

1. I knew 2 brothers-in-law who entered the army in WWII. Sent to separate areas of action.
 - a. Both were witnessed to & received Christ as personal Savior. Met up again on furlough.
 - b. Both were excited to tell the other about their newfound faith in Jesus Christ.
 - c. Imagine their surprise when one began sharing that he had accepted Christ into his life.
 - d. You too, said the other? I've had the same experience. They were overjoyed.
 - e. The one man said to me, We spent whole rest of time talking about how wonderful Christ is.
2. New Christians have wonder, don't they? They have the wonder of first love.
 - a. We were never meant to lose our wonder. Christ is always to be wonderful to us.
 - b. Today I want to stir up that wonder in our hearts. (Show) Jesus is reason for the season.
 - c. No passage illuminates the wonder of His greatness like Heb. 1:1-4. (Show & Read)
 - i. This passage is like an amazing string of pearls that unfolds one after the other. (Show)
 - ii. Each pearl is brilliant/valuable in its own rite, but altogether they are unparalleled.
 - iii. Greatness of Jesus they unfold is cause for love, joy, trust, and increasing wonder.

I. **He Is the Greatest Revelation, vv. 1-2a.**

A. O.T. Revelation

1. God is a God who reveals Himself. God spoke. He created us for fellowship w/Himself.
 - a. Fellowship requires communication. Fellowship demands knowing truth about God.
 - b. Yrs-ago Evangelist Billy Graham was fielding some questions. Here is what asked:
 - i. What about abortion? Is homosexuality wrong? Is there a Hell? Is only one-way.
 - ii. Are Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus & Jews lost w/o Jesus Christ? Tough questions.
 - c. Since God has spoken there are clear answers to those difficult questions.
2. V. 1 is describing God speaking in the O.T. Two basic thots: revelation progressive.
 - a. Many xs. = little here/there.¹ Bit by bit.² Little to Abraham, more David, Isaiah, etc.
 - b. 2nd, OT revelation was incomplete. OT is inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God.
 - c. But wasn't everything God wanted say. Trinity, Church, complete truth of Messiah.

B. N.T. Revelation (Show)

1. When God was ready to say all He had to say He sent His Son, v. 2 = N.T. revelation.
 - a. Our translations say his Son, but his is added for clarity. Lit. = spoken to us in Son.
 - b. Stress is on the quality of this revelation and the superior method God used.
 - c. It is a Son-kind of revelation, not a prophet-kind of revelation. Incarnation in view.
2. When God wanted to say all He had to say didn't send just a man, but a God-Man.
3. He didn't send only a word but One who is the Word. One called by God, came fr. God.
4. Sometimes people tell me that Jesus is still speaking to them outside Bible.
 - a. I ask them, What is the tense of "has spoken?" Past tense. What mean?
 - b. Jesus has finished speaking. Revelation is complete. God has said it all.
5. When the Son has come & spoken God's Word, nothing more can be said.

¹ Lea, T. D. (1999). *Hebrews, James* (Vol. 10, pp. 8–9). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Zerwick, M., & Grosvenor, M. (1974). *A grammatical analysis of the Greek New Testament* (p. 654). Rome: Biblical Institute Press.

6. This is why God said, *This = my beloved Son, w/whom well pleased; listen to Him*³

C. Objection

1. I don't believe Jesus is the capstone of God's communication. God finished speaking.
2. Why should I believe that Jesus is the Word, the truth, the Son, the final Spokesman?
3. Author = *Let me give you 7 reasons why*. For Jews what is #7? Perfect number.
4. 7 reveals a complete work of God. Jesus perfect in every way. That ends all arguments.
5. Let's rip them off until this string of pearls is complete & we say, *It is finished!*

II. **He Is the Greatest Authority, v. 2b.**

A. Heir

1. Heir is someone who gains sole possession of an estate. In control & authority.
2. When father died was very wise. Divided inheritance equally between 2 sisters & me.
 - a. Had he made me the sole heir I would've had complete control over house & money.
 - b. I could've given to my sisters what I decided. That can cause lots of problems.

B. All Authority Is Given Unto Me

1. But God has made Jesus the sole heir. He is only one worthy of it & will not abuse it.
2. He said, *All authority in heaven & on earth has been given unto me*. Matt. 28:18. Why?

