Jesus Alone

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Imagine for a moment, you're a Jew during the time Jesus walked on this earth as a human while being fully God. You are part of a religion that your family has practiced and believed in since the Israeli Tribes were formed – hundreds of years before your birth. The Temple in Jerusalem has a special place in the heart of the family for generations. The family has practiced the rituals and celebrated the holidays religiously. This was the way of life. Then you meet Jesus and He tells you that He has come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. You allow Jesus into your heart and you become a new person like Apostle Paul became a new person on the road to Damascus. Your family has a really hard time understanding why you have started to talk about Jesus and then you tell them that Jesus is the Son of God. From there, things go downhill. They view this as blasphemy. How dare you view Jesus as equal to the God of Israel. In fact, many of your old friends stop being your friends. Then, after Jesus dies on the cross and has victory over the grave, you become part of the group that waits in a room until there is a filling of the Holy Spirit. The event is called Pentecost. Since there are no scrolls written yet to help guide the new Church, some people are starting to teach different things about Jesus and there are some Jews who are trying to water down the superiority of Jesus. These are the Jews who still want to keep with the Old Testament ways of life. Remember, the Jews have been living out the Old Testament ways for hundreds of years. Who is this Jesus that has come to change this? This is one of the reasons why the Letter to the Hebrews was written. A letter that is well written, but shines a lot of light into who Jesus is and how Jesus fits into the Old Testament and how He has the right to forgive the sins of those who ask Him into their hearts. Even though we don't know who wrote this letter, we do know the Holy Spirit inspired that writer to help the people of that time period better understand how Jesus transitioned the Old Testament into the New Testament. However, this Letter to the Hebrews is important for today as well

because Jesus and who He is, is under attack today, even within the Church itself. There are Churches in America that do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. They also, don't believe in the miracles that are listed in Scripture. In a way, we are starting to go through what the Church went through when this letter was written. Jesus and His authority are under attack even within the Church itself. Many are starting to follow different false teachings because they no longer believe in the Superiority of Jesus. Two weeks ago, a reporter had started an interview with a lady that had escaped from communist China when she was young and now was an elderly lady living here in America. The reporter asked her about the growing support of communism within America. The lady starts right off by giving a warning to the Church in America. The reporter tries to redirect her, but she continues to give warning that communism has entered the Church and is spreading many false teachings and she stated the Church better wake up before it's too late. These false teachers come in and start spreading false teaching of the Bible by saying you don't have to believe in all of it. Some of the stories are fiction and untrue. Then, the next generation takes it to the next level and sees half of the Old Testament is false. Then the next generation starts to question the New Testament. When this happens, they have lost all faith in Scripture. Then, they no longer believe it is possible a virgin birth can happen which leads to not believing Jesus is the Son of God. Karl Marx would be proud. His followers have been used by satan to spread false teaching about Jesus today and it is spreading because it is being taught in the Seminaries. I know because I heard these false teachings at the Lutheran Seminary. I didn't hear about Jesus not being of virgin birth, but I heard everything else there and they may teach this false teaching now – I don't know. Satan is always attacking the Church and we must keep up with all his schemes and false teachings. So, we're going to spend time on the Letter of Hebrews and allow His Spirit to teach us so we can better understand Jesus in today's world. So, let's get started.

Let's turn to Hebrews 1: 1-2 where we read this, "**1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,**2** [a]in these

last days has spoken to us [b]in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the [c]world. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

