

Hebrews 1:1-3; "A Better Revelation" August 18, 2024

I. Welcome

A. Good morning! Ohayogozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. It's great to be here with you all as we gather to worship the Lord.

1. *Welcome any new faces and those streaming online.*

B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School class.

1. *As well as the Bible English class (Second Service).*

C. Last week we started our study of the book of Hebrews with an overview of the book looking at such topics as the author of the book, the recipients of the book, the timing of the book, and the overall message of the book.

1. If you were with us last week you may recall that the overall message of the book of Hebrews is the supremacy of and superiority of Christ.

2. The author of this book is writing to a group of Jewish believers who have been experiencing some difficult times as of late, they've been undergoing some persecution because of their faith in Christ, and some are beginning to think that maybe it was better to go back to the old way of doing things under the Law.

3. The author writes to basically explain that anything they would be drawn back to under the old system was inferior to what they had in Christ. Christ is better than anything and everything the old system offered.

4. The old ways of Judaism were simply all foreshadows and pictures and types of things that Jesus Christ fulfilled. The old was a shadow of God's things to come, Christ was the reality of God in the flesh.

D. Last week we read the first three verses just to get us started but we didn't actually take any time to expound upon them. This morning, we get to jump into those verses and see what the Lord has for us.

E. So, if you have your Bible with you this morning, go ahead and open it up to the book of Hebrews chapter 1.

1. If you don't have a Bible with you, you are welcome to borrow one of the church's bibles situated throughout the sanctuary underneath some of the chairs around you.

2. I would encourage you to bring your own Bible when you come so that you may follow along in your own Bible as I read from mine. If you don't own a Bible, I would encourage you to get one. At the very least, download a free Bible app on your phone and bring that with you.

3. It's important that you follow along in the Word and see for yourself what God's Word has to say.

F. Our text this morning is going to be the same as it was last week. Hebrews chapter 1 verses 1-3. For those of you who like to outline or take notes, the title of our study is going to be "**A Better Revelation**".

G. Will you all please rise to your feet in honor of God and His Word? I'm going to read through our text this morning and then pray, asking for God's Spirit to lead us and guide us through His Word.

1. Once again, the author of Hebrews writes the following in 1:1... (*R & P*)

II. Intro & Outline

A. As I mentioned already, the book of Hebrews is about the supremacy and superiority of Christ over the old ways of Judaism. And the author of this book doesn't waste anytime building his case.

1. In these opening verses of chapter 1, he jumps right into the thick of things by immediately bringing up the past ministry of the prophets and how God spoke through them.

2. Now when it says "prophets" it isn't speaking exclusively of the office or specific role of "prophet" we are familiar with. It isn't just speaking about the likes of the OT prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Malachi and the rest.

3. When it uses the term "prophets" here, it is speaking it in a more general sense. The word relates to those who would be considered friends of God to whom God made known His will; those to whom He revealed Himself to, in some shape or manner, so that they could communicate His will and plans to others.

a. This would include not only the OT prophets we are familiar with, but also the likes of Abraham and the patriarchs, Moses, David, and could even be traced all the way back to Noah and Adam to whom God spoke with in the Garden.

4. The author highlights how God has spoken in the past throughout the history of the world, in various ways and at various times, but then draws a contrast to how He speaks now.

B. This morning, we're going to break up our text into two simple sections.

1. In verse 1, we're going to note how God spoke to man previously, God's past revelation.

2. And then in verses 2 & 3 we're going to note how God has chosen to speak to man currently; God's present revelation.

3. And the case the author is going to make is that God's present way of revealing Himself is far greater than how He revealed Himself in the past.

4. Let's dive into verse 1 as we investigate the ways in which God revealed Himself in the past.

III. Hebrews 1:1; **God's Past Revelation**

A. The author begins by asserting that God has in fact spoken to man at various times and in various ways.

1. God isn't playing a great cosmic game of hide and go seek; where He keeps Himself hidden away and secret from everyone never wanting to reveal Himself or His ways to us.

