**Hebrews- Greater Than**

**Behold!- Week #1**

**Small Group Notes**

**April 15 and 18, 2021**

**Introduction:**

**What technological change or advancement in your lifetime most amazes you?**

**How long did that change or advancement remain relevant before it was updated or replaced?**

**Does that frustrate you? That no matter what piece of technology or equipment you have, it will eventually be replaced? Why or why not?**

For our discussion, we are going to see how Hebrews is a letter about the superiority of Christ. To see Jesus as superior in our lives, it means that there will never be a time that he wears out or becomes outdated, rather, we are encouraged to persevere with Him!

Therefore, to begin to understand Hebrews we will see two things:

* Because Jesus is greater than all things, he is worthy of beholding.
* Because He is greater than, we are better than (where we are with Him versus our lives before Christ).

**Discuss:**

1. Hebrews 1:1-2: **In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.**

* Jesus is a greater word.

Explain: God previously spoke in fragments, at “different times,” and in “different ways.” This included visions, angels, events, and people. Now God has spoken “to us” truly and fully through His Son. It does not do away with what was said before but we now begin to see how what God said eventually became revealed in Jesus Christ! Therefore, the contrast of what was said then versus now affirms that Christ is superior to the Old Testament system because God speaks directly to us through His Son Jesus Christ, the complete, final Word of God.

Ask:

**Why is it important to know that our God is a God who speaks? What would be some of the implications for our lives if God was completely silent?**

**What are some of the ways people might show they don’t believe that Jesus is the complete and final Word of God to us?**

**How does God speak to you? When is it easiest—and hardest—to hear His voice? Why is it important to recognize God’s voice?**

2. Hebrews 1:3a: **The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.**

* Jesus is worthy to behold.

Explain: Perhaps no other single verse in Scripture (Verse 3) reveals more about the Person and the work of Jesus Christ. We learn about Jesus’ unique nature, His Deity, His sustaining power over the universe, His accomplishment as the perfect Sacrifice, and His exaltation forever as Lord. All of this treasure is in one verse!

Ask:

**What phrases in Hebrews 1:3a describe how God is revealed in Jesus Christ? How would you explain these verses to an unbeliever or a new Christian?**

**How does understanding more about who Jesus is shape the way that we worship Him both privately and corporately?**

**What part of verse 3 would have been encouraging for someone to hear that is going through persecution or suffering? Why?**

3. Hebrews 1:3b-4: **After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.**

* Because He is greater than, we are better than.

Explain: The writer of Hebrews pointed out that after Jesus made purification for sins (the crucifixion), He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (the resurrection and ascension). The Son is exalted to the place of sovereign authority, where He both rules and intercedes as King and High Priest. He speaks God’s Word as the Prophet (see Deut. 18:15). The phrase right hand of the Majesty describes the supremacy of Christ and alludes to Psalm 110:1. Jesus the Eternal Son of God lives and rules with the power of God the Father, doing so with all authority as the One who bears God’s own name. Therefore, showing His authority, person, and power being supreme to any angel.

Ask:

**Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What connections to do you see between what is affirmed about Jesus in these versus and verse 3? Are there some things that Ephesians affirms that verse 3 does not?**

**What is a way that what was discussed could be encouraging to someone else?**

**Put in your own words from what was discussed today ways that Jesus is greater than!**