

## CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO THE PROPHETS

**Aim of the Lesson:** Knowing Jesus Christ's revelation of God is superior to that of the prophets.

### I. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON, WHICH IS BETTER THAN THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS

**A. Jesus was acknowledged to be the Son of God:** (1) at His birth (Mt 1:23; Lk 1:35), (2) at His baptism (Mt 3:19), (3) at His transfiguration (Mt 17:5) and (4) at His resurrection (Act 13:33).

**B. The Son reveals the Father better than the prophets.** Christ is God's Son and has the same divine nature as His Father; prophets only have a human nature. Christ knew His Father from eternity; prophets knew God for a short time. Christ revealed His Father perfectly and fully; prophets revealed God in part. Christ's message was final and complete; the prophets' messages were fragmentary and incomplete.

### II. SEVEN FACTS ABOUT THIS SON THAT MAKE HIM BETTER THAN THE PROPHETS:

**A. He is the Heir:** He has been appointed by God to be the heir of all things – 1:2 [Ps 2:7-9; Act 13:33]

God sent His Son to earth to redeem sinners, the earth and all creation from the bondage of sin (Rom 8:18-22). He finished this task when He died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin for all people and destroy the power of Satan (1 Pet 2:24; Heb 2:14-15). He satisfied the demand of God (1 Jn 2:2), so God raised Him from the dead and declared He would rule the world (Ps 2:7-9). No prophet could do this to inherit the earth.

**B. He is the Creator:** He made the ages [the world] for God – 1:2 [Jn 1:3, 10]

He is a simple way of thinking how all three persons of the Godhead were involved in creation. The Father planned it; the Son created it; and the Spirit gave life to it. Since Christ made the world, He is greater than the prophets.

**C. He is the Radiance of God: He is the radiance of God's glory – 1:3 [Jn 1:14; 17:5]**

The sun in the heavens could not be seen without its radiance. Jesus Christ is the radiance of His Father. Philip asked Him to show the disciples the Father. Jesus told him that he that had seen Him has seen the Father (Jn 14:8-9). Three of His disciples saw more of God's glory in Christ on the mount (Mt 17:1-6). No prophet could say what Jesus said about His revelation of the Father.

**D. He is the Image of God:** He is the exact revelation of God's person – 1:3 [Jn 5:19; 14:9-11; Col 2:9]

**ILLUSTRATION:** Take two sheets of paper with the same message on each sheet. Fold one several times to represent Christ and leave the other one flat to represent the Father. Both have the same nature and message; they simply appear to be different.

**E. He is the Upholder:** He upholds all things and brings them forward to God's desired goal – 1:3 [Col 1:17]

Jesus Christ not only created all things, but He makes certain that all created things fulfill the will of His Father. Like parents, it not enough to bring a child into the world, but they need to train that child to be a productive adult. Even the best prophets could not bring Israel to fulfill the will of God, but Christ will do it.

**F. He is the Purifier:** He purifies believers of their sins by His death on the cross – 1:3 [Heb 7-10]

Isaiah foretold the work of Christ to purify sinners by His suffering and death (Isa 53), but he could not purify anyone. isaiah was a sinner and also needed to be purified. This was true of all the prophets, so Jesus' work was far better than that of the prophets.

**G. He is the Victor:** He is seated at the right hand of God – 1:3 [Ps 110:1]

**a. The Purpose:** He "sat down" after making purification for sins – His salvation work was done. Prophets could warn sinners and tell them to repent and turn to God, but they could never save them.

**b. The Place:** He sits with the "majesty on high" – He is in Heaven, accepted by His Father. His obedience so pleased the Father that He raised His Son from the dark grave to sit with Him in glory.

**c. The Position:** He sits at "the right hand of God" – He has authority to intercede for us. No prophet could sit at the right hand of God and intercede for us-- only the eternal Son of God.