

Hebrews: Author is unknown...v. 2:3 says that the writer had confirmation of Christ's message from other people (Gal. 1:12 would therefore **strongly suggest that Paul did not write it. Additionally, in all the representative letters that we have from Paul, he always signed his letters.**)

But, we do know to whom it is written: "The Hebrews"

And, due to the context and content of many of the verses, we know that there were at least three groups of Hebrews involved:

A group that were facing persecution, and, in doing so, were being tempted to step away from identifying with Christ. They certainly faced persecution (10:32-34), though none of them had been martyred yet (12:4).

A group who believed the basic truths of Christianity, but had not placed their faith in Christ yet. (12:15→)

And a group that were not convinced of the truths of the Gospel, but had some knowledge of it. (9:11, 14, 15)

We'll look at verses throughout the text and show how they relate to each group.

Heb. 1:1-4 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 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. 3 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, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Jesus is better than the prophets.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...

various ways (visions, poetry, object lessons)

1 Pet. 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It 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.

Rom. 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Jesus is better than the prophets because...

whom he appointed the heir of all things (we'll revisit this in a moment), through whom also he created the world.

Jesus is Creator.

through whom also he created the world.

Worlds?

Can be translated as "ages" → all time, space, matter, life, etc.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Col. 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 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.

Ps. 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

Because He is the Creator, I have no rights because I'm created and I sinned.

Jesus is God.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, much

"radiance of the glory" "brightness of His glory" = only place in NT that this word for brightness is used. It means that light is being emitted from something. Or in this case, someone.

Jesus radiates the very glory of God

Col. 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

John 1:14 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 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

2 Cor. 4:3-6 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In 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. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

"Express image of His person" = express image= stamp/engraving on coin.
It's the GR word "charakter."

"His person" = a word meaning nature or essence

Jesus shows the very character of God because He has the very character of God.

Col. 1:15 "image of the invisible God" GR "eikon" → icon

John 14:5-11 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 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. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

If you want to know the Father, get to know the Son.

Jesus is the Sustainer.

...And he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Col. 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

My life and times are held together by grace and mercy of Christ.

Jesus is the Redeemer.

After making purification for sins,

Heb. 7:26-27 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Rev. 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

1 Pet. 1:17-19 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

We should conduct ourselves with fear.

Jesus is the King.

he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

"having become as much superior to angels..." we'll talk all about this next week...

v.2b...whom He has appointed heir of all things

Heb. 1:13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Heb. 8:1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

Heb. 10:12-14 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Heb. 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 Pet. 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Rom. 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Heb. 7:24-25 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 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. (cf. 1 Tim 2:5)

Jesus is LORD.

“as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs”

That name is LORD God of the Universe.