At the very beginning, the writer comes out swinging. He starts with how God spoke to Israel in the Old Testament times – through prophets and in various ways like a burning bush or a talking donkey. Then in verse 2, the writer shares with the readers that now God has spoken through His Son, who is Jesus. Now, the writer also states "in these last day" as well. In other words, the Old Testament period was just a roadway to Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God comes, now the roadway leads to heaven. We are living in the last days for this old earth. I've stated this before; in EMT class a teacher told us that at a certain point in your thirties, your body starts to go the other direction. After your thirties, you are in your last days. Not only is Jesus part of these last days, but God Himself has appointed Jesus heir of all things, and through whom He also made the universe. John, one of the original disciples of Jesus, stated this in John 1: 10, "But although the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him when he came." Also verse 3, "He created everything there is" (NLT). This gives Jesus the status of one who is all powerful and superior. There is none like Him. This gives Him the right to be part of the Holy Trinity. He is the Son of God. It gives me comfort to know Jesus is heir of all things, which means when the last days come to an end or is dead, Jesus will be heir to what remains – all those who have been faithful to Him on this earth. The writer wants everyone to know at the very beginning that Jesus does have true authority over this earth we live on. Let's move on.

Let's now turn to Hebrews 1: 3, where we read this, "3 [a]And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and [b]upholds all things by [c]the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)"

Jesus is the radiance of His Father's glory. In other words, God's glory, which contains His holiness and righteousness, flows out through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the radiance of God's holiness and righteousness which makes Jesus the "exact representation" or "express image (KJV)" of God's being. This is huge here. In Greek, these words mean exact reproduction (Strong's Concordance). Jesus is the

carbon copy of His Father. Jesus is God. This is why Jesus can uphold all things by the word of His power. Plus, because of all of what the writer has stated in these few verses, has allowed Jesus be the only one to be made in human form for the purification of sins. A perfect sacrifice had to be made for the sin of man. Sheep was not good enough. Only someone who was God could handle the sin of man. Since Jesus was the exact reproduction of God, Jesus was sinless, which again, makes Him the perfect sacrifice. The writer is adding onto how great Jesus is.

So, the Hebrew writer gives an example in Hebrews 1: 4-14, "4 having become so much better than the angels, to the extent that He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON,
TODAY I HAVE FATHERED YOU"?

And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM
AND HE WILL BE A SON TO ME"?

6 And [a]when He again brings the firstborn into [b]the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." 7 And regarding the angels He says, "HE MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,
AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

8 But regarding the Son *He says*, "YOUR THRONE, GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER,
AND THE SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTER OF[c]HIS KINGDOM.
9 YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;
THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU
WITH THE OIL OF JOY ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

10 And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH,
AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;
AND THEY ALL WILL[d]WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT,
12 AND LIKE A ROBE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP;
LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.
BUT YOU ARE THE SAME,
AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." 13 But to which of the angels has He ever

said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

[14] Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to *provide* service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

During this time period, some were teaching about the power of angels and some questions may have come upon about who was more powerful, angels or Jesus. The writer starts off quickly by stating Jesus is superior to angels. Then he quotes several pieces of Old Testament Scripture to support the evidence like 2 Samuel 7: 14; Deuteronomy 32: 43; Psalm 104, 45, 102, and Psalm 110. The writer is using Old Testament Scripture to support that Jesus is superior to angels, even angels. When churches today say that Jesus' birth was not a virgin birth because it just couldn't happen are saying that Jesus is not greater than the angels which destroys the plan of salvation. Satan is a fallen angel and for Jesus to be greater than satan, it has to be a virgin birth. Mary became pregnant through the working of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1: 18 tells us this, "Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. (NLT)" The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, so even though Jesus had a human body like ours, He was God without sin. Jesus' character was still the exact reproduction of His Father. It is only Jesus who could become our sacrifice on the cross – Jesus alone. In fact, the writer states in verse 14 the job of angels. They are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. They are only helpers. In verse 13, we see that it is Jesus who now sits at God's right hand, not the angels. Without Jesus, the Son of God, there is no salvation. This is why these churches that teaches that there is no virgin birth, spend all their time in promoting doing good works and social justice – they have nothing else to offer. Only through Jesus can one receive salvation. The writer wanted to make sure that those of his time that thought the old sacrifices and trying to just follow the old laws would make them right with God, would see that Jesus was the fulfillment of the laws and prophets and because Jesus was greater than the angels and was the Son of God, He was and is the perfect sacrifice for our sin.

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, 1996.

The Strongest Strong's Concordance. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001.