

## Jesus is Better Than \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews)

If there is one word in the English language that causes more controversy than any other word, I would have to say it would be the word *better*. One of the questions that the Apostles argued about is “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” In Matt 18:4, Jesus called over a little child and said, “whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

What I want to do today is examine the book of Hebrews and see why Jesus is better and greater than anyone or anything.

If you have a friend who is thinking about giving up their faith, how would you convince them that living as a Christian is far better than living as a non-Christian? How could you convince somebody that what we have in Christ is far better than what anyone could have outside of Christ? This is what the *Hebrews* writer is dealing with.

The word ‘better’ is used 13 times because there were some Jewish Christian who were thinking about returning to Judaism. I am not going to have the time to cover all 13 of the ‘better’ passages, but I do want to cover a few of them. Why is this lesson important? When we understand that Jesus is better, we will have a better love, a better joy, better relationships because when you have Jesus in your life it makes everything better.

### **I. Jesus is the Better Revelation: Heb 1:1-2**

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.”

Think about the ways God communicated His message in times past. He spoke to Jacob and Joseph in dreams. He spoke to Moses through a burning bush that never burned (Exod 3). Perhaps the most humorous way God spoke to someone was through a donkey in Num 22. To Elijah God spoke with a small voice (1 Kings 19:12). To the prophet Isaiah, God spoke in a vision at the temple (Isa 6). With a visual illustration, God spoke to Amos by using a basket of summer fruit (Amos 8:1). Sometimes God would speak by the rolling of dice. We see it in Acts 1, Numbers 27). All throughout the O.T. God would speak through a pillar of fire, earthquakes, and thunderstorms.

In the O.T. age God spoke in various ways, but what does the book of Hebrews say about the Christian age? “God speaks to us by His Son.” Jesus is the better revelation.

### **II. Jesus the better Reporter: Verse 1.**

“God spoke in times past to the prophets.”

Think about how highly the Jewish people thought of prophets from the O.T. When Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I am?”

They mentioned “Elijah, Jeremiah, and other prophets.” Matt 16:13

When Jesus was dying on the cross He cried out, “My God why have you forsaken me?” Some of the people thought he was crying out for Elijah.” Matt 27:47

When Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured in glory, Moses and Elijah appeared. Peter said, ‘Lord wouldn’t it be nice if we made 3 alters, one for you, one for Moses and Elijah?’ God used this occasion to make something crystal clear. Luke 9:34 says, “

“While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from that cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

The message God gave that day is the same message for us 2,000 years later. Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God, Listen to Him!

### **III Jesus is the better Representation: Verse 3-14**

Verse 3 says that Jesus is “The radiance of God’s glory.” “He is the express image of His person.”

Jesus is the express image and exact copy of His father. Paul explains in Col 1:15 when he says, Jesus is the image of the invisible God.”

There is no one in the history of the world better than Jesus. Mohammed can’t compare, Buddha can’t compare, not even Moses or Elijah can compare to Jesus. In fact, Hebrews specifically say that not even the angels can compare. Look at Verse 4.

“He is better than Angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” “For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?”

### **IV. Jesus is the better Redeemer: He is greater than Moses: 3:1-6**

A comparison is given between a builder of a house and the house itself. Jesus is the designer; Moses was just a servant. Hebrews tells us Jesus is the greater redeemer: Moses delivered the message of God, but Jesus is the message. Moses delivered the law, but Jesus delivered grace and truth.

**Close: In the sermon title is the Phrase “Jesus is greater than \_\_\_\_\_.”**

This reason is because whatever you put in that blank space will always be true. Fill in the blank with whatever it is you are struggling with. Jesus is greater than our problems. He is greater than our trials.