

Hebrews 1:1-3 — Jesus Is Greater

December 1, 2019

Welcome to CrossWinds and welcome to the Christmas season. If you are like me, this Christmas season snuck up on you. Even though I don't feel prepared for Christmas, I am glad it is here. It is always good to see the lights, Christmas trees, decorations and the change of pace that comes with the season. While Santa, sleighs, and presents are fun, we know they are not the reason for the season. The reason for the season is Jesus. Christmas is intended to be a time to stop the busyness of life so we can savor the good news of Jesus.

The problem is that Christmas is the busiest time of year. It is hectic! Most of us spend more time anticipating what will be served for Christmas dinner than we do anticipating Jesus at this time of year.

This is why for the month of December we are taking a break from our study in the Gospel of Mark to study the significance of Jesus taking on flesh, the significance of Christmas.

To do that, we are taking a look at snapshots of Jesus from the book of Hebrews. There is probably no book in the Bible that is more Christ-exalting than the book of Hebrews. That is why we are going to look at snapshots of Jesus from this book.

If you want to summarize what the book of Hebrews says about Jesus in one sentence, it would be this.

Jesus is greater.

Jesus is greater than anything God has ever done for us in the past. In Jesus, God revealed himself to us more fully than he has ever done. In Jesus,

God gives us greater forgiveness of sin than was ever found under the Old Testament law. In Jesus, we have a greater relationship with God than anyone has ever had before. In Jesus, we are better off in everything. In fact, what God has done for us in Jesus is so great that if God wanted to improve on what he has already done for us through Jesus, he couldn't. It can't get any greater for us than what God has already done for us through Jesus. That is how great it is to have Jesus.

I will give the first and last messages in this series. Other members of the pastoral team will give the middle messages. We will also be rotating pastors across campuses so at times, I will be in Spencer and Pastor Jordan from our Spencer campus will be here.

Turn in your Bibles to Hebrews 1:1. While you are finding that verse, let me take a few minutes to tell you about the background of the book of Hebrews before we jump into our study.

What is the background of Hebrews?

Hebrews is a book in our Bible that was most likely written to Jewish Christians in Rome. We don't know that for sure but there are clues in the book that lead us that direction. In Hebrew 13:24, the author says, "those from Italy send their greetings." Apparently this letter was originally intended for people in Italy, that is people in Rome. That is why the author of Hebrews says those from Italy send their greetings. In addition, the book of Hebrews was first recognized as Scripture in Rome, which leads us to believe that is where it first showed up.

The book of Hebrews also tells us it was written to Christians who were persecuted for following Jesus. Being a Christian for some of them meant so

much suffering that some of them were considering quitting. They considered giving up their faith. We see constant encouragement to hold onto the faith and hold onto Christ in the book of Hebrews.

...let us hold fast our confession. Hebrews 4:14 (ESV)

Apparently some were considering giving up their confession of faith. The writer of Hebrews told people to hold on to their faith.

...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

Some had stopped meeting together to encourage one another because it was too costly to be a Christian. The writer of Hebrews said, “Don’t stop meeting together.”

How much suffering for Jesus were these Christians enduring for Jesus?

We know that in Rome at this time, the Roman emperor was named Nero. He, along with other emperors that followed him, were notorious for their merciless persecution of Christians for their faith. Nero blamed the great fire of Rome on Christians so they could serve as scapegoats for his wrath. He took Christians, tied them to stakes, covered them with tar, then lit them on fire so they could serve as human torches while they were still alive. He threw others into the gladiatorial arena where they were slaughtered by vicious soldiers. Others were thrown into the arena where they were torn apart by wild animals.

The writer of Hebrews told them, “Don’t give up your faith in Jesus. Even if you have to suffer and die for Jesus, he is worth holding onto no matter what price you pay. What we have in Jesus is so great it is even worthy dying for. Having Jesus is greater than having anything else in the universe.”

Incidentally, the writer of Hebrews never told us his name. There are many guesses about who wrote Hebrews. Rather than speculating who wrote the book, I believe the writer of Hebrews did not put his name in the book for a reason.

