

JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

HEBREWS READING GUIDE

WEEK 2



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

WEEK 2
JANUARY 23, 2023



CHURCH IN THE SQUARE

©2023 CHURCH IN THE SQUARE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

EVERY DAY ...

... A PASSAGE TO READ,

... SOME COMMENTS TO CONSIDER,

... THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK,

... A PRAYER TO PRAY.



WEEK 2

HEBREWS 1:5-14

DAY 1
HEBREWS 1:5
THE FATHER'S SON
5

DAY 2
HEBREWS 1:6-7
THE FATHER'S FIRSTBORN
7

DAY 3
HEBREWS 1:8-9
THE FATHER'S ANOINTED
9

DAY 4
HEBREWS 1:10-12
THE FATHER'S SON ENDURES
11

DAY 5
HEBREWS 1:13-14
THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND
13

DAY 1

THE FATHER'S SON

First read Hebrews 1:5.

The preacher moves from his poetic entry into a series of questions and statements aimed at further proving the supremacy of Christ. He begins by highlighting Jesus' Sonship. He asks, **"to which angel did God ever say, 'You are my Son'"** (v.5a, Psalm 2:7). He rephrases, **"Or again, 'I will be to him a father'"** (v.5b, 2 Samuel 7:14).

The rhetorical questions demand a singular answer: only Jesus is the Father's Son. "Before he ever created, before he ever ruled the world before anything else, ... God was a Father loving his Son," notes theologian Michael Reeves (*Delighting in the Trinity*, 21).

Hebrews is furthering the gap between Jesus and everything else, even the heavenly hosts, by highlighting his unique relationship with God. It has no beginning. It's unending. It's unchanging. It's intimate. No one and nothing else enjoys this union and story in quite the same way. And yet, because of the Son we are invited to enjoy this infinite affection with the Father, **"even as"** he loves his Son (see John 17:23). The Father's Son invites us to share in his sonship.

DAY 1

THE FATHER'S SON

1. What does this passage teach you about God's love?
2. How does the supremacy of Jesus expose your pride?
3. In Christ, we are sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father. How ought this change how we think about ourselves and our spiritual family?

Heavenly Father ...

There is no one like your Son. And yet by grace you've welcomed me as your child. You've granted me the unending, unchanging intimacy of your love. Humble me. Comfort me. And empower me to live as your child today, loved and secure.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 2

THE FATHER'S FIRSTBORN

First read Hebrews 1:6-7.

Jesus is not only the Son, unlike the angels, but the angels are even commanded to worship him. The term “firstborn” is an allusion to Christ’s kingship and the act of bringing **“the firstborn into the world”** is best understood as his enthronement after the ascension (v.6a, see O’Brien, 69).

During his welcome into celestial courts, the writer tells us another ancient text is uttered and fulfilled, **“Let all God’s angels worship him”** (v.6b, Deuteronomy 32:43). Angels are subjects and creations of the Lord, submissive to his will, like wind and fire (v.7, Psalm 104:4). Jesus is the Father’s firstborn, preeminent over all things, times, and beings.

Paul memorably celebrates this truth with the Colossian Christians, **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation ... And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him”** (Colossians 1:15,21-22). Though he is over everything, the firstborn of creation died for his sinful creation that we might be born again. Jesus is the Father’s firstborn.

DAY 2

THE FATHER'S FIRSTBORN

1. Why do you think the writer is so focused on highlighting the supremacy of Christ?
2. How do you know when you've forgotten that Christ is first and foremost in your life?
3. How does the death of the firstborn reorder the world and our hearts?

Heavenly Father ...

Your Son is first and foremost. Forgive me for the ways I often seek preeminence and supremacy. Reshape my heart and loves and priorities around your Son today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 3

THE FATHER'S ANOINTED

First read Hebrews 1:8-9

When David was king over Israel he put people in charge of writing music and leading God's people in song (1 Chronicles 6:31). One group of these artists were the sons of Korah. Many of the psalms are written by them. That's what's being quoted here. It's from Psalm 45. It's a love song originally written to celebrate the wedding of an anointed Davidic king (O'Brien, 72). But, like many ancient biblical texts, it has what's called a "double fulfillment". Psalm 45 was meant for royal weddings, but the writer of Hebrews is telling us it was ultimately meant for Jesus.