2. He has chosen to reveal Himself at various times and in various ways. This the scriptures are very clear upon.
- B. The scriptures attest that **God has revealed Himself through creation** itself.
1. Psalm 19 declares, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard." (Ps. 19:1-3)
  2. Through His creation of the heavens, God speaks to every single tribe, tongue, and nation that ever has walked upon this earth. As people around the globe and throughout the ages look up into the skies and they see the sun, the moon, the stars and all of God's handiwork, the only plausible explanation is that there is a creator who made all of it, an "orderer" who put it all into motion.
  3. Consider with me these simple facts and tell me how it is that this could have happened all by chance?
    - a. The earth we are sitting upon right now is spinning upon it's axis at an incredibly high rate, at about 1,000 miles per hour.
    - b. And while it is spinning at a 1,000 miles per hour on it's axis, it is also traveling around an elliptical orbit of the sun at the speed of roughly 67,000 mph.
    - c. And while the earth is spinning and revolving around the sun, the sun itself is rotating around it's axis at about 4,500 mph.
    - d. And it, along with us and every other planet in our solar system, is traveling around our own orbital path through the Milky Way galaxy at over 514,000 mph.
    - e. And the Milky Way galaxy is just one of what are believed to be billions upon billions of other galaxies in what scientist refer to the observable universe.
    - f. Everything spinning and rotating and traveling around at breakneck speed, in all sorts of different directions, and yet, it all follows a predetermined path. God has created forces within His universe to ensure that things don't just spin recklessly out of control.
    - g. We can chart the skies and now the seasons we are in, we can know the directions to go. This sort of stuff doesn't just happen by chance.
    - h. The heavens truly declare the glory of God!
  4. Paul in Romans attest similarly about God's creation and how no man can attest that he did not know nor that he was unaware of God.
    - a. For "what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse," (Rom. 1:19-20)
    - b. God's invisible attributes are clearly seen in the world around us. There is no excuse for not knowing there is a God. He has revealed Himself through His creation.
    - c. Job knew this when he declared, "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:7-10)
    - d. Creation knows. The beasts of the field know, the birds of the air know, the fish of the sea know. According to Jesus even the rocks know. God has revealed Himself through creation.
  5. And yet, while creation speaks of God and His handiwork, it reveals some of His invisible attributes, and most all of creation knows there is a God who made it all; we sometimes get confused.
    - a. Yes, we see the beauty of God in one of His sunsets, or in the starry skies, but as we gaze around God's creation, we also see death, we see decay, we see destruction.
    - b. And that is because when Adam fell way back in Genesis chapter 3, sin and death entered the world. And Adam's sin impacted the entirety of creation, so that now we look out and see things that are perhaps **a bit confusing or inconsistent**.
    - c. We see life, we see growth, we see God's handiwork, but we also see death and destruction and the impact of sin.
    - d. So, while God has spoken to us and revealed Himself through creation, creation's message is sometimes confusing because of sin.
- C. But there were other ways God revealed Himself throughout history. Not only through creation, but also **through our own consciences**.
1. God made man in such a way that He wrote His law upon our hearts. And our conscience inside of us bears witness of God and His ways.
    - a. This is what the scriptures teach. Paul speaks of this in the book of Romans. How those who do not have the law, the Gentiles, *by nature* do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law *written in their hearts*, their *conscience also bearing witness*, and between themselves *their thoughts* accusing or else excusing them" (Rom. 2:14-15)
    - b. God has written upon our hearts His law, His ways. Our conscience, our minds tell us whether something is right or wrong, intuitively we know. God has made human beings, who were made in His image, with a certain moral compass if you will, writing upon our hearts His law so that we have no excuse.
  2. And yet, even though God has created us with that knowledge inside of us. Because we are sinners, we like to suppress that truth.

