

Hebrews 1

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

*“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?*

Or again,

*“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?*

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

7 Of the angels he says,

*“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”*

8 But of the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.*

*9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

10 And,

*“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;*

*11 they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,*

*12 like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.*

*But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”*

13 And 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 serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

The writer to the Hebrews was writing to a group of Jews who had converted to Christianity but in the face of persecution and hardship were considering giving up on the Faith. He wrote to encourage them to stand firm and persevere, for Christ was a treasure too great to lose and salvation was more important than even the dearest moment in this life. Christ is the beginning and end of the Christian Faith, and so the writer, like John in his Gospel, begins with Christ. It was through Christ that the world was made, and so it is in Christ that we are renewed in the image of God that we lost in the fall into sin. By the word of His power the universe is

upheld. If that is true, how much more ought we entrust ourselves to Him as well and trust Him to uphold us by His word!

God had spoken to the Jews in many ways and at many times. The prophets had called out to them time and again with revelations from God. Now, however, we live in the last times, that is, we live in the era of the Church where all that remains is for our Lord to return on the last day, whenever that arrives. Now that God has spoken to us by His Son, there is nothing left to reveal that is necessary for our faith and salvation. The next time we should expect God to speak to His people in such a way, except through His Word, to which He has bound Himself, which remains living and active with the prophetic and apostolic voice inspired by the Spirit so long ago and still now when it is preached and taught, is at the Last Judgment, where the voice of Christ Himself will pardon or damn.

Christ was indeed true man, born of the Virgin Mary. But He was also true God. In forsaking Christ, these converts from Judaism would be forsaking much more than a prophet. They would be forsaking God Himself, the one and only true Messiah, their Redeemer. He is greater than the angels, who are His agents to minister to us for our benefit. He sits at the right hand of God, exercising the power of God for His Church, so that even when persecution strikes or things appear bleak, He is yet in control and working to turn even misfortune for our good. This was to be their comfort, but it was also a warning. In denouncing our Lord, they would be denouncing the King of heaven and earth, the One who holds all things, including their eternal condition, in His hands whose nail marks now stand as trophies and a reminder of His power over death. The same reminder is also useful for us, for we are also sometimes weak and weary with the faith or inclined to wander from the fold.

Remember who your Lord Christ is, and what He has done for you, and what He has promised to do for you with the authority He holds and exercises at the right hand of the Father. There is nothing that He cannot bring you through, and there is nothing worth gaining at the expense of losing Him and His favor. Through Him the world was created, and He knows how best to govern it, and how best to guide and direct you in your daily lives. His Word upholds the universe. Harken to it so that it may uphold your life as well, for it endures forever and accomplishes the purpose for which He has sent it. Amen.