



## The Book of Hebrews 1:1 - The Revelation and Names of God

October 8, 2023

### **Holy Text: Hebrews 1:1**

**God.** Is there a more life-changing, soul-stirring, anger and strife-producing, and world-changing word in existence? Yes, one: Jesus! We'll get to this soon...

...But the idea of God, the actuality of God, the Presence of God, the truth of God...the fact beloved that there is more to our existence than ourselves and our lives and deaths, based on the wonderful reality of God, is mind-blowing.

With the God of Bible, life makes sense. Without Him, there is just life that ends in death, chaos and despair, loneliness and fear, depravity and depression!

But the one, true God has revealed Himself!

So who is this God? This first word of the first verse assumes Him, as does the rest of Scripture. But who is He? Why is knowing Him important? As we noted in 2021<sup>1</sup>:

In light of the confusion and delusion, many are asking philosophical and existential questions. And, there are many great questions one could ask:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What am I?
- What is life about?
- What is my purpose?
- How can I be happy?
- What is truth?
- Is there a God?

Sadly, the answers are often things like:

- I am who I am, complete in myself.
- I'm here for my pleasure until I die.
- I am evolving; my final "am" is yet to be seen.
- My purpose is to seek my own fulfillment.
- I'll be happy when my feelings tell me I am.
- Truth is measure by my feelings.
- God is what I want Him to be.

Oh how true are the Scriptures that declare:

***Obadiah 1:3 (KJV)*** *The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2021/6/the-question-the-christ>

**Proverbs 14:12 (KJV)** *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Again, the truth of God and His existence is life-altering. It communicates a supernatural worldview: that there is more to life than we can see, and more to time and space than we can possibly understand. Indeed, the God of the Bible exists outside of time, which He Himself created.

He is the source of our hope, and if He and His redemption in Christ is not, then “we are of all men most miserable.” (1 Cor 15:19)

But the truth is that **HE IS!** This changes the game! God gives us life and purpose, hope and a future!

**We’d like to take the first few weeks in Hebrews renewing our foundational knowledge of the Doctrine of God.**

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**Theos!**

1. *God* in Hebrews 1:1 is *Theos* in Greek, used 1310 times in the King James New Testament!
2. It means, “a deity” or “the supreme divinity.”<sup>2</sup>
3. The first use in the NT:

**Matthew 1:23 (KJV)** *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God** with us.*

4. The last two uses are among the final words of Revelation:

**Revelation 22:18-19 (KJV)** *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, **God** shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God** shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

5. Note the immediacy with which the writer begins his work: **God!** No greeting or personal praise for God in Christ so common in NT epistles. Right to business! But there is a reason for this. Remember the author’s intent and his audience: encouragement and exhortation to struggling Jews, new to the faith, and facing persecution and doctrinal doubts!

6. A commentator (who favored Pauline authorship), wrote:

*The wisdom of the apostle is strikingly displayed in the manner of commencing this letter. He is writing to Jews for the purpose of removing their misconceptions and allaying their prejudices; and the line of argument which he intends to pursue, requires him first of all to treat of the native and essential dignity of Jesus Christ. But he so constructs the opening sentence of his letter, that on the wry fore-front of it there stands a spontaneous acknowledgment of the heavenly origin of the system which they so much admired. The Jews were apt to imagine then Christians undervalued the ancient*

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<sup>2</sup> Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionary

*institutions. Paul does not wait to state his views afterwards in the shape of a concession; but the very first words that flow from his pen do homage to Moses and the prophets. In dealing with an adversary, if it is your wish to persuade him, if you are not merely actuated by the empty desire of gaining a triumph over him, by all means frankly and at once acknowledge whatever you believe to be good and sound in his views. The same acknowledgment, afterwards made and viewed as a concession, will not produce the same effect. The Scriptures display a profound knowledge of human nature.<sup>3</sup>*

### **God, as Revealed in Scripture**

Hebrews 1:1 opens with an assumption: God! In fact God is assumed in all of Scripture. We see this from the very first verse of Holy Scripture:

**Genesis 1:1 (KJV)** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

1. God is first revealed at the Creator of the heaven and the earth.
  - The word for God here in Hebrew is *Elohim*. It is typically used for God, but in some cases, angels and magistrates as well. In God's case, it carries the implication of being infinite and all-powerful!
  - Of note, *Elohim* is a plural Word. From the first verse in Scripture, there is a hint at the trinity of the Godhead. A bit further, we read:

**Genesis 1:26 (KJV)** *And **God** said, Let **us** make man in our image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

- We believe in a Triune Godhead. Why? Because:

1. The Father is God.

**1 Corinthians 8:6 (KJV)** *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

2. The Son is God.

**John 1:1 (KJV)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**John 1:14 (KJV)** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

3. The Holy Spirit is God.

**Acts 5:3-4 (KJV)** *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **4** Whiles it remained, was it*

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<sup>3</sup> The *Biblical Illustrator Commentary* on Hebrews 1:1

*not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

4. There is only one God!

**Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV)** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:  
1 Timothy 2:5 (KJV)* *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus;*

5. The Great Commission is given in His Name!

**Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

2. God is also quickly revealed in Scripture as *Yehôvâh* (or Jehovah), often translated, "LORD," or "LORD God." (Over 6500 times in the KJV). It means "self-existent and eternal." What about Yahweh or YHWH? It may likely be the better pronunciation of Jehovah.<sup>4</sup>

**Genesis 2:4-5 (KJV)** *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD God** made the earth and the heavens, 5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the **LORD God** had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.*

3. Other revelatory names (that show us some of the character of God) include:

- **Adonai - LORD and Master!**

**Genesis 15:8 (KJV)** *And he said, **Lord GOD**, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?*

- **EI Elyon - The Most High God!**

**Genesis 14:17-20 (KJV)** *And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the **most high God**. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the **most high God**, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the **most high God**, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.*

- **EI Shaddai - Almighty God!**

**Genesis 17:1 (KJV)** *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am **the Almighty God**; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jehovah.html> for more.)

