



## Hebrews 1

*Formerly, in differing dimensions and diverse days, God spoke to our ancestors in the prophets, but has in this final age spoken to us in a Son; whom he ordained the heir of all creation. This is the One through whom was established the ages. He is God's own glory shining forth; the exact expression of the divine being. It is he who by his almighty Word sustains all creation. After he, in himself, had made purification of sins he was enthroned at the right of the divine Majesty on high, being exalted over angels, inheriting the name that is far above theirs.*

During the second half of the first century AD, a little masterpiece of religious theology began to circulate in the Christian communities. We have come to call this work an epistle but it was not a letter. It was not a prophecy like the Apocalypse, nor was it a gospel in the sense of telling the Jesus story. This masterpiece was called by the early Christians as "To Hebrews" - "Πρός Εβραίους." The earliest trace of it appears when the Church of Rome writes a letter to the church in Corinth under the name of its pastor, Clement. Beginning from then on, Hebrews will be quoted often and becomes a widely circulated document. In North Africa, the earliest believers said it was written by Barnabas. By the middle of the second century, no one is sure who wrote it. By the third century, the Eastern Church, centered in Alexandria, Egypt will openly teach that it is written by Paul and that perhaps he wrote it first in Hebrew and Luke later wrote it in Greek. Through the centuries it has often been listed as a Pauline letter. The Eastern Church once listed it second after Romans in the Pauline order.

- I. God is speaking
  - a. We are to listen
  - b. We are to hear
- a. Duet 6:4-9
  - a. Hebrews 3
  - b. Hebrews 4:7, 11-14
  - c. Hebrews 12:25
- b. Hebrews 2:9-19