

The Greatness of Jesus – seven more things

2. Jesus is the 'heir of all things'.

3. Jesus is the Creator

4. Jesus is divine

5. Jesus is the Lord of History

6. Jesus is the Saviour

Hebrews 1:1–4 makes eight points about our Lord Jesus Christ. We have seen one of them: Jesus is God's last word. But there are seven more.

2. **Jesus is the 'heir of all things'.** God ²*has spoken to us by a Son, says our writer, whom he appointed heir of all things...* Inheritance is reward. Because of Jesus' obedience he was appointed King of the universe to administer God's purposes. The resurrection-ascension introduced Jesus into his inheritance. Jesus is the Son who is the ruler of the entire universe. It is now his task to administer the Father's will and bring all of God's sons and daughters to their inheritance. He has got to his inheritance. He now helps his people to get to their inheritance.

3. **Jesus is the Creator.** *He has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds.* Jesus is entitled to be the heir, since he is Creator ¹. When the Father wanted to create the world, he gave the task to his Son. 'Through him all things were made' ². He is 'the Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things came into being' ³. 'By him all things were created' ⁴. Jesus can administer the world as an inventor knows his own invention.

4. **Jesus is divine.** ³*He, being the brightness of his glory and the very image of his nature...* The writer's fourth point has two phrases: Jesus is God; (a) he is the 'sunshine' of the Father, and (b) a replica of the Father ⁵. The Son of God is the brightness of the Father's glory. He is like the radiation of the sun. He shines out with the Father's glory. Also the Son of God is 'the very image of the Father's nature'. Jesus is the 'exact replica', the 'perfect copy' of the Father. What the Father is, the Son is.

5. **Jesus is the lord of history.** *He, being the brightness of his glory and the very image of his nature and upholding all things by the word of his power...* The writer moves from the person of Jesus to the power of Jesus. The word 'upholding' means at one and the same time both 'sustaining' and 'carrying along'. It has the idea of Jesus' being the conserver and sustainer of the world but also of his being the lord of history and carrying the world to its destiny. His moment-by-moment decision maintains its existence and carries it along.

6. **Jesus is the Saviour.** *He...upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had made purification of sins...* Jesus has made a cleansing of sins ¹. We notice here a change from what he is doing ceaselessly, to what he did on one definite occasion in the story of the world. On the cross Jesus did something that is finished. The writer does not say, 'He made purification of our sins'. He is referring to something that he has done whether we believe or not, something that has been accomplished before we believe.

¹ 1:2c

² See John 1:1-3

³ See 1 Corinthians 8:6

⁴ See Colossians 1:15-16

⁵ 1:3a, 3b

¹ 1:3d

7. *Jesus is enthroned as king of the universe*

7. **Jesus is enthroned as king of the universe.** *He...when he had made purification of sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.* The work of our Lord Jesus Christ falls into two stages. There was his life on earth and its climax in his death upon the cross. It was a life of suffering and the climax of that life of suffering was his sacrificing himself upon the cross. His work upon the cross is finished so he has sat down. Being seated is also the posture of a King.

8. *Jesus is greater than the angels*

8. **Jesus is greater than the angels.** *He...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much greater than the angels, as he has inherited a more excellent name than theirs.* Jesus has been given a new name, and a new lordship. This was never given to any angel. Having suffered, having accomplished the calling that was his during his earthly life, having fulfilled the Father's will, he has been rewarded. His reward is his 'inheritance'. Three aspects of his inheritance are obvious here: kingship, authority and reputation.

• *Jesus has got to his inheritance - now he helps us to get ours*

These things are the foundation of what our writer is about to say in the rest of the letter. Jesus has got to his eternal inheritance. He has been rewarded by the Father. So now he is in the position to help those of the human race who have eternal redemption to get to their inheritance. He got there first. Now the glorified Lord Jesus Christ helps us to follow after him and get to high honour as he got to high honour.

• *Inheritance is both reward and achievement*

Inheritance is reward and achievement. It is the Father's saying, 'Well done!' Our own inheritance is the same. Just as Abraham was given a calling, part of which was to be 'given a name' ¹, so too we have a calling, part of which will be to be given a name. We shall share his inheritance. Jesus has now commenced the second stage of his work: the task of bringing many sons to glory. The world to come is not for angels ²; it is for Christ and for those who follow the route he followed. He arrived in glory by following a pathway of obedience to God's calling in his life. We follow the same route. His blood is effective for us so that 'those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance' ³. But he received the promised eternal inheritance first!

• *Many sons to glory*

• *The same route*

¹ Genesis 12:1-3

² 2:5

³ 9:15



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