The book of Hebrews is a literary masterpiece that focuses on the greatness of Jesus on every page. I am convinced the reason the author did not sign his name is because he wanted people to remember the greatness of Jesus after reading his book rather than remember the linguistic skills of the author after reading his book. *The more of the spotlight we take, the less of the spotlight Jesus gets.* The writer of Hebrews wanted everyone who reads his book to walk away saying, "Wow, Jesus is a great savior." Not, "That is guy is a great author." He didn't sign his name because he didn't want people remembering his name. He wanted people remembering Jesus' name.

One other thing that is important to know about this book is that it has a lot of quotations in it from the Old Testament. The author used them to show us that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah that fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. The problem is when we look up the Old Testament verses that the author of Hebrews quoted, we notice they read slightly different than the way they appear in our Old Testament. Why are there slight variations?

It is because the writer of Hebrews originally wrote this letter in Greek. When he quoted passages in the Old Testament, which were originally written in Hebrew, he quoted from a popular Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament in his day called the Septuagint. So the reason some of his quotes from his Old Testament do not match exactly to our Old Testament is because

our Old Testament is an English translation of the original Hebrew. His quotations are translated from Hebrew to the Greek Septuagint then to English. When we translate something across multiple languages it starts to read a little differently than it was originally written. There are no substantive difference in these quotes, just slight linguistic differences.

That is the background. Let's get to the beginning of the book.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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. 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... Hebrews 1:1–3 (ESV)

The theme of these opening verses is that Jesus is greater. The writer of Hebrews begins by telling us Jesus is greater than any other way God has spoken to us in the past.

Jesus is a greater word from God.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... Hebrews 1:1–2a (ESV)

The writer of Hebrews was making a comparison. In the past, God spoke to us through prophets. God put his words in the thoughts of the prophets. God guided the prophets to write exactly what God wanted them to say so they gave God's words exactly as God wanted them spoken. That is the Old Testament. It is God's words to us spoken by the mouth of the prophets to us. Peter told this to us.

...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)

These verses tell us no word of prophecy came about by a prophet's own interpretation or ideas. This means Isaiah was not sitting on his back porch one afternoon and when he was bored, he decided to write some Bible before dinner. That is not what happened. The originator of the thoughts behind the words prophets spoke was God. God worked in Isaiah so God gave Isaiah the words in his mind that he wanted spoken, then God superintended Isaiah so he spoke exactly what God wanted to say to his people without error. We have never experienced anything like this. All our thoughts are self-generated and self-interpreted. Not so for the prophets. This is amazing. In our Old Testament it says several thousand times, "Thus sayeth the Lord." They could write that because the prophets know they were not speaking and writing their words. They were speaking and writing God's words. The prophets were speaking and writing exactly the words God wanted them to say.

This is why God warned the people in the book of Jeremiah to be careful about false prophets.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord." Jeremiah 23:16 (ESV)

If that isn't amazing enough, we have something greater than the very words of God spoken without error through the mouths of the prophets. God didn't just speak to us through words. He spoke to us through Jesus, his own son. God spoke to us by becoming one of us. Now God has spoken to us not with just words. Jesus eliminated the middle man. It is not just words from God through the prophets and to us. God came in the flesh as Jesus, and he spoke directly to us in words and in actions.

And 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. John 1:14 (ESV)

It was Jesus who spoke to the prophets and through the prophets in the past. Jesus took on flesh to speak to us directly. That is much greater.

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. John 14:10 (ESV)

To hear Jesus speak was to literally hear God speak. Jesus was a much greater word than anything God had spoken to us before.

One of the shows I used to watch was Extreme Home Makeover. In one episode, they rebuilt the home of a family whose husband was serving in Iraq. When the home was revealed to the family after the makeover, Ty — who was the host of the show — said to the wife, “We know your husband can’t be with us so we have arranged to have him on the phone with you for this special moment.” As the wife held the phone she cried in amazement when she saw her new home. When she walked through her new home, she kept describing it to her husband on the phone saying, “I wish you could be here.” She had his words, but she desperately wanted something more. She wanted him.

