

June 13, 2021



## The Uniqueness of Jesus

### Hebrews 1

The book of Hebrews holds a unique place in the New Testament. In essence, the book is a singular, long argument. Specifically written to a group of Christians who were trending towards a return to the Law of Moses and desertion of Jesus, the unidentified author of Hebrews skillfully argues for the superiority of Jesus. So, to a people who were well-acquainted with both the Old Testament scriptures and the Gospel, the writer of Hebrews jumped headlong into his argument by first noting the uniqueness of Jesus.

To begin with, Jesus is identified as the Son of God (1.2,5). And, while in other passages audiences are left to put the pieces together themselves, in Hebrews the Holy Spirit makes the connection unmissable — being called the Son of God is an explicit claim to divinity, for the Son is God (1.8).

If that is all that was revealed about Jesus, that He is divine, then that would be enough to convince an honest audience of Jesus' uniqueness. But, the Holy Spirit

would reveal more. Additionally, Jesus is set apart by virtue of His nature. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and "the exact representation of His nature" (1.3). A studied Jew would certainly connect the idea of radiating God's glory with Moses (cf. Exodus 34.29ff). But, Jesus exceeds Moses in that He perfectly represents God's nature. Moses begged to see God's glory and to know Him (Exodus 33.13,18); Jesus was His exact representation. Note that the Hebrews writer reveals the Father and the Son are distinct persons — but they are united to the degree that when one sees Jesus, they have, in essence, seen the Father.

And, as if He were addressing a misconception unique to the immediate audience, the Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus is unique in that He was not simply an angel. He was (and is) greater than the angels — a point proved by no less an authority than the Old Testament scriptures, which picture Jesus as the Son of God (Hebrews 1.5; Psalm 2.7) and thus greater than the angels, being worthy even of their worship (Hebrews 1.6; Psalm 97.7).

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***info@uococ.org — 210.479.3030 — www.uococ.org***