

# The Little Babe, The Supreme Christ (*Heb 1:1-4*)

**Introduction** – Don't put Christmas away quite so fast.

**The Supremacy of Christ** – The Book of Hebrews is all about the supremacy of Christ. The argument begins in showing that Christ is greater than the angels (v4). The angels of God worship Him (v6). And they did so from the beginning of His incarnation (Luke 1:30-35, 2:8-14). Though it should bring a response of great affection and sentiment, the manger scene is not a scene of sentimentalism. It is a scene of world conquest. It is a scene of great violence. It is a scene that, understood rightly, cannot be boxed away and forgotten for the majority of the year. The point of the story of the birth of Christ is not a cute baby and a beautiful mother. It is the birth of the Savior of the world.

**A New Word, A Final Word** (v1) – Since Adam, there has been the promise of a Savior, and for four thousand years, while He did not come, the word of His coming continued to be given “at various times and in various ways.” God did not send His Son until the time was perfect (Gal 4:4). In the New Testament, we have a more clear revelation of the same story of God's redemptive history, and in Jesus Christ, we have the final Word, the very fulfillment of all God was promising to do. Peter said men of the past longed for the book we have (1 Pet 1:10f).

**The Word of the Last Days** (v2) – The ‘last days’ were the days of Christ's incarnation. They are not days that still lie ahead. These were the last days prophesied before Christ was born (Is 2:2, Mic 4:1, Acts 2:16ff) and testified to as fulfilled after His ascension by the apostles). It disparages Christ's glory to look for a return to prophetic utterances as were given before the greater and final Word came. We do not need a new revelation. We are told what this Babe accomplished in His coming.

**The Word Appointed Heir of All Things** (v2) – The Baby would be given all things by His Father. He would bind the strongman and loot his house. He was mercy, the Great Deliverer, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, from the day of His birth. And so we see how the kingdom of God comes, and how it grows.

**The Word Who Created and Sustains All Things** (v2) – This Word that came is the same Word that was spoken by God. The Father is the Source of all creation, and the Son is the Agent of all creation, proceeding from the Father. Created out of nothing, the entire creation is sustained personally by the Word Himself. Christ upholds creation, “*from sinking into its original confusion and nothingness*” (John Owen).

**The Word Who Is the Radiant Glory of God** (v3) – God has built us with a longing for the transcendent. But we are unable in our finiteness and sinfulness to reach this. But God has given transcendence to us in the incarnation, “He is the image of the invisible God.” (Col 1:15). The Father is the source of glory, and Christ is the radiance of that glory, proceeding from the Father. We cannot see the glory (He is invisible), but we can see the loom of the glory in Christ. Christmas is a celebration of the coming of this transcendent, radiant, glory of God – a glory greater than all the angelic host that sang to His glory.

**The Word, Born to Die** (v3) – The miracle of the virgin birth was a miracle with a particular purpose. He was named Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins. God's love for His people is manifest in Christmas, but only because Christmas points to Calvary. Christ came to secure the salvation of His people. He did not come to try and save some. And the number of those for whom He died cannot be numbered, such that, it can be said that Jesus came that the world might be saved (John 3:17).

**The Word, Raised To Rule All Things** (v3) – Christ really came, and He really now sits at the Father's right hand ruling the nations (Dan 7:13f). You cannot affirm the one and deny the other.

**The Word's More Excellent Name** (v4) – He came to rule, not to be cuddled in the manger. His name is greater than the angels. His name is Wonderful (Isaiah 9:6f) and it was even at the moment He lay in the manger.

**The Days After Christmas** – For a few days, the world remembers the birth of Jesus Christ, regardless of whether they believe it or respond appropriately to it. In many ways, our homes became more Christ-centered as well during the Christmas celebrations. But these are the days of the Christmas celebration – they are to go on and on.

**Box Up the Decorations, But Not Christ** – These were small beginnings again. Now, our lives are to grow in meditation, in devotion, in obedience, in the fruit of the Spirit. The mercy of His reign and dominion is to spread out into the corners of our lives.

**The Message Lost By the Church** – We gather to worship a Person, not a set of propositions. We gather to be sent by a Person Who has bound the strong man and is looting His house. We are to go and disciple the nations.

**Lord of All** – Christmas is the reminder, the renewal, of the incarnation of the redemptive rule of Jesus Christ over all of our lives. Has He settled your salvation? If not, you are only rebelling against reality – a bad idea. The Lord of lords has visited the earth. The Lord demands your complete trust, your complete obedience, your complete submission. And it is all His mercy to give it to you more and more this year.