As the house reveal came to an end, the group ended up in the backyard. There, her husband on the phone told his wife he needed to go and they hung up. You could see that she was visibly heartbroken. In reality, the producers of the show had not just arranged to have her husband on the phone in Iraq. They paid to fly her husband back from Iraq. He was hiding behind a bush in the backyard. When he hung up the phone, he leapt from behind the bush and

wrapped his arms around his wife. She went crazy! She had what she wanted. She wanted something much greater than his words. She wanted him.

That is what life for us is with Jesus. It was great to have the words of God through the Old Testament prophets but our hearts longed for something better. Our hearts longed for God. In Jesus, we have God in the flesh who came for you and me. My friends, there can be no greater word from God than having God speak directly to us in the flesh by becoming one of us. Jesus is much greater than anything God has done in the past. There is nothing greater that God can do for us in the future other than what he has already done for us through Jesus.

Next the writer of Hebrews gave us six descriptions of Jesus' greatness to help us understand just how great it is for us to have Jesus.

Jesus is the heir of all things.

...whom he appointed heir of all things... Hebrews 1:2

An heir is someone designated to receive assets. Typically, this occurs at a point in the future and is associated with someone's death. God the Father has designated that Jesus is the rightful owner of all things that exist. We will see this take place at a designated time in the future. We can't get much higher in the universe than being the one who is appointed the heir of all things in the universe. Look what the Bible says about Jesus being the one who will inherit all things and be in charge of all things.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

Paul said all things in the physical world and the invisible spiritual world were not just created by Jesus but were created for Jesus, to serve him. Jesus is

the rightful rulers of all things. Paul detailed some of those things that Jesus created that we will one day see him exercising his authority over. Paul said, “Whether thrones, powers, rulers, and authorities...” Those are titles for different ranks and powers of angels. While Paul didn’t explain the differing ranks and orders of angels, his point was that there exists not just a vast physical world but also a vast angelic world. Everything in the physical universe and the vast spiritual universe will bow to Jesus and serve him. Paul said it this way in the book of Philippians.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV)

As we know, not all spiritual beings and human beings are currently acknowledging Jesus, but one day they will. Jesus will inherit all things.

Psalms 2 prophetically speaks about Jesus one day being the rightful ruler of the earth.

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

While we do not yet see Jesus ruling over all things in the universe, since he is designated the heir of all things in the universe, know there is coming a time when we will see Jesus as the rightful ruler over all things.

The writer of Hebrews wants us to fathom how great it is that we have Jesus. Jesus is God revealing himself to us in a way much greater than he did in the past. The one who will inherit the universe and to whom every godly angel and every fallen demonic power will bow is Jesus. The one who permanently fused himself to a human body to die for you and me to save us and to adopt us

to be his brothers and sisters, the most blessed beings in the universe for all eternity, was the baby in the manger.

The thought of what God did for us through Jesus literally sends chills down my spine. That is why we must not lose Jesus in Christmas. Jesus is greater than anything God has ever done. Jesus is greater than anything God could possibly do! He is the heir of all things.

Jesus is the creator of the universe.

...through whom also he made the world. Hebrews 1:2 (ESV)

When God created the universe, the Bible tells us it was a team effort. God the Father planned creation. God the Son actually carried out the making of creation. The Holy Spirit was also involved in creation. Genesis 1:2 says the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters while the world was being created. The book of Hebrews and the verses in Colossians that we just studied described Jesus' role as being the one who actually created all things. The Gospel of John also describes the role of Jesus in creating the universe.

All things were made through him (Jesus), and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:3 (ESV)

As we just learned, Jesus created the vast physical universe and the even more vast spiritual universe. Let's just focus on understanding the vastness of the physical universe for a moment. Stephen Hawking, the brilliant Cambridge physicist, spent his life examining the universe. In his best selling book, A Brief History of Time, he described the size of our galaxy in relation to the rest of the universe.

