*Disclaimer: These are my teaching notes. They are not comprehensive notes about the*

*teaching at hand, they are a guide for the teacher during the teaching. But you may find*

*some benefit in them.*

PREP – have Wis of Sol ready

One commentary said that the opening of Hebrews is “less an introduction than a thunderous opening salvo”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Andy Stanley – “unhitch from the OT”  
Wis of Sol – is Hebrews saying Jesus was created?

**Hebrews 1:1–4 (ESV)**

**1Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,**

**2but 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.**

**3He 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,**

**4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.**

* How much deep theology is crammed into these 4 verses.
  + Lordship of Christ
  + Christ as Creator
  + Christ as sustainer
    - Deity of Christ
    - Yet he is not the Father
  + Christ as priest
  + Christ as sacrifice for sin
  + Christ as authoritative messenger
  + Christ as Lord
  + Christ as compared to
    - Prophets
    - Angels
    - Priests

Christology on full blast -

**Hebrews 1:1–2:9 (ESV)**

**1Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,**

**2but 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.**

* Alliteration in vs 1
  + Hebrews 1:1 (ESV) 1Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
    - All start with a P sound.
  + Very high level Greek – well written.
* “many times”
  + Moses to Malachi – perhaps 1,000 years.
  + 16 books called the major and minor prophets
    - But, MANY more prophets in the OT
      * Enoch, Elijah, Huldah, Isaiah’s wife, Nathan, unnamed prophets, etc.
    - Hebrew Bible (24) same as Protestant OT. (39)
      * Catholic (46)
* “many ways”
  + What kinds of ways?
    - Jeremiah made a yoke (Jer 27-28)
      * And wore it before the king
      * To symbolize that Neb was going to take over, and they should submit
    - Hosea married a prostitute
      * Gave their children names that conveyed a prophetic message for Israel
    - Elijah
      * Tornado force winds
      * Earthquake
      * Fire
      * A whisper. (1 Kings 19)
    - Ezekiel
      * Wrote “Jerusalem” on a stone and acted out a military siege on it
    - God spoke to them in visions, dreams, direct speech
  + Many ways, vs one way (Jesus)
    - All the revelation of God funnels down to Jesus.
      * Mount of transfiguration
        + Elijah and Moses
        + Cloud

“This is my beloved Son, hear him” (Mt 17:5;Mk 9:7; Lk 9:35)

Then they were all gone. Only Jesus.

All three Gospels say this.

* Continuity
  + God spoke to our fathers
  + Now God speaks to us
  + God speaking in both
    - The prophets and the Son
  + Jesus is the continued revelation of God
    - Continuation and fulfillment/completion
      * Same God
  + Andy Stanley – unhitch
    - People leave the faith because they don’t get this
      * **CLIP lost**
      * “if you’ve lost faith… because of something about the Bible, the Old Testament, I can’t tell you how glad I am that you are here.”
        + Andy’s message is not that the OT is true, it’s that you don’t need to believe it.
    - Acts 15 “defines your relationship with the Old Testament”
      * **CLIP Acts 15**
        + What do you mean by that?
      * **CLIP acts 15 2**
        + Is he talking about being under the law or believing the OT is true?
      * What issues are at stake according to Stanley?
      * **CLIP 3 things**
        + “It’s all God’s word”
        + “It’s all true”
        + “Do all of it”

Which is up for discussion in Acts 15?

Just “do all of it”

That part is right, that’s where I agree with Andy Stanley.

* + - * + IS THAT TRUE???

Conflation achieved.

**IMG 3 Things IMG**

* + - * Again, he mixes two ideas together.
        + **CLIP and believe**

“Do gentiles have to live and believe like Jews”

REMEMBER the problem Stanley brought up at the start

People who don’t BELIEVE the Bible

NOT obeying the law.

* + - * Would you believe Andy said that Peter set aside the Scripture?
        + **CLIP set aside**

“Even though it means letting go of and setting aside the traditions, the Scripture that we grew up with. It took him twenty years but Peter finally figured out that Christianity was not Judaism 2.0. This was not an add-on. This was a standalone, say goodbye to the past, new. That Jesus was not an “and,” Jesus was an “instead of.” No mixing and matching. No blending.”

