

## **Hebrews 1:1–4: GOD’S FINAL WORD: HIS SON**

### **I. Introduction**

The Book of Hebrews is one of the most Christ-centered and theologically rich writings in the New Testament. Though the human author is not named, the letter displays deep knowledge of the Old Testament, priestly themes, and the spiritual struggles of early believers. Hebrews was written to a community of Jewish Christians who were facing intense pressure—spiritually, socially, and in some cases physically—because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Many had come to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but persecution and hardship tempted some to retreat back into Judaism and its familiar system of temples, sacrifices, and rituals. The purpose of Hebrews is to strengthen these believers by showing that Jesus Christ is greater than everything that came before—greater than angels, Moses, the priesthood, the sacrifices, and the Old Covenant itself.

In Hebrews 1:1–4, the writer opens with a powerful declaration that sets the tone for the entire book: God has spoken definitively and finally through His Son. The passage begins by acknowledging that God had previously spoken “at various times and in various ways” through the prophets. God’s revelation in the Old Testament was real, authoritative, and essential—yet it was partial and progressive. It prepared God’s people for something greater. Now, in the “last days,” God’s ultimate revelation has come—not merely in another prophet, but in His Son. Jesus is not simply a messenger delivering God’s Word; He is God’s Word made known.

These verses highlight the supremacy and glory of Christ in several breathtaking ways. The Son is appointed heir of all things, the One through whom God made the worlds, and the radiance of God’s glory—the visible manifestation of the invisible God. He is described as the “exact representation” of God’s nature, showing that Jesus is not a lesser divine being, but fully and eternally God. The Son also “upholds all things by the word of His power,” revealing His ongoing authority over creation and history. Finally, after making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high—signifying that redemption has been accomplished and His priestly work is complete.

This opening passage is not only an introduction—it is a proclamation. Hebrews begins by calling believers to fix their eyes on Christ as God’s final and greatest Word, the supreme revelation of God, and the only sure foundation for faith in uncertain times.

### **II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Hebrews 1:1-4**

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

**III. Think Through the Following Questions:**

1. What does it mean that God spoke “at various times and in various ways” through the prophets? What are examples of these different ways God communicated in the Old Testament?
2. Why do you think Hebrews opens by emphasizing God’s speaking/revelation before emphasizing our response? How does this shape the way we view Scripture and spiritual authority?
3. Hebrews says God has spoken “in these last days” by His Son. What does “last days” mean biblically, and how should it affect our urgency and faithfulness today?
4. What is the difference between God speaking through prophets and God speaking through His Son? In what sense is Jesus not only a messenger, but the final and complete message?
5. Hebrews describes Jesus as: heir of all things, creator, radiance of God’s glory, exact representation of his being, sustainer of all things. Which of these descriptions stands out most to you, and why?
6. Verse 3 says Jesus “made purification for sins” and then “sat down” at God’s right hand. What does His sitting down communicate about the sufficiency of His sacrifice and the completion of His work?
7. The passage ends by stating that Jesus is “much superior to the angels.” Why might the early believers have struggled with this, and what modern “competitors to Christ” do we sometimes place above Him today?

**IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?**

**V. Application: How do you think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?**