...an average-sized spiral galaxy that looks like a swirl in a pastry roll, but it is 100,000 light years in diameter (600 trillion miles). Our galaxy is only one of

some hundred thousand million that can be seen with modern telescopes. Each of those galaxies contains some hundred thousand million stars. The average distance between each galaxy is 3 million light years.

The amazing part is Jesus created all of it. We live in a universe that is bigger than we can imagine. In our graphic, we can see the sized of our galaxy and where our tiny planet is located in the galaxy.



What amazes me is that in all the vast universe with everything that is going on, God took an interest in us. When sin came into the world, and a third of the vast angelic universe rebelled against God and followed Satan into sin, Jesus did not do anything to save any of the fallen angels in the universe. Instead, he took an interest in saving a portion of humanity. We are so humbled that in all of the vast universe that Jesus created, he took an interest in saving and redeeming us, when he didn't need to do that. To save us, he humbled himself to be born in Bethlehem and take on human flesh forever to save you and me. Nothing could be greater. That is how much God loves us. That is how much Jesus loves us.

Jesus being born in Bethlehem to save us is greater than anything God has ever done or could ever do. How can you improve on the one who created the universe becoming one of us so he could completely relate to us, so that he could die for us to free us from sin, then adopt us and make us the most blessed beings in the universe? What can be better than this news? This is why we cannot lose sight of Jesus in Christmas.

Jesus sustains everything by his power.

...he upholds the universe by the word of his power. Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

Sustaining the universe is different than creating the universe. Sustaining something is often more work than creating something. Ask any parent. Creating children is the easy part. It is sustaining that child for the next 18 years that is the hard part.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, a belief developed called deism. Deists believed that God created the universe then walked away from the universe. They described the universe like a watch. God created it, wound it up, but he walked away to let it run on its own. They claimed that is why God feels so distant and our prayers can at times feel like they aren't making a difference. This popular belief — that God created the world but is no longer actively involved in the world — remains popular today with many agnostics. The problem is that when we look at the Bible, God being uninvolved in the universe is not an option.

The opening verses of Hebrews tell us Jesus is currently involved in the moment by moment operation of the universe. Jesus is sustaining the universe so it runs smoothly. This is what makes me laugh when we see people on the news who claim the world will come to an end in 12 years because we will destroy it through global warming. They claim we hold the future of Earth in our hands. That is not true. Jesus is the one who sustains the future of Earth by his hands. I am not saying we should be irresponsible with the earth but I am saying Jesus is the one who is currently sustaining Earth. If it was up to us to sustain the planet, we would screw it up in a hurry.

Jesus doesn't just sustain the planet but he is the one who sustains our lives every day. Jesus is the one who provides exactly what we need every day

to serve him. We can see this in the Old Testament. Jude told us it was Jesus who led the people of Israel out of Egypt in the Old Testament. Jesus was also the one who provided manna for the Israelites each day while they wandering for 40 years in the desert. Each day Jesus provided the Israelites with just enough manna for one day. If they tried to store it, it went bad and was filled with worms. On the day before the Sabbath, Jesus provided enough manna for two days. When the people of Israel stored up that manna, it did not get filled with maggots but Jesus supernaturally made sure it lasted an extra day. This means Jesus is the one who miraculously provided the daily bread for the Israelites in the wilderness each day for 40 years.

It is not just in the past that Jesus sustained people's lives. He does the same for you and me today. The one who is providing our daily bread and sustaining our lives every moment is the baby in the manger. He is not just sustaining our lives but he is sustaining the entire universe each and every moment. It is mind bending to think the Jesus who sustains the universe took on a human body forever to completely identify with us, understand us, and most of all, save us from our sin and adopt us as his brothers and sisters for all eternity, to make us part of his family. How much greater can it get than Jesus taking on flesh for us at Christmas?

In the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus performing miracles. Some people struggle with Jesus performing miracles. They claim Jesus' miracles couldn't happen because miracles don't happen. Let me tell you a secret. Since Jesus is the one who created the laws of the universe and since he is the one who

maintains the laws of the universe, he has absolutely no problem bending the laws of the universe to perform a miracle whenever he wants.