The truth in it.

Not under the law

The lie

Not believing the OT to be true

“is the OT to be taught as true” was NEVER up for debate.

That’s Andy’s eisegesis.

“stand alone” – grafted in.

* + - * + **CLIP source**

He changes from covenant to text.

“The Old Covenant… was not the go to source regarding sexual behavior in the church”

1 Cor 6:9 – echoes Lev 18

“The Old Testament was not the go to source for any behavior in the church”

1 Tim 5:18 – OT rules about not muzzling an ox as a case for why pastors should be paid.

Deut 25:4

Many other examples

The OT is woven into the fabric of the NT.

By some estimates – 1/3 of the NT is referencing the OT

Resource - (Beale and Carson)

* + - * + Then what IS Andy’s source?

As a Christian, as a pastor, for his church?

* + - * + **CLIP image of God**

His solution? View every person as made in the image of God

Where does Andy get that?

The Old Testament.

Andy says the OT is not a standard for any moral behavior for the church

Then, he offers an OT principle, from Gen 1, as the standard for moral behavior for the church.

So weird.

And bad.

* + - * + **CLIP unhitch**

Covenant fulfilled to covenant unhitched

Covenant to Scriptures

Circumcision to belief in.

* + - * + **CLIP unhitch 2**
        + “Church leaders unhitched the church from the worldview, value system, and regulations of the Jewish Scriptures.”

Not just salvation – the church.

Not true.

Example = that God loves Jews more than the rest of the world

Poor example – but he said “all” of it.

* + - * + “Many have lost faith because of something about the Bible or in the Bible, the Old Testament in particular. Once they could no longer accept all the historicity of the Old Testament. Once they couldn’t go along with all the miracles. Once somebody poked a hole in the Genesis creation, you know, myth. Once all that went away, suddenly their house of cards faith came tumbling down because they were taught it’s all true, it’s all God’s word, and if you find one part that’s not true, uh oh, the whole thing comes tumbling down. Not Christianity.”
        + “Your whole house of Old Testament cards can come tumbling down. The question is, did Jesus rise from the dead? And the eyewitnesses said, he did.”
        + Why is he doing this?

An apologetic concern

He hangs this on the apostles and Jesus!

No. Continuity, not separation.

Gary Habermas – minimal facts case for the res.

Minimal Christianity

How it could work

Skeptic - I doubt the OT

Me - Can we focus on Jesus and come back to that?

* + - * + “It’s liberating for people who find it virtually impossible to embrace… the dynamic, the worldview, and the value system depicted in the story of ancient Israel.”
        + **CLIP we must**

“Peter, James, Paul, elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish Scriptures. And my friends, we must as well.”

* + - * His message is clear
        + Christianity must teach people it’s ok to disbelieve the OT.

Andy says, “I believe the OT”

But he isn’t *teaching* that.

He’s teaching something else.

* + - * + You can build your faith in the OT on your faith in Jesus.

But you can’t separate Jesus from the OT.

* + - Hebrews says otherwise
      * “God spoke”
        + Not, “God used”
      * Continuity- God speaking in both
        + One built on the other

Remove all OT dependency from Hebrews and it won’t exist.

Same for the NT

* + - * Prophets, angels, Moses, priesthood, the temple, the sacrifices
        + The truth of the OT is the foundation

We aren’t under the Law, but we depend on the truth of the OT.

* + - * + The inspiration and truthfulness of the OT is an NT reality

More than that. The truth of Jesus requires it.

* + - * + It’s the foundation for the NT revelation of Jesus

***Romans 3:21 (ESV) 21But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—***

Jesus depends on it

***Matthew 5:17 (ESV) 17“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.***

Take the OT away, and Jesus fulfills nothing.

Paul shows how important the OT was when he describes his faith in Jesus this way.

***Acts 24:14 (ESV) 14But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,***

Do we need to believe it?

Yes. To be consistently Christian, we do.

