Take it home ... Practical Applications

In a quiet time of prayer, ask God to open your eyes to everything that Christ is for us. Take some time to consider how looking at Christ gives us a greater understanding of God the Father.

Prayerfully ask God to help you live with Christ as the Superior Savior in your own life. Set aside a time to study the verses from the message this week to get a greater understanding of the awesome greatness of Jesus Christ!

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All Bible references are from the NIV unless otherwise stated.

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