Jesus is the radiance of God's glory.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...
Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

This is the heart and soul of what the writer of the Hebrews was driving at in these opening verses. He described this by two parallel clauses to teach us about the greatness of Jesus' identity.

In the first clause he said, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory." What does that mean? While the writer was focusing on light, he was not emphasizing the visual appearance of light. He was using some basic science about light to teach us about Jesus and his nature. The writer was contrasting *radiated light* with *reflected light* to teach us about Jesus. When light radiates from a source, it contains part of that source. When light is reflected off something, it does not contain what it is reflecting. Let me give you an illustration.

Think of the sun. The light that radiates from the sun contains the essence of the sun in it. The sun is burning at 15,000 degrees. The light from the sun leaves the sun and travels thousands of miles then lands on the Iowa countryside to grow our corn and soybeans. When it lands on our skin, we can feel the warmth of the sun's fire even though it is thousands of miles away. We feel the warmth of the sun's fire because radiated light contains the essence of the sun's fire. That is why we get sunburn.

Contrast that with reflected light. For an example of reflected light, think of moonlight. Moonlight does not come from the moon. It only bounces off the

moon. Moonlight does not contain the essence of moon in it. That is why nobody gets moonburn.

The writer of Hebrews said Jesus does not reflect God's glory. The glory of God does not bounce off Jesus like he is a moon. On the contrary, Jesus radiates God's glory out of him because he innately contains the glory of God in him. That means Jesus is God because he radiates the glory of God. Jesus does not get the brightness of his glory from God. Jesus is God so he innately possesses the glory of God.

In Revelation, it describes the new creation that God will eventually make for us to live in. It will be this creation but it will be stripped free from the effects of sin and death. It describes the new Jerusalem, which will be the capital city of the new creation. It describes where the light on the new Earth comes from. All of the light does not come from the sun. It comes from the son, as Jesus radiates the glory of God to provide the light in the new creation.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb (Jesus). Revelation 21:23 (ESV)

This is amazing. Jesus' innate glory is so bright he can light up our planet. He will light up the new creation. Peter, James, and John had a glimpse of that glory in the Gospel of Mark when Jesus was transfigured on Mt. Hermon. It said Jesus' face shown with the brightness of the sun and his clothes flashed white as lightning. Jesus let his glory shine.

The parallel clause the writer of the Hebrews used tells us the same thing but in a different way. It says, "Jesus is the exact representation of God's being." The wording used here was originally used to describe the way a seal was

placed into hot wax. When you press a seal into the hot wax, it makes a perfect counterpart of the seal. The stamp and the wax seal are two distinctly different things but yet they are two completely identical things. To see one is to see the other. That is Jesus. He is distinctly different from God the Father, but he is identical in character and nature to God the Father because he is God. This is why Jesus taking on flesh in Bethlehem to become one of us and to die for us is so great. There is nothing greater God can do than to send his son, very God in very God, to be one of us, die for us, and to save us.

Jesus purifies us from sin.

After making purification for sins... Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

Not only is God the Son taking on flesh greater than any word God spoke to us in the past, but the work Jesus came to do is greater than any other work God has done for us. There are many facets to the greatness of that work and the book of Hebrews will explain many of them. In the beginning of his book, the author gives us just one of those facets. Jesus came to provide purification for our sin.

The verb purification is in a Greek tense that represents something that was completed in the past that has ramifications for the present. Christ is not still paying for your sins and my sins. He completely paid for your sin and my sin in full in the past. What Jesus did for us on the cross is so great that after 2,000 years it has ramifications for our sin in the present.

This means all of the sins we have ever done or will ever do were paid for by Jesus when he died for them on the cross. This is why the last three words of Jesus on the cross were "It is finished." In Greek, those words mean, "Paid in

full!” Complete payment for all of our sin was made. When we confess our sin to Jesus and ask Jesus to forgive our sin, in that moment, all of our sin is given to Jesus. At the same time all of the righteousness, perfection, and purity of Christ is given to us. There is a great exchange that takes place.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

Jesus does not just provide judicial purification for our sin before God but he also provides experimental purification in our daily lives. Let me describe it this way. Do you have stains in your household carpet? They say every stain has a story. Stains remind us of something we did in the past that we wish we had never done. We wish we could take away the stain, not constantly see it and be reminded of the mess when we see the stain.