Apollos didn’t disregard the OT, he used it to prove Jesus

***Acts 18:28 (ESV) 28for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.***

* + - * This is what Hebrews is teaching.
        + The culmination of the message in the Son
        + ***Matthew 13:16–17 (ESV) 16But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.***
        + ***1 Peter 1:10–12 (ESV) 10Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.***
    - Andy sees a real issue
      * Priorities vs principles
        + Priority resurrection
        + Principle it’s all true
      * Andy is doing good apologetics but bad theology
* But it’s not just about the theology/typology/prophecy
  + The deception of knowledge.
    - Knowing right vs being right
  + When God speaks you have to DO something!
    - Hebrews is huge on application.
      * And even warning.
        + Several scary warning passages in Hebrews
* But, there’s something more Hebrews is saying here.
  + Hebrews 1 isn’t just saying Jesus is another messenger.
  + Escalation
    - Notice this contrast
      * Verses 1-2 A variety of times and ways but consistently by prophets
        + Now he speaks through His son.

But isn’t Jesus a prophet?

Jesus is called a prophet in the NT (Mt 21:11)

Jesus strongly implies he is a prophet in…

***Mark 6:4 (ESV) 4And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.”***

As we’ll see in Hebrews, Jesus was a prophet, a king, a priest, and more. But he wasn’t MERELY those things. And he was more than anyone else who ever had those titles.

No other prophet was the SON.

* + - To see the contrast we should look at Jesus’ parable of the landowner.
      * ***Matthew 21:33–41 (ESV) 33“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.***
        + The OT uses this analogy of a man planting a vineyard and taking care of it to relate to God planting and helping Israel.

Isaiah 5:1-2 (1-7)

Jesus focuses on the tenants…

The leaders in Israel; priests, kings, leaders.

* + - * ***34When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.***
      * ***35And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.***
      * ***36Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.*** 
        + Prophets, messengers of God
      * ***37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’*** 
        + Escalation
      * ***38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’***
      * ***39And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.***
      * ***40When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”***
      * ***41They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”*** 
        + “other tenants” the apostles
      * When the Son shows up, the stakes are even higher.
        + Back to that in Hebrews 2
      * Just messengers whereas the Son has additional aspects.
        + 2 aspects of the Son in Hebrew 1:2

1. “Appointed heir of all things”

***Psalm 2:8 (ESV) 8Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.***

The Davidic king

Though Jesus set aside so much in the incarnation he earned it back in his worthiness, living the perfect life that NONE of us has lived.

***Matthew 28:18 (ESV) 18And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.***

It is his by nature (as Creator) AND by testing (as the last Adam)

2. “Through whom also he created the world”

Rabit trail – wisdom

* The connection between Heb 1 and wisdom traditions.
  + Connection to Proverbs 8 and the apocryphal Wisdom of Solomon.
    - Wis of Sol – 2nd century work, not written by Solomon.
      * Catholic OT.
  + Why see a connection here?
    - 1:3
      * “radiance” apaugasma
        + A word only found here in the NT or in the LXX

And in Wis of Sol 7:26

*Wis 7:26 “For she is a reflection of eternal light,  
a spotless mirror of the working of God,  
and an image of his goodness.”*

* + - * “upholds all things by the word of his power”
        + Wis 1:6-7 **6**For **wisdom is a kindly spirit**,  
          but it will not free blasphemers from the guilt of their words,  
          because God is witness of their inmost feelings  
          and a true observer of their hearts and a hearer of their tongues. **7**Because the spirit of the Lord has filled the world  
          and **that which holds all things together** knows what is said,
        + Wis 7:24 “For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;  
          because of her pureness **she pervades and penetrates all things**.
  + Wrong view
    - This canonizes the book Wisdom of Solomon
      * Other problems
        + The Jews never had it as Scripture

Not in Hebrew, too late, not from Solomon

Full of Greek concepts foreign to Solomon

Catholic Apologists sometimes claim the Jews rejected it because of it’s support for Jesus.

CLIP -

That’s weak.

Why not cut out Isaiah 53?

Even Jerome rejected it.

* + - * + The pre-existence of souls

Wisdom of Solomon 8:19–20 (NRSV) 19As a child I was naturally gifted, and a good soul fell to my lot; 20or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.

Reincarnation?