- a. We like to try and ignore what God has written upon our hearts.
  - b. And the more we do so the more difficult it becomes to discern God's will and God's way. We end up searing our conscience through sin.
    - i. 1 Timothy 4:2 describes how continuing in sin can cause our conscience to be seared with a hot iron. (**1 Tim. 4:2**)
  - c. As our conscience becomes seared through sin, it becomes less and less sensitive to God and His ways. We become desensitized to sin, and we become hardhearted, and we fail to follow the law of God which He has written upon our hearts.
3. So God has revealed Himself through our own consciences, our own minds and hearts, but once again sin causes problems with us getting the message. Not only sin, but our own selves. **We suppress that truth** because we don't want to have to obey God and do things His way.
- a. Self suppresses that truth, sin sears our conscience. We become hardhearted, and less responsive to that work of God within us. That revelation of God becomes difficult for us to discern. We find it more challenging to know what's right and what's wrong.
- D. So God reveals Himself through creation and through our conscience, but that wasn't all, as mentioned here in our text, God also revealed Himself **through the prophets.**
1. God has spoken at various times in all sorts of various ways to the fathers by the prophets.
    - a. God spoke to His people through visions when He gave Isaiah a vision of God's throne room in Isaiah chapter 6.
    - b. God spoke to His people through dreams when He gave Jacob a dream about a ladder whose top reached up into heaven and he saw angels of God ascending and descending upon it.
    - c. God spoke to His people through Abraham, the father of faith, when He spoke to Him and called him to depart from his father's house.
    - d. God spoke to His people through Moses, meeting with Him multiple times up on the mountain and then meeting with him face to face in Moses' tent.
    - e. God spoke to His people through Jeremiah and a number of object lessons he had the prophet demonstrate.
    - f. God spoke to His people through Hosea using his marriage as an illustration of God's relationship with the children of Israel.
    - g. And on and on I could go of all the various times and various ways God spoke to the fathers through the prophets.
  2. But the difficulty with God revealing Himself through the prophets is that the prophets were only given bits of information at a time. They didn't get the whole story; they didn't quite understand how it all fit together.

- a. What they were given was more piecemeal. A little here, a little there over the years.
  - b. They knew that Messiah was going to come to save His people. They knew that He would establish a kingdom. They prophesied of that kingdom, but they also prophesied of His suffering.
  - c. They knew there would be a forerunner that would pave the way for Him, they knew where He would be born and from what line He would come.
  - d. But how it all fit together they were at a loss. They didn't comprehend how it would all be put together to bring about God's work of salvation.
  - e. Peter writes "of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow." (**1 Pt. 1:10-11**)
  - f. The prophets inquired and searched carefully how it would all come together and were at a loss. **They couldn't see the full picture.**
  - g. They didn't understand that the Christ would come at two different comings. First, as the suffering servant, the lamb of God who would willingly lay down His life for us. Then second, as the conquering king, the lion of the tribe of Judah who will come and judge the nations and usher in His earthly reign.
3. And so while God did send prophets at various times and spoke through them in various ways, their message was incomplete. They didn't get the full picture.
- E. So we see that God's past revelations came at various times and in various ways. God revealed Himself through creation, He revealed Himself through our consciences, and He revealed Himself through the prophets.
1. But because of sin and it's impact upon this world and our own lives, we didn't always get the message. The messages were sometimes confusing and felt incomplete. At times it was clear, but we fought against that truth and suppressed it.
  2. And so, a better way was needed for God to reveal Himself. And that is where Christ comes in. Read the beginning portion of verse 2 with me as we transition from God's past revelation to God's present revelation.

#### IV. Hebrews 1:2a

- A. The Jews viewed the chronology of the world in two ages, two distinct times. The time before the Messiah that was characterized by sin, bondage, and rebellion towards God, and the time that would come after the Messiah when He would usher in a coming age of righteousness.
1. The Jews were living in the time before the Messiah. They were waiting for Him to come, knowing that He had been prophesied of and foretold by the Lord through the prophets.

