



**COMMUNITY  
GROUPS**  
Be known and grow



## 4 February 2024 | Simply Jesus | Fixed on his brilliance

“<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.”

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NIV)

### **Making a start:**

Who is the most powerful or influential person you have ever met? What has made them so powerful/influential?

### **Keeping it real:**

There are many things today that claim to have power, or claim to be truth, and therefore should not have a defining influence over us, as we live our lives. They claim to be a source of value, meaning and purpose. This comes in subtle forms such as the cars we drive, the qualifications we have, and the work position we fulfil, to the more direct forms that range from science (evolution), horoscopes, star signs, mediums, ancestral spirits and other gods. Some of these people do have a certain amount of power, but none can compare to the brilliance of our Lord Jesus Christ and his claim towards the right to define our value, purpose and meaning.

The writer of Hebrews cleverly used a trend of the day, a fascination with angels, to say, yes, angels are great, but Jesus is more brilliant by far. He challenges his readers, and the challenge applies to us too: why would we look to anything lesser when the real, which far outweighs and outperforms any other, is available to us in the form of Jesus Christ?

## Living it out:

1. He *speaks* to you: Why give lesser voices like the voices of other spirits, the voices of other gods, the voices of people or even your own inner voice more attention than his voice?
  - a. Mankind is the only part of God's creation that he spoke to directly in creation.
  - b. He still speaks directly to us today, through his Son. **Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIVUK)** "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."
2. He is your *creator*: Why do others, and even yourself, think they can explain the origin of the universe to you better? There is a material world that the Lord made and ordered – science serves only as a witness to his creative power. There is also a spiritual world, one that he has made. Often, we see in scripture that even the demons know who he is and bow down to him. So don't look to them to explain to you your origin and being.
3. He is your *king* – Why bow in front of any other? **Ephesians 1:18-23 (NIVUK)** "<sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,<sup>19</sup>and **his incomparably great power** for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and **seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,** <sup>21</sup>**far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.** <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

## Prayer:

- Spend some time in worship, fixing your gaze on the brilliance of Jesus. Declaring to the Lord your acknowledgement of his power, dominion and might. He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
- Spend some time repenting, that you may have looked to other sources to define your value, meaning or purpose.
- Ask the Lord to speak to your heart about your value, meaning and purpose.