Pre-existent soul… likely

Undeniably, the quality of the human body depended on the goodness of the soul.

**John 9:2 *His disciples asked “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”***

**PIC Wis of Sol preexistence**

11 Translations confirm

(NRSV)

*19As a child I was naturally gifted, and a good soul fell to my lot; 20or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.*

(RSV)

*19As a child I was by nature well endowed, and a good soul fell to my lot; 20or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.*

(D-R)

*19And I was a witty child, and had received a good soul. 20And whereas I was more good, I came to a body undefiled.*

(KJV Apoc)

*19For I was a witty child, and had a good spirit. 20Yea rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled.*

(Apocrypha of the Old Testament, R.H. Charles)

*Now I was a child good by nature and a good soul fell to my lot; Nay rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled.*

(Lexham English Septuagint 2nd edition)

*19But I was a clever child, and I was appointed to be of a good soul; 20or rather, being good, I came into an undefiled body.*

(Brenton LXX En)

19For I was a witty child, and had a good spirit. 20Yea rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled.

(Wycliffe)

19A child forsothe I was witti, and bi lot hauende a good soule. 20And whan I was more good, I cam to a bodi vndefoulid.

(CEB)

19I was a clever child and had been born with a dignified attitude— 20or, better said, because my soul was already dignified, it entered a spotless body.

(GB)

19For I was a wittie childe, and was of a good spirit. 20Yea, rather being good, I came to an undefiled bodie.

(NETS (Primary Texts))

19I was a naturally clever child, and I obtained a good soul as my lot, 20or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body.

Rejected by church and Scripture

Gen 2:7 “became a living being”

Zech 12:1 God “formed the spirit of a man within him”

Ps 139:13-16 that before being in the womb you had not experienced any “days”

There’s only one person who the Bible says existed before he had a body.

Jesus. (Eph 1:4; Rev 13:8; Jn 8:57-58; Jn 1:1; Jn 17:5; Col 1:17)

* + - An error
      * Jesus is MERELY the idea of wisdom
        + He isn’t God
        + He is a created being
        + This becomes a filter for how to interpret other Scriptures too.

Several times the Bible says that Jesus participates as Creator of all things, by saying that everything was created “through him”

With the filter of, “Jesus is wisdom” you say he was made first and then God used him to make everything in the sense that God creates through wisdom.

It’s limiting.

* + 7 Reasons why Jesus being compared to wisdom doesn’t make him a created being
    - 1. Hebrews 1 directly calls him God
      * Next week, in detail!
        + 1:8, 10

“o, God”

“You, oh Lord” – YHVH – Ps 102:25-27

* + - * This is literally in the same chapter.
        + You can’t jump from Hebrews to Wis of Sol and ignore the direct context of Heb 1.
    - 2. Wisdom in Psalms is a type of Christ, not Christ
      * List of reasons
        + Is Jesus female?
        + Does he have sisters? Prudence?
    - 3. Other types
      * Moses
        + Is Jesus Moses reincarnated?
      * Adam
        + Is Jesus Adam? No, he’s like Adam

Representative

* + - * The Tabernacle
        + Is Jesus a building that was created by people?
      * The Bronze Serpent
        + Is Jesus a inanimate object fashioned by man?
      * Jesus is the Passover Lamb
        + Does he have lamb DNA and walk on four hooves?
      * The nature of typology is that Jesus is always compared to something less than God.
        + But Jesus is directly called God many times in Scripture

Including Hebrews 1.

* + - 4. Other titles
      * Jesus as prophet is not Jesus as merely prophet
      * As high priest, not merely high priest
      * As wisdom, not merely wisdom
      * Jesus as the bread of life is doesn’t mean he gets old and moldy if left out.
    - 5. To treat wisdom as LITERALLY created is deeply problematic
      * It means God wasn’t eternally wise.
        + He was eternally unwise until he created wisdom!
        + Oops.
      * I found one Arian who said that wisdom in Proverbs was created and so Jesus was created but that God still had wisdom before he created wisdom.
    - 6. The descriptions of Jesus’ actions in creation do not match wisdom.
      * Wisdom is a quality God uses in planning creation.
        + Jesus is creator

See vs 3

* + - 7. John 1 explicitly rejects that.
      * ***John 1:1–3 (NRSV) 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being***

If it was made, it isn’t Jesus.