2. They expected the Messiah to show up on scene and usher in a new season of peace and prosperity for the children of Israel. He was going to establish an everlasting kingdom, a kingdom where the Messiah would rule and reign and the difficulties and trials of past years would all be wiped away.
- B. When Jesus Christ came upon the scene back in the first century He came and established a spiritual kingdom, but not a physical one. He came and set people free not from the bondage and oppression of Rome and other political entities, but rather he set people free from their bondage to sin.
1. He seemed to usher in the long-awaited season for the Jews, but it was in a sense incomplete. He didn't fulfill all the prophecies. He didn't come back and rule and reign over an earthly kingdom as was expected.
  2. The Jews didn't realize there would be two separate comings of the Messiah and that in between those two comings, there would be an overlapping of time where the prophesied kingdom of God was inaugurated, but not yet consummated.
  3. We commonly refer to that overlapping of time where God's kingdom has been inaugurated, but not yet consummated as "the last days".
- C. And the author of Hebrews states here in verse 2 that in these last days, in this in between time of Christ's first and second coming, in this present age, that God has chosen to speak to us by His Son.
1. Because the message was sometimes confusing and felt incomplete. Because sin had hindered us from fully grasping the message, **God sent His Son to fully reveal His plan of redemption.**
  2. Jesus is the superior revelation. Where all the other forms fell short, Christ perfectly reveals God's plan. The gospel message that was foretold was realized when Jesus Christ came to this earth in the form of a babe and lived a sinless life, only to then lay down that life for us upon the cross of Calvary; taking with Him the penalty of the sins of all humanity, He paid the price for our sins and then victoriously rose from the grave showing His power over sin and the grave.
  3. Jesus revealed the Father's will and plans for our salvation fully and declared upon the cross, "It is finished". He had done what creation, the prophets, and our own conscience could not do; He revealed the Father's plan to us perfectly.
  4. When we know Christ, we have all we need to be saved from our sin and to have a perfect relationship with God. Through Jesus, God revealed everything that we need to know about the Lord for our salvation and eternal redemption.
  5. All that God wanted to say, needed to say, intended to say, was said when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. There is no need for further revelation. **All we need to know is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.**

- D. In the rest of our text, in order to solidify the notion that Jesus Christ is the superior revelation, the better revelation, the author goes on to list seven characteristics that set Him apart from everyone and everything else.

V. Hebrews 1:2b-3

- A. Verse 2 continues, "whom He has appointed heir of all things".

1. God has appointed Jesus Christ heir of all things. He is greater than the prophets of old who foretold of the future kingdom for He is the heir of the kingdom.
2. The prophets spoke of Christ in Psalms 2 stating, "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession." (**Ps. 2:6-8**)
3. Isaiah prophesied, "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (**Isa. 9:6-7**)
4. All authority has been handed over to Christ. John writes it very plainly in His gospel when he stated, "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand." (**Jn. 3:35**)
5. He is the heir of the Kingdom. It all begins and ends with Him. This is what sets him apart. He is greater than any and all the prophets who came before Him for God's entire kingdom has been handed over to Him.

- B. But that's just one reason why He is superior. The author continues in verse 2 stating, "through whom also He made the worlds;".

1. Jesus is not only heir to the Kingdom, **He is the creator** of the Kingdom and the rest of all creation.
2. Jesus is greater than creation which speaks of God for He is the Word that was spoken to bring into existence the world as we know it. He is the initiator of creation. Before the world was formed as we know it Jesus Christ was there.
  - a. John writes, "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (**Jn. 1:1-3**)
  - b. "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." (**Jn. 1:14**)
3. The entirety of creation is the handiwork of Jesus Christ. Paul writes in Colossians, "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.” (Col. 1:16)

