

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "JESUS, THE ROYAL SON"

For individual study or group discussion

Last week we began our *Advent* series in the book of Hebrews. The book reads more like a sermon with a word of challenge to its audience than a letter like the other books of the New Testament. In his message, the author wants the readers to know that Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, is not only superior to prophets like Moses and Joshua, but he is also superior to King David, because **Jesus, The Royal Son**, sits "at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Note that Christ's person, position, and power are all expressed in verses 3b-5: the person and work of Christ as the **priestly purifier** (v. 3b), the position of Christ as the **exalted ruler** (v. 3c), and the greater power of Christ as the **royal Son** of the Father (vv. 4-5). Afterwards, the author goes into great detail describing Jesus' superiority to the angels, underscoring the central theme of the book of Hebrews: the supremacy of Christ.

#### **Jesus is the Priestly Purifier who paid for the sins of his people with his own blood (v. 3b)**

The redemption accomplished for us in the sacrifice of Jesus and the benefits given to us through his atonement was a once-for-all offering, unlike the others performed by the Old Testament priests (Exodus 30:10). Our sins brought upon us the curse of death, separating us from God. But Jesus, by his single offering "has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

- According to John 1:14 and Philippians 2:6-8, how is the supremacy of Christ depicted in these passages?
- Read Revelation 1:5-6. In what ways do believers benefit from Christ's priestly purification?

#### **Jesus is the Exalted Ruler who sat down at the right hand of God (v. 3c)**

The right hand of God refers to a position of great honor in biblical texts (1 Peter 3:22 and Acts 7:55-56). The author of Hebrews makes it unequivocal to his audience that Christ's exalted position "at the right hand of Majesty on high" points to his messianic status by quoting from Psalm 110, "The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies our footstool.'" The psalmist used the phrase "right hand" not only to signify divine relationship but also divine authority.

- Read Psalm 110 and Luke 22:69. Why do you think Jesus "sat down" after he provided purification for all of our sins? What is the significance of him taking a seat? What effect does that have on your sense of peace and confidence before God?
- What positions of power is Jesus described as exercising at God's right hand in Romans 8:34 and 1 Peter 3:22?

#### **Jesus is the Royal Son whose name is superior to angels (vv. 4-5)**

The Old Testament foretold that the Messiah would come from the royal lineage of David. Jeremiah 23:5-6 states, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'" Note the allusion in Hebrews 1:5 to Psalm 2:7. Nothing like this was ever said to an angel. Hence in order to establish Jesus' position of power, the author questions, "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you?'" (v. 5)

- Refer to Deuteronomy 32:43, 2 Samuel 7:14, Psalm 97:7, and Hebrews 1:6. Why do you think the author of Hebrews opens this letter with an emphasis on Jesus being superior to angels?
- Read Psalm 91:11-12, Isaiah 6:2-7, Luke 1:11-20, 1 Corinthians 6:3, and Hebrews 13:2. What exactly are angels and, according to these passages, what are their roles?

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SPEAKER: Wil/Frank

SERIES: Advent 2022

PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:3b-5

## Family Dinner Table

*"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke..." Hebrews 1:1*

God spoke. Are we listening? Most of us aren't known for our listening skills. How many times have you half-heartedly listened to a friend or a family member without stopping to focus on the conversation? Listening well requires humility on our part, an opening of our hearts and minds to hear what others have to say.

German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers the following practical advice on listening in *Life Together*, a book about Christian community that reflected upon his experiences at Finkenwalde Seminary: "The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love for God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brothers is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is his work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him."<sup>1</sup>

- Listening says, "What matters to you matters to me." Read Proverbs 20:5. How can listening well build relationships?
- How does Proverbs 18:13 describe one who doesn't listen well?
- If you have younger children in your family, share the following nursery rhyme on listening with them:

*A wise old owl lived in an oak,  
The more he saw, the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke, the more he heard.  
Now, wasn't he a wise old bird?*

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Reconciliation Ministries (RMNI),  
supported partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Champions United in Uganda, world  
missions partner

<sup>1</sup>Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*. New York: Harper & Row, 1954, 97-8