Jesus wasn’t made.

* + - * + Prog Christian stuff

“but the Bible isn’t univocal”

* + - * Col rejects that
        + And Col, like Heb, is using ideas from Wis of Sol.

***Colossians 1:15–17 (NRSV) 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

* + - * **Typology video –**
  + To interpret the reference to Wis of Sol as limiting Jesus as a creation is the OPPOSITE of the intention of the author of Hebrews.
    - We need to let Hebrews tell us what it wants about Jesus and not go to Wis of Sol as if it is now driving our thoughts.
      * Hebrews has a different point to make and uses different words.
        + It is NOT a quote of Wis of Sol. Just an allusion.
        + Not a repetition of it, a usage of shared background info.
* Schriener says,
  + **PIC Wis of Sol Schreiner**
  + “The author likely draws here upon wisdom traditions, for we see in the OT that the Lord created the world in wisdom (Prov 3:19; 8:22–31; Ps 104:24; Jer 10:12; cf. Wis 7:22; 9:2). The **Son is greater than wisdom, however, for wisdom is a personification, but the Son existed as a person before the world was formed**. We can easily fail to see how astonishing this statement is. The one who was put to death in Jerusalem on a cross a few decades earlier is now praised as the one who created the world!” [emphasis mine]
    - Schreiner, T. R. (2021). *Hebrews*, 55-56.
* Through whom he created the world
  + This is MORE than just wisdom, a virtue God uses
    - It speaks of the Son’s role in creation as different from the Father.
      * You may have never noticed how many verses say this.
        + Jn 1:3 “created through him”

Yet he is unmade

* + - * + 1 Cor 8:6
        + Is it right to say Jesus created all things? Or is that only for the Father

Col 1:16 and 15

Vs 16 – through him

Vs 15 – by him

* + - * + Gen 1:1-2

Hebrews is in unison with the NT and OT here.

* + - A careful theology
      * Jesus, uncreated Creator – yet differentiated from the Father
        + Throughness
  + Another, easily lost point.
    - Jesus is the primary messenger and representative of God.
      * Not only because of sonship
      * Also because of being before (Heb 1:2 “through whom he created the world”)
        + John the Baptist represents this well.

John 1:29–30 (ESV) 29The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’

John represents the Law and prophets (Heb 1:1)

The mystery of his baptisms and forgiveness apart from the Temple.

Why?

Jn 1:29 “Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”

* Now, let’s talk about vs 3 and what it does and doesn’t mean.
  + As compared to the Wis of Sol

**3He 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,**

**4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.**

* The Christology is massive
  + “Radiance of the glory of God”
    - Radiance or reflection?
      * Ἀπαύγασμα may be understood actively, of light radiating out from a source, or passively, meaning “reflection.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
      * The Greek church fathers took this to be active
        + That’s what the Nicene Creed means when it says, “Light from Light”
      * The majority of modern commentaries take it to be passive, “reflection.”
      * What’s the difference
        + “radiance” implies deity
        + “reflection” could be true of Jesus or a created being that stands above all others.

Other statements in Hebrews rule out the latter.

He is God from God

* + - * Wis 7:26 “For she is a reflection of eternal light,  
        a spotless mirror of the working of God,  
        and an image of his goodness.”
        + In this, Jesus is MORE
  + “Exact imprint of his nature”
    - Wis 7:26 “…and an image of his goodness”
      * Wisdom is less.
    - As a human or something different?
      * We are all in God’s image.
    - ***2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV) 4In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*** 
      * “In the image”
        + humanity and deity
    - ***Colossians 1:15 (ESV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*** 
      * Jesus isn’t just like humanity in general, being made in God’s image. He is the God being visible to us through incarnation. He is uniquely the image of God, otherwise Col, and 2 Cor, and Hebrews, are saying NOTHING about him that isn’t true of every human.
  + John 1 connects both of these ideas.
    - ***John 1:9–10 (ESV) 9The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*** 
      * “radiance of the glory of God”
    - ***10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.*** 
      * “through whom also he created the world”
    - ***John 1:14 (ESV) 14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*** 
      * Again, radiance, and divinity.
        + “the only Son from the Father”

Cool stuff here.