Jesus is the Father's anointed. Unlike any king before him, Jesus loves righteousness, hates wickedness, and is full of gladness (v.9). It's his throne and kingdom which **"is forever and ever"** (v.8a). You see, not only is Jesus over the angels, he's over every king and kingdom too. They all eventually end, even David's. But Jesus' kingdom lasts forever. Jesus is the Father's anointed.

DAY 3

THE FATHER'S ANOINTED

1. Why is Jesus over every king and kingdom?
2. What other “kings and kingdoms” are you tempted to prioritize and serve and love?
3. What makes Jesus’ kingdom different?

Heavenly Father ...

Money, power, possessions, and success often compel me to prioritize and serve and love them. I'm often tempted to trust _____, instead of you. But these neither love me back nor last. Recenter my heart on your kingship and kingdom. You alone are anointed with gladness and joy, and love me.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 4 THE FATHER'S SON ENDURES

First read Hebrews 1:10-12.

Having told his readers that Jesus is supreme over the angels and kings and kingdoms, the writer now reflects on Psalm 102. He tells us Jesus is supreme over the earth and heavens. The Father's Son endures beyond everything.

This is a particularly helpful juxtaposition because our world (and much in it) seems permanent to us. *Right?* Or at the very least we act as if they are indissoluble. We presume upon tomorrow. We expect the sun to rise, the tide to hold steady, and the seasons to change in, well, season. We assume industries will persist and gravity will not give out. However, ***“they will perish ... they will all wear out like a garment ... they will be changed”*** (v.11,12).

Think about that.

Because of sin our world is broken and will eventually break down completely. The things we trust the most to endure are unworthy of our faith. ***“But you remain,”*** the psalmist writes (v.11). The Father's Son endures. Jesus will not perish or wear out, he is the same and his ***“years will have no end”*** (v.12). If you and I have learned to expect the temporal earth and heavens to endure, *how much more ought we trust that the Lord is our sure foundation?* The Father's Son endures.

DAY 4 THE FATHER'S SON ENDURES

1. How does this passage strengthen or increase your faith?
2. What aspects or things in this world have you learned to trust too much?
3. How does his death and resurrection prove the eternal endurance of the Father's Son?

Heavenly Father ...

It's so easy for me to trust in fleeting things. Forgive me. This week, may the steadiness of the tide and seasons and sunrise and sunset point me to the infinitely greater faithfulness of your Son.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 5 THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

First read Hebrews 1:13-14.

The writer quotes a seventh Old Testament passage. This time it's Psalm 110. And these words from King David reiterate the posture of Jesus (see v.3). He's sitting again. While the angels are ***"all ministering spirits sent out to serve,"*** Jesus is the one seated on a throne, leaned back, feet resting on his enemies, next to God (v.13). Jesus is at the Father's right hand.

Five times in Hebrews we're told Jesus is at the right hand of God (see 1:3,13,8:1,10:12,12:2). In each mention the writer is telling us about Christ's present and future position. His location not only speaks to his authority but also his intimacy with the Father. He is not only a king on a throne but also ***"a faithful high priest"*** who is able to intercede for us simply by whispering to his Father (see Hebrews 2:17). He's that close.

Jesus' proximity to the Father reminds us he has all authority and all compassion. That's how and why he sends out his messengers to ***"those who are to inherit salvation"*** (v.14). Jesus is at the Father's right hand.


DAY 5 THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

1. How does Jesus' position and location bring you comfort?
2. Are there times when you believe the Lord neither cares to nor is able to help you? When does that happen?
3. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus secure his seat at the Father's right hand?

Heavenly Father ...

Too often I live like your Son is not right by your side. Sometimes I forget he's king, with all authority. Sometimes I forget his priest, with all compassion. Center my heart and mind on the true position of your Son today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

To receive updates about this reading guide and discover more gospel resources to help you enjoy the truth and beauty of Jesus, please visit churchinthesquare.com.



CHURCH IN THE **SQUARE**

©2023 CHURCH IN THE SQUARE
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.