III. **He Is the Greatest Power, v. 2c.**

A. Thru Whom Created World

1. Last summer we camped out on M-28 near Lk. Superior. At 3am went to the restroom.
 - a. On way back to camper Ellen said, *Look!* As looked up overwhelmed by Milky Way.
 - b. W/o city lights stars so voluminous feel can almost reach up and touch them.
2. Glad Ellen was holding on to me. I felt could've fallen over I was so stunned.

B. Einsteins Calculations

1. *Einstein estimated that there are ten octillion stars in the universe. How many is that? Well, 1000 thousands make one million; 1,000 millions make one billion; 1,000 billions make one trillion; 1,000 trillions make one quadrillion; 1,000 quadrillions make one quintillion; 1,000 quintillions make one sextillion; 1,000 sextillions make one septillion; 1,000 septillions make one octillion. Ten octillion!*⁴
2. Why did the Father use the Son to create the world? To show the greatness of the Son.
3. Only God can create so creation reveals Jesus has the full power of God.

IV. **He Is the Greatest Being, v. 3a.**

A. Radiance of the Glory of God

1. *Radiance = outshining from w/in.*⁵ Radiance of light cannot be separated from the light.
2. Difference between Sun/Moon. (*Show*) Moon = reflector. Sun = own light radiates.
3. Christ's glory and the Father's glory are identical. Christ possesses same perfections.
4. He is equal with the Father in His being because He radiates the same glory.

³ All 3 Synoptic Gospels include this statement at the transfiguration: Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35.

⁴ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Colossians and Philemon: the supremacy of Christ* (p. 156). Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

⁵ Morris, L. (1981). Hebrews. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Hebrews through Revelation* (Vol. 12, p. 14). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

B. Exact Imprint of His Nature

1. Exact imprint = impression made on a coin by metal die. (Show)
 - a. Image of George Washington on this metal die exactly reproduced on our quarter.
 - b. The impression on the quarter is an exact imprint of the die.
 - c. RSV = He bears the very stamp of his nature. Son possesses same nature as Father.
2. Philip, whoever has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:9.

V. He Is the Greatest Sustainer, v. 3b.**A. Upholds the Universe by the Word of His Power**

1. Uphold = to bear, carry, carry along. Holds everything together so not fall into chaos.⁶
2. Christ created the laws of science & they depend upon Him for their operation.

B. Jupiter

1. Largest planet in solar system is Jupiter. (Show) Gaseous planet mass 318xs than earth.
 - a. Reason earth sustains life so well is Jupiter's gravitational pull = vacuum cleaner.
 - b. Objects hurtling thru space could do us great harm sucked into orbit or veer away.
 - c. Astronomy prof. at UCLA says w/o Jupiter nearby earth would be a sitting duck.
2. This protective shield keeping us alive is sustained in its orbit by the Word of Jesus.⁷

VI. He Is the Greatest Atonement, v. 3c.**A. Purification for Sins**

1. The emphasis is that Christ accomplished something no one else could.
2. He cleansed sin by paying its penalty. He did this in one complete act.

B. What About Christ's Nature Made Him Capable of Salvation?

1. The wrong that man had done to the Divine Majesty should be expiated by none but man, and could be by none but God. Behold...both in the one Immanuel!⁸ (Show)
2. The incarnation of Christ was designed for this main purpose. From deity to work.

VII. He Has the Greatest Position, v. 3d.**A. The Tabernacled Furniture Set (Show)**

1. On screen = Tabernacle Furniture Set can buy.⁹ All furniture priests worked with there.
 - a. Altar burnt offering; laver washing; altar incense, table of showbread; ark; lampstand.
 - b. Notice something missing? No chair for priests to sit in. Why? Work never done.
2. But Jesus said, It is finished. He completed our salvation. He has right sit down.

VIII. He Has the Greatest Name, v. 4.**A. Why Is Son Greater Name Than Angel?**

1. Secret to that found in Isaiah 9:6. Read w/me.¹⁰ (Show) Child is born. Eternal Son given.
2. Reason He is the eternal Son is He is all the eternal Father is. Wonderful, etc.
3. A child is born as a man, but a Son is given as eternal God.

⁶ Lea, T. D. (1999), op. cit., p. 9.

⁷ Prof. B. Zuckerman, *Nature*, quoted in Larson, C. B. (2002). *750 engaging illustrations for preachers, teachers & writers* (pp. 97–98). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

⁸ Puritan John Howe, quoted in Ritzema, E., & Vince, E. (Eds.). (2013). *300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁹ <http://uk.goodseed.com/the-tabernacle-model-kit/>.

¹⁰ <http://www.crosscards.com/cards/facebook-ecards/12162015-isaiah-9-6-social.html>.