When our children were little, there was one nasty stain in our house. Cindy and I had an old chair with a cushion on it. At that time, we had an old house that had mice in it. With kids around the house, there were always crumbs on the floor. Apparently a mouse crawled between the cushion and the chair to get some of those crumbs; then somebody sat on the chair, killing the mouse. The problem was nobody realized there was a dead rotting mouse between the cushion and the chair. We had no idea where the bad smell was coming from in the house. As the mouse continued to decompose, we kept sitting in the chair. Let’s just say that when we eventually picked up the cushion and saw the stain, we soon realized there was nothing we could do to get that stain out of the chair. We just had to live with it. Every time we saw the stain, we remembered where

the stain came from and what it was that was still in the chair. Eventually, we had to throw the chair away.

The same is true for our lives. There are things we have done, sinful choices we have made in the past that haunt us. We look at the sinful choices we have made in the past and are filled with an overwhelming sense of shame because of what we have done. We are stuck with the stains in our lives. Each of us desperately wish there was a way to get the stain out. We wish there was a way to be completely clean. Is there a way to stop living in the shadow of our regrets? There is. His name is Jesus.

Later in the book of Hebrews, we read these words.

But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Hebrews 10:3–4 (ESV)

All the Old Testament sacrificial system did was provide a reminder of sin. The blood of bulls and goats never actually took away sin. It never actually removed the stain of sin from people's life. Jesus dealt with sin differently. Not only did his death on the cross make us judicially right before God, but he dealt with the overwhelming sense of guilt and shame that plagues our lives. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sin, Jesus makes us into completely new people. He takes away the stain of our sin. The defining moments in our lives are no longer the sins we have done in the past but the new people we have become in Christ in the present.

Paul said it this way.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

With Jesus, we are no longer sin-stained people but new creations that are completely pure and made new because of Jesus. Some of us this morning are here haunted by the stain of sins in our pasts. Come to Jesus. Be made new. Be made clean. Don't just be your sin-stained, old person. In Jesus, be a completely new person, a new creation. What could be greater than that? Jesus is greater than anything God has done for us in the past, and there is nothing greater that God could do for us in the future other than what he has already done for us through Jesus.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

...he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high... Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

The writer of Hebrews also said that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. That is significant. Being the right-hand man of God the Father is the highest position in the universe. There is no higher position that can be held than being God the Father's right-hand man. The writer of the book of Hebrew later wrote what Jesus is doing now that he is seated at the right hand of God.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)

Now that Jesus has saved us to the uttermost, he is pleading our prayers to God the Father for us. Imagine that. We have the second person of the Trinity, who took on flesh to completely understand us and to completely save us, sitting at God the Father's right hand as our personal advocate to the heavenly father, pleading our prayers and concerns to him. Jesus understands us. Jesus loves us. What greater thing could God do for us than to give us his own son as our

personal advocate to him? This is why we celebrate Christmas and why we celebrate Jesus at Christmas time more than trees, presents and lights.

Conclusion

Jesus is greater. Jesus is greater than anything God has done in the past. Jesus is so great, there is nothing greater that God could do for us than what he has already done for us through Jesus. This year, as we step into the Christmas season, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Light, trees, decorations, and presents are good things, but we fix our eyes on Jesus because there is nothing greater than him and what God has done for us through him. Jesus is a greater word of God than the prophets. He is the heir of all things. He is the creator of all things. He is the one sustaining all things. He is the radiance of God's glory. He is the one who has completely purified us from all of our sin. He is the one who is right now sitting at the right hand of God the Father, pleading our prayers to him. Jesus is greater. He is greater than everything else God has ever done. There is nothing greater that God could ever do.



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