* + Here’s something that’s said of Wisdom, in WofS, but not of Christ.
    - Wis 7:26 “a spotless mirror of the working of God,”
      * Too low for Jesus.
      * Hebrews is utilizing shared knowledge and concepts but not paralleling them equally.
        + This happens numerous times in the NT.

**Acts 17:28**

Paul quotes two pagans

Epimenides – speaking of Zeus

“In him we live and move and have our being”

“They fashioned a tomb for you, holy and high one, Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies. But you are not dead: you live and abide forever. For in you we live and move and have our being.”

(Cretans being liars is quoted by Paul in Titus 1:12)

Poet Aratus – speaking of Zeus

“We too are his offspring”

“All the streets and the marketplaces of humanity are full of Zeus. Also full of him are the sea and the harbors, and everywhere we all have need of Zeus. For we are also his offspring.”

but to say something different than they were.

He goes on to call them to repent of idolatry and reject pagan gods.

Zeus was

Not eternal

Created – Dad was Chronos

Chronos had a dad

Ruler of the gods, who were his relatives

Slept with tons of women while in disguise

Was a liar and flawed being

Not the Creator, not the sustainer.

* + “Upholds the universe by the word of his power”
    - A neglected doctrine of God.
      * God as sustainer
        + ***Colossians 1:17 (ESV)17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

You can see why many say, even if Paul didn’t write Hebrews, the theology of Hebrews is Pauline.

There are a lot of connections you will see as we study through the book together.

* + - * + OT –

Ps 75:3 when the earth totters, God keeps it steady

* + - * + Divine Aseity

God’s self-existence

Not contingent

Isaiah 40:28 (ESV) 28Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth…

Uncreated creator.

* + - A philosophical problem – what sustains all this creation?
      * A scientific problem too
        + We observe constants, but don’t know why
    - Compared to Wis of Sol, this is different.
      * “by the word of his power”
        + Gen 1 connection
        + Jesus is the one who possesses the POWER to uphold the universe, not just a personification of a quality by which it is designed.
        + Again, a typological connection to Wisdom

But Jesus exceeds it.

* + Here’s a verse that combines this with the idea that there is only one God.
    - Romans 11:36 (ESV) 36For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
      * How can it be true that the Father creates through the Son while there is only one God that all things are “from” and “through”
        + That’s father and son language, of the one God.

Trinity.

* + 1:3 drops a priesthood bomb.
    - Note the phrasing “making purification for sins”
      * Anyone can bring an offering but only a priest can “make purification for sins”
      * This is what a priest does.
    - In the Scripture, there’s only one sacrifice Jesus ever offered.
      * Himself.
    - This is a HUGE topic in Hebrews, we’ll go deep on it in the book.
      * Vs 3 sets it up as important from the start.
  + THEN sat down at the right hand of God
    - Foreshadowing
* From prophets to angels
  + Why angels?
* A problem with in-depth verse studies
  + We can lose the flow of the passage.
    - The flow –
      * Heb 1:1-3
        + God is NOW speaking through his son.

Who is God

Eternal, creator, sustainer

The heir of ALL THINGS

Come to earth

The radiance of God, who came among us, made purififcation for sins,

* + - * + This is entirely consistent with the OT

In pictures, prophecy, etc.

And that’s what Hebrews is all about.

Continuity, fulfillment, and escalation,

* + - Stand in awe of Christ
  + Next time
    - Jesus compared to angels
      * JW theology vs Heb 1.
  + When??? I don’t know, it’s moving slow.

1. Rayburn, R. S. (1995). [Hebrews](https://ref.ly/logosres/ecb?ref=Bible.Heb1.1-4&off=75&ctx=ramatic+exordium+is+~less+an+introduction). In *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* (Vol. 3, p. 1131). Baker Book House. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ellingworth, P. (1993). [*The Epistle to the Hebrews: a commentary on the Greek text*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nigtcheb?ref=Bible.Heb1.3&off=5970) (p. 98). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)