

15. What does the end of verse 3 tell us about where Jesus is now? What significance does this have for us as believers?

16. Looking at the above seven affirmations which of them tell us about the past work of Christ and which about His ongoing work?

Pray

Give thanks that God has caused His word to be written for our learning in the Scriptures. Pray that we might so hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that through patience and the comfort of His holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which He has given us in His son.

(From the collect for the second Sunday in Advent.)

Pray that as we study Hebrews at the start of this new year we would be encouraged and strengthened to persevere in faith.

Pray for the joint mission in March, for organisation of events in the various churches and the team training for ministry who will be joining us for the second weekend. Pray for a desire in all of us to see people hear and respond to the gospel of Christ.

Pray for Alex, Kate & Euan Phillips as they settle in Busan (South Korea) and begin theological study having flown out on 7th January.

*David Phillips,
January 2019*

The Greatest

Study 1 : Better than Prophets

Hebrews 1.1-4



"To win people for Christ and to build them up in Christ."
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Over these five studies we will be looking at the opening chapters of Hebrews and how they show the superiority of Christ and the new covenant. These things are stressed to encourage us to keep holding fast to Christ and not be tempted to drift away.

Read Hebrews 1.1-4

God has spoken

1. What does verse 1 affirm about the message of the prophets and its source? What does this mean about its authority and how we should treat their message?

2. If God has now spoken through His Son what does that mean for how we as Christians should treat the Old Testament?

3. Scan the rest of chapter 1. What does the way the Old Testament is quoted show us about its continuing importance and authority?

4. What did Jesus, the Son, have to say about the value of the Old Testament, for example in the following passages:
John 5.39

Luke 16.29-31 (this is a parable told by Jesus)

Luke 24.27

5. Some Bibles have the words of Jesus in red print. This can help in finding things Jesus said but is are the words of Jesus more important than the rest of the New Testament?

6. How did some of the prophets get treated in the Old Testament?
See for example Luke 6.22-23, 2 Chron 36.16 & Neh 9.26

7. If God was speaking through the prophets why were they treated in the way many were?

8. How did people sometimes respond very positively to the teaching of Jesus?
See for example Matthew 7.28-29, John 6.66-69 & John 7.15-16

9. But how did people also treat Jesus in the way they had treated the prophets and why?

The Greatness of the Son

There is a string of seven further statements about Jesus in verse 2 to 3. All of them are rather deep.

10. What do you think it means that Jesus is the heir of all things?
(v2) What does it mean for us, as part of “all things”?

11. The universe (literally “the ages”) was created through Jesus (see also Jn 1.1-3 & Col 1.16). How does that affect our understanding of Jesus and what it means to follow Him?

12. **Read John 1.18.** What are the next two statements about Jesus in at the start of Heb 1.3 and what do they tell us about how Jesus makes God known? (You might also read John 14.7-9.)

13. We looked at the fact that Jesus “upholds all things by His word of power” on Christmas day. How is this truth of help and comfort to us?

14. What does “made purification for sins” tell us about why Jesus came among us? (See also Heb 7.27)