Hebrews 1:1-4 July 17, 2016

# God Has Spoken "Trustworthy Son"

<u>Introduction</u>: To entrust our resources, health, welfare, lives to someone requires extraordinary confidence in them.

- Greater the risk—greater the level of trust needed
- Finances, stocks—advisor
- Health, doctor
- Cheerleaders, jump into arms
- Teams/Staff—trust exercises

#### (ILL) Charles Blondin (French tight rope walker)

- 1<sup>st</sup> to cross 11,000 feet across Niagra Falls
- Stilts, in a sack, blindfolded, carrying stove cooking omelet
- "Who thinks I can push a person in a wheel barrow?"
- All did—none would—huge level of trust
- 1859 (August) Mgr. Harris Colcord did ride on back—HUGE TRUST

### Context of Hebrews: Was Christianity REALLY the answer?

- Should they risk persecution for this cause?
- Is there another way other than Christ?
- Can they return to Judaism and be safe?

#### NOTE: Eternal life depends on this decision/commitment and still does

- 1. Opening statement—"God has spoken through His Son!"
- 2. You CAN entrust your life to Him
- 3. Even greater than Moses, Angels, prophets
- 4. Before author goes further—great detail to reveal who Son is

Two Main Reasons for This:

#### FIRST:

— It was important to the author that his readers did not see Christ as only one of many instruments through whom God speaks; final and definite revelation.

NOTE: Will rehearse some of His greatest excellencies

### **SECOND:**

— The author understood as Andrew Murray once wrote, "That our knowledge of Christ is food for our faith."

NOTE: The better we know Him the greater our trust in Him will be!

God has spoken by HIS SON!

### I. The STATUS of the Son

# "... Whom He has appointed heir of all things."

- A. As the author of Hebrews begins his description of the Son—starts with "heirship" for two reasons.
  - 1. <u>Rhetorically effective</u>: It focuses the waffling reader's attention to the central concern of Hebrews.

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. Hebrews 8:1 NKJV

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. Hebrews 12:1-3 NKJV

- a. He can strengthen us in our trials
- b. Helps us to endure and gain our inheritance
- c. That inheritance awaits those who persevere

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14 NKJV

That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:12 NKJV

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath. Hebrews 6:17 NKJV

And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Hebrews 9:15 NKJV

PERSEVERE—in Him is inheritance

## 2. Relationship between SONSHIP and HEIRSHIP

- a. When He sat down at right hand of majesty on high—entered into role as universal head.
- b. Full exercise of this will occur at His Second Coming—when enemies are made His footstool

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Hebrews 1:13 NKJV

You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. Hebrews 2:8-10 NKJV

### B. This heirship was the predestined reward of his voluntary humiliation

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV

NOTE: One who had no place to lay His head is now the lawful possessor of the universe.

C. Because of our union with the Son we are heirs of this inheritance too

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:15-17 NKJV

- 1. Angels can never be
- 2. We can never be "joint-Lords" but we are "joint-heirs"

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one. John 17:22 NKJV

Don't shrink back—HE IS TRUSTWORTHY SON—HEIR of all things—made us joint-heir

## II. The NATURE of the Son

3-Fold Nature of the Son

- A. Eternal Son—"through whom He made the worlds"
- 1. Echoes John

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3 NKJV

2. Echoes Paul

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16 NKJV

3. "Worlds" ("aion"-eye-ōne)—"ages"

And have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come. Hebrews 6:5 NKJV

He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Hebrews 9:26 NKJV

- a. Through Jesus he made all the ages of the world and all they contain.
- b. God's revelation in His Son is final and definitive because it comes through the One who is Creator of all things!

# 4. Act of creation and ultimate sovereignty are divine prerogatives—NEVER DELEGATES HIS NATURE

Eternally Existent Creator and Sovereign

John Wesley

Eternal Son, Eternal Love Take to Thyself Thy mighty power Let all earth's sons Thy mercy prove Let all Thy saving grace adore

The triumphs of Thy love display In Every heart reign Thou alone Till all Thy foes confess Thy sway And glory ends what grace hegun

B. Revelatory Son

"Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person."

- 1. <u>Brightness of His glory</u> (reveals God's nature)
  - a. Moses' request

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." Exodus 33:18 NKJV

b. God's response

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." 20 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." Exodus 33:19-23 NKJV

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. Exodus 34:5-6 NKJV

c. John's declaration

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NKJV

SON—The outshining of who God really is!

"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:7-9 NKJV

## 2. Express image of His person

- a. Greek word we use to describe impression left by a seal on a coin
- b. Exact correspondence between impression and the seal that made it
- c. Perfect imprint of the very being of God

NOTE: Preserves distinctions but also finality in revelation

NOTE ALSO: Though we had never seen the seal, we might from beholding the impression on it, form a true and accurate idea of the seal itself.

### C. Exalted Son

"...Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High."

Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:4 NKJV

1. The One who humbled Himself is now exalted

NOTE: Sitting in Scripture is a posture of great dignity (superiors sit before inferiority)

The young men saw me and hid, And the aged arose and stood. Job 29:8 NKJV

"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. Daniel 7:9-10 NKJV

## 2. This exaltation is a position of continuance

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall. 23
The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. 24 But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel) Genesis 49:22-24 NKJV

(Jacob blessing Joseph)

3. Right hand (place of authority)—Majesty on High

<u>NOTE</u>: The most exalted seat in the universe now belongs to the One who had no place to lay His head.

Trustworthiness of the Son?

- Heir of universe
- Eternally existent
- Revelation of God
- Now exalted Son

### III. The ACTIVITY of the Son

v. 3 "...upholding all things by the word of His power."

<u>NOTE:</u> The creator and universal heir of all things is also the One who sustains the universe.

ALSO: Sustains the universe by the same word He created it!

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3 NKJV

- A. Upholding (Greek)—"phero" to carry, bear with, or carry a burden, support
- B. By His Word—not His effort (winds and waves, sickness and despair, demons and even death will submit to His word!

"To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing. Isaiah 40:25, 26 NKJV

### IV. The WORK of the Son

(Activity=What He is doing/Work=What He has done)

# v. 3..." When He had Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High."

- A. He purged our sins (4 things noted)
  - 1. Sin has to be purged
  - 2. He did it Himself
  - 3. It is a grander excellency than even creation (brought greater glory to God than even creation!
  - 4. It was the purpose of His humiliation (not to teach humanity wisdom, to rule, to show off majesty)

#### TO PURGE OUR SINS!

### B. He Sat Down

- 1. Signifies rest, cessation, completion as well
- 2. No provision made for Israel's priest to sit down—no chair in the Tabernacle's furniture.

#### **WORK NEVER DONE!**

3. Jesus' work is done—It is finished—HE SAT DOWN!

Conclusion: Last week: Do we turn away? Compromise? Embrace other ways?

NO—God has spoken DEFINITIVELY by His SON!

But, is He trustworthy?

Who is this Son?

- Heir of the Universe
- Eternal, Revelatory, Exalted Son of God
- Upholds the world by His word
- He purged our sins
- Sat down for His work was complete!

## HE CAN BE TRUSTED!

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:66-69 NKJV