4. The fact that Jesus Christ is the creator of the kingdom and the very universe we live in makes Him superior to all the rest of creation. Nothing and no one is greater than Him.
- C. But that’s not all. Take a look at the opening of verse 3. It reads, “who being the brightness of His glory”. Jesus is the brightness of the glory of God. Your translation may read His is the radiance of the glory of God.
1. What makes Jesus a greater revelation, a superior, or better revelation? The fact that **He is the radiance of God’s glory**.
  2. The word “brightness” in my NKJV “radiance” in many of the other translations is the word “*apaugasma*” [ap-ow-gas-mah]. Which comes from a compound word connecting “*apo*” which means “from” and “*augazo*” which means to shine. Putting them together this word speaks of a shining forth.
  3. And this is very important to note. Christ is not a reflection of God’s glory. Christ is not before the Father, reflecting His glory. He is the shining forth of God’s glory. He is the radiance of God’s glory. He is, if you will, the beams of light that shoot forth from God’s glory.
    - a. Think of it this way. The moon produces no light of its own. When we see the moon, what we are seeing is the reflection of the sun’s shining upon it’s surface. The sun itself is a ball of gas that we really can’t see at all. All we see are the rays of the sun coming forth from the sun.
    - b. This is kind of like what Jesus is. He isn’t simply reflecting God’s glory, like the moon, He is like the rays of the sun which are emitted from the sun.
  4. In the OT when Moses met with God face to face, He met with God in the cloud. He didn’t see the literal face of God, for God is Spirit and doesn’t have a face like you and me. What Moses saw when he met face to face with God was the radiance of His glory.
    - a. Recall that Moses requested of the Lord that God allow Him to see His glory. But God declared to Moses that no man can see Him and live. (Ex. 33:20)
    - b. So, what God did instead is hide Moses in the cleft of a rock and covered his face with His hand while he passed by and then as he took away His hand, Moses got to see a glimpse of the backside of God’s glory. (Ex. 33:22)
    - c. And unbeknownst to Moses, after spending time with the Lord and hearing from Him, when he came back to the people to declare God’s Word to them, His face was glowing. It was shining forth, a reflection of God’s glory that had been before Him.
    - d. Moses was like the moon reflecting the sun.
5. But Jesus is better than Moses. For Moses’ face would fade whenever he was away from the Lord. His shining face was simply reflecting the glory that had been before Him.
  6. But Jesus does not simply reflect the glory of God. He is the very brilliance and brightness and radiance of God’s glory, which makes Him far better.
- D. What else? Well verse 3 continues, “and the express image of His person,”. Jesus is the better revelation for He is the **express image of God** Himself. He is God in the flesh.
1. The wording used here when it says “the express image” is a word in the Greek that was used when referring to an impression used by engravers. This impression with its particular features was considered as the exact representation of the object whose image it bore.
  2. Jesus Christ is the exact representation of God the Father.
    - a. Colossians 1:15 states in reference to Christ, “He is the image of the invisible God,” (Col. 1:15a)
    - b. One of Jesus’ disciples named Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” To which Jesus replied, “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’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.” (Jn. 14:9-10)
  3. As the very express image of the Father, who better to reveal the Father and the words of the Father than Jesus Christ? It is Christ who makes known to us the very essence and nature of the Father.
    - a. John 1:18 states, “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” (Jn. 1:18)
    - b. Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Him. And Jesus Christ has declared the Father to us. He has revealed the Father to us. He is God in human flesh.
- E. Verse 3 continues, “and upholding all things by the word of His power”.
1. When the author of Hebrews states that Jesus is upholding all things, it carries the idea of Him maintaining all things, making sure all things work together to bring about God’s will and God’s plan. He is the orchestrator of all things.
  2. So, not only did Jesus create all things, He also ensures that all things are working in accordance with God’s plan and desire. He ensures that **all things are sustained**, maintained, and held together.
  3. By the power of His Word He spoke the world into existence and through that same power of His Word He holds the world together.