- Some of God’s “Jehovah Names,” which reveal elements of His holy character:
  1. Jehovah Shalom (The LORD is Peace, Judges 6:24)
  2. Jehovah Nissi (The LORD my Banner, Ex 17:15)
  3. Jehovah Rapha (The LORD the Healeth Thee, Ex 15:26)
  4. Jehovah Shammah (The LORD is There, Eze 48:35)
  5. Jehovah Tsidkenu (The LORD our Righteousness, Jer 23:6)
  6. Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The LORD Who Sanctifies You, Lev 20:8)
  7. Jehovah Saoboth (The LORD of Hosts, Ps 24:10; Isa 6:5)
  8. Jehovah Jireh (The LORD Who Provides, Gen 22:14)

***Psalms 145:1-3 (KJV) I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. 2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.***

**Let us praise Him Responsively!**

***Psalms 136:1-26 (KJV)***

- 1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 8 The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 17 To him which smote great kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 18 And slew famous kings: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 20 And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 21 And gave their land for an heritage: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:*
- 24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
- 26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

**Proofs of Existence**

**Philosophical and Cosmological.** Classical Apologetics would frame this argument something like this (Visit [carm.org](http://carm.org) for more):

1. *Did the universe create itself? No!*

- This option violates the *law of non-contraction*. This law states that a thing cannot be true and not true at the same time and in the same relationship. In other words, for the universe to create itself, it must have existed prior to itself, which makes no sense.
2. *Has the universe always existed?* No! This option is even disproved by science.
- Big Bang Theory – Galaxies are moving away from each other at tremendous speeds suggesting a powerful and abrupt starting point. By tracing these movement backwards, scientists believe that at some point in time, a tremendous explosion occurred that ejected all matter outward from a central point of high density compression.
  - 2nd Law of Thermodynamics - The amount of usable energy in the universe is decreasing due to continuing heat loss; a universal tendency of progressive universal disorder. There are no known exceptions to this law. This implies that a finite amount of energy was injected into creation.
  - Principle of Contingency – Everything in the physical universe is dependent upon something else for its existence. Everything has a “cause.”
3. *Creation by a Creator?* Yes! *It is only thing that makes sense!*
- Cause and Effect Argument (Cosmological) - It is an observable fact that everything in the physical universe has a cause that is greater than it. Who caused God? God, by definition is "uncaused" or the "first cause." If He was not, then the universe would be eternal, which we've already shown to be untrue! From this foundation, it is not hard to believe that the “first cause” must exist outside the contingent universe.
  - Design Argument (Teleological) - Could the universe, with its infinite complexity have happened by chance? Scientists have estimated that for just one of the 200,000 chains of amino acids in each human cell to be formed by accident would take 293.5 times the scientific age of the earth (4.6 billion years, although we don't buy that!). Even Charles Darwin couldn't argue with this!
  - Moral Argument - There is a standard of right and wrong that exists for all mankind. Atheists say that the existence of evil means that there cannot be a God. We say that the fact that we recognize evil means that there is an absolute moral standard, which comes from God...

**Romans 2:14-15 (KJV)** *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

**A more Presuppositional mindset might look like this:**

*The abruptness with which the writer commences his work gives it the character of a treatise rather than an epistle. No Hebrew writer would for one moment entertain the idea of proving that God is: that is the one admitted fact on which all his thinking rests. It is not possible for man to argue on any scientific subject unless he accepts certain facts which cannot be proved, and which it is mutually agreed shall be accepted without proof. Euclid must ask for the acceptance of certain axioms and postulates before he can work out a single mathematical problem. And there is one thing that must be admitted before any theological system can be constructed. It is an absolutely unprovable thing, because every proof that can be offered must rest on assumptions, not on knowledge, since man has no power to know in the sphere to which this primary truth is related. It is the being of God. A man may deny the being of a God. Then we cannot talk theology with him; nor can we give him any idea of his moral duty. Scripture makes no attempt to prove that*

there is a God. It helps us to apprehend what He is, but not that He is. It starts with the sublime assertion, “In the beginning God.” It proposes to deal only with men who accept that altogether incomprehensible fact as their starting-point. Back of that assertion no man’s intellect can go. The absolute Being, God, no created being ever can know. A beginning, as related to the unknown absolute Being, no man can conceivably imagine. There is nothing possible to us but to begin our thinking with this as our accepted first fact, our foundation truth—God is. God—begin there; one Being; one uncreated, independent Being, sole Source and absolute Controller of all things and beings that exist.<sup>5</sup>

### **General Revelation of God:**

- **Psalms 19:1 (KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.** The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- **Romans 1:19-20 (KJV)** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **20** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

### **Special Revelation of God: The Scriptures!** (More on this in a later message):

**2 Peter 1:19-21 (KJV)** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: **20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

### **Christ’s Revelation of God: His Incarnation!** (More on this later as well!)

**Hebrews 1:2 (KJV)** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**Matthew 11:27 (KJV)** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

### **Today’s Applications:**

1. Think deeply about God, about the reality of Him!
2. Ask, “LORD, am I living in the joyful truth of the divine reality of Thee? Does my life clearly and joyfully show the knowledge and worship of Thee?”
3. **CRC, increase your Praise! God...IS! He is the “I AM!” (Ex 3:14) He is beyond time, the Creator of vastness of the universe, upholding and all things, and the Chooser of YOU for salvation in the Son! Hallelujah!**

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<sup>5</sup> Preacher’s Homiletical Commentary on Hebrews 1:1