- a. Remember those facts about how everything is spinning and rotating throughout the universe at breakneck speeds and yet they hold to patterns and designs, they don't just careen into each other, crashing into each other exploding all over the place. Why?
  - b. Because Jesus Christ holds it all together by the power of His Word.
  - c. And if the Word of Christ is powerful enough to hold the entire universe together, what do you think it will do for your marriage, or your parenting, or your sanity which you fear is going to spin right out of control?
  - d. The Word of Christ is powerful enough to hold your marriage together, it is powerful enough to hold your family together, it is powerful enough to keep you together.
  - e. God's word promises that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (**Rom. 8:28**)
4. Christ is going to work all these things out. He is going to see to it that everything goes as the Lord intended. He sustains creation and makes sure it brings about the glory and fulfillment of God's plans.
- a. Philippians 1:6 attests that we can be "confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (**Phil. 1:6**)
5. Jesus Christ is the sustainer the orchestrator of God's creation. He makes sure everything is held together and that everything comes to its intended conclusion.
- F. But that's not all. Verse 3 continues, "when He had by Himself purged our sins". What makes Jesus a better revelation, a superior revelation? The fact that **He Himself has the power to purge us of our sin.**
- 1. Remember that one of the flaws in God's past revelation was the impact of sin upon creation and specifically upon us as part of God's creation. We suppressed the truth God was revealing to us because we didn't want to live our lives according to God's truth.
  - 2. As the scriptures attest, "the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." (**Jn. 3:19-20**)
  - 3. Because of sin in our lives, we suppressed that knowledge, that light God was giving to us. But then Jesus came along, by Himself, and purged our sins.
    - a. And I think it is important that we note that Christ did it by Himself according to the NKJV. Unfortunately the terms "by Himself" are omitted in many of the more modern translations, but it's there in the manuscripts used for the NKJV.
    - b. And I think it is an important distinction. Jesus purged our sins by Himself. Nobody else could help Him do it. He had to do it all on His own. The very Father seemingly forsook the Son as He hung upon the cross and paid the price for our sins. Jesus did it by Himself.
  - c. We couldn't do it, we were powerless against our sin. Only Christ could come and by Himself, through the offering of Himself, purge us of our sins.
4. We have been purified, washed clean from the stain of sin all thanks to what Christ did for us. And now we live in the grace of God, and we can grow in the grace and knowledge of God. As we walk with Him, we have more and more of the Lord and His will for our lives revealed to us.
- G. Verse 3 ends, "sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high". This speaks of Christ's position in heaven.
- 1. After defeating sin and the grave and rising from the tomb, Jesus then ascended back to the Father in heaven where He has taken His place **at the right hand of God in heaven.**
  - 2. His place in heaven next to the right hand of God speaks of authority. It speaks of His rule and reign as king over heaven.
  - 3. But I want you to note something very important. It says that He is sat down at the right hand of God.
  - 4. To the Jewish listener this would have been a huge shock. For all they knew was the work and ministry of the high priest. It was the high priest who would go in on the Day of Atonement and make sacrifices for the people to atone for their sin. In essence to try and purge the sins of the people.
  - 5. We're going through the book of Leviticus on Wednesday nights, and we just read about the details pertaining to the Day of Atonement.
    - a. On the Day of Atonement only the high priest was able to enter into the Tabernacle and go beyond the holy of holies before the very presence of God to sprinkle the blood of bulls and goats upon the mercy seat above the ark.
    - b. The high priest would enter into the Tabernacle from the east and there on his right hand side, the northern side of the Tabernacle, would be the table of showbread, on the left, the southside, would be the pure golden lampstand. There right in front of him would be the altar of incense that stood right before the veil. On the other side of the veil was ark of the covenant with the mercy seat on top.
    - c. You know what you wouldn't find inside the Tabernacle? A chair for the priest to sit down in. There was no chair because the work of the priest was never done. No matter how many sacrifices the priest offered, they had to continue to offer them over and over again.
    - d. But not so with Christ, our Great High Priest. While the sacrifices of bulls and goats were insufficient to remove our sins, the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, was powerful enough to remove each and every single sin you, or I, or anyone else in this world who would come to faith in Christ could ever commit.

- e. Jesus sits at the right hand of God because His work is finished. He completed God's plan of redemption. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ paved a way for man to be reconciled to the Father. God's great redemption plan was complete.
6. And you know what Christ does as He sits there at the right hand of God? He's thinking about you and me. He's interceding for us.
- a. Later in this book we're going to read about Christ's unchangeable priesthood. How He never stops praying for us and interceding on our behalf. Christ lives to make intercession for us. (**Heb. 7:25**)
- b. You see, here's the thing. While the work He did down here on earth was completed, up in heaven He is constantly going to bat for us.
- c. 1 John 2 describes Christ as our Advocate with the Father. When we sin and blow it, Jesus is up there speaking to the Father on our behalf claiming Himself as the propitiation for our sins. (**1 Jn. 2:1-2**)
- d. You see there is one out there that wants to bring accusation and bring fault upon us all the time. The devil, the accuser of the brethren, he wants to go before the Lord and say "Look at what Glenn did again! Man, he's just a loser, he's a failure, how could you love someone like that God?"
- e. And Jesus is right there before the right hand of God, saying, "No worries, Father. I paid for that sin. He's washed in my blood."
- f. Romans asks, "Who is he who condemns?" [The enemy of our souls, no doubt]. But Paul states, "It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (**Rom. 8:34-39**)
7. What makes Christ the better revelation? **His unmatched love for us.** The fact that at this very moment, He is up in heaven thinking about you and me and interceding on our behalf. Truly there is none greater than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen? Amen! Let's pray.