

This is the Big Picture  
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From Hebrews 1:1-14. THIS IS THE BIG PICTURE, PART 1

This text offers the reader the big picture of God's purpose, plan and action in time. It's all there and it all begins with the mind of God, who in ages past and before authored a plan and then "spoke" it (v.1, 2) into time, life and history.

By generalization, this means that the book of Hebrews *is not literature; it is rather a signal from God*. Reading it as the mere literary robs it of its full importance.

#1. "God" (v.1) accomplished His will in time and among men by a powerful construction. The Lord employed *a continuum*, which is a sequence; one thing following another in time.

#2. But this continuum was more than one event followed by another. This *revealed continuum was a controlled sequence*. The controlled sequence was not subject to anything in time nor in materiality. The sociology of men could not amend it nor constrain it.

#3. There was the controlled sequence of revelation: "He spoke long ago"-"in the prophets"-but "in these last days has spoken to us in His Son" (v. 1, 2). That's a controlled continuum of words.

#4. There was the controlled sequence of historical events. The creation sequence involved "His Son" -- "through whom also He made the world" (v. 2). Later in the controlled continuum comes the time of Christ -- "and when He again brings the firstborn into the world" (v. 6). That is a controlled sequence in time.

#5. There is much to consider. This text holds that there is no such thing as "deep time," or the many millions of years supposed to be necessary for evolutionary process. The Almighty governs time and the material through controlled sequence. None can stay His hand; He is "the Majesty on high"(v. 3).

From Hebrews 1:1-14. THIS IS THE BIG PICTURE, PART 2

#1. The continuum structure as controlled sequence is problematic to human reasoning. We often don't trust its witness. The nature of the problem is just this: *The eternal, revealed and employed controlled sequence disposes of the present as being privileged*. The present in all biblical examples of faithlessness holds displacing power over the past. So, people located in the present of the life continuum make decisions, operate on observations, form perspectives and reach conclusions that are at variance with the Word of God. We think that we know better. We think that we "today" are advanced over the wisdom of the controlled continuum of Scripture. In other words, some assume that *human reason is privileged*.

#2. To correct this human proclivity: "God after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world" (v. 1, 2.)

#3. This text teaches us that God is *simultaneous to the entirety of this controlled continuum*. That is His function. He sees the whole controlled sequence. Human beings are not so situated. Our biggest question is "What happens next?" We are *historical actors* in time. But God is the author of and the engine of the controlled continuum.

#4. Every person of faith in the Bible was an historical actor who lived through the controlled continuum by trust in the Lord. Jesus lived on that controlled sequence by faith. And then "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (v. 3.)

From Hebrews 1:1-14. THIS IS THE BIG PICTURE, PART 4

#1. It is the will of Heaven that *the revelation continuum* be linked to, indexed to, connected to *the time continuum*. The proof of this is the life of Christ in the world (v. 2, 5.)

#2. This tells us that the word of God is matched to the needs of people upon whom are imposed unrelenting pressures by the time continuum. Since one is here, then one is beset by inherent needs.

#3. True understanding and true wisdom are not functions of the temporal order. The locus of true meaning is not here. Unbelief is the *practice of elevating the time continuum and the experience of it above the controlled language sequence of Scripture*.

#4. There are things that we need to know. We need to know that the Word of God is essential to those in the material continuum. We need to know revelation was apportioned across all of time (v. 1, 2.) We need to know that the entire controlled sequence of revelation is cumulative in its voice. All of it is relevant and indispensable. We need to know that the revelation continuum is the causal dynamic, while the time continuum is the realm of effect.

#5. We need to know that the power of God is *the matching force* that links the word of God to time. Men living in the world continuum habitually deny the matching force at the greatest of perils.

#6. We need to know that the time continuum, where we live, does not and cannot alter the continuum of revealed meaning. It is human will that alters revealed meaning; not the fact that revealed truth is pushed into the time continuum. This world does not inherently distort biblical meaning. It's people who make a decision to do that.

#7. We need to know that we are not alone and unaided down here. There is *a super continuum* running from "Your throne ("the Son," v. 8) to "the angels" (v. 13) who are "all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation" (v. 14.)

Keep your chin up.

From Hebrews 1:1-14. THIS IS THE BIG PICTURE, PART 5

#1. God, from eternity on, wanted to establish this powerful structure of the continuum. It is a relation in 3 parts: (a) the God of creation (b) linked by irresistible power (c) to the people and things in time.

#2. But men in time generally rejected this established convention. Human rationalism posed *the big question* : How can something immaterial, like God or the soul, have any effect on the material reality"? It has been a persistent argument from Genesis 3 up to the now.

The idea is this: *if there is no link possible, then there can be no continuum*. Right there is the genius of disobedience and unbelief. It shows up everywhere in Scripture.

#3. I propose that the Book of Hebrews is largely about the continuum. Examples abound:

- From 2:1-4. One can drift away from the benefits of the continuum and suffer great loss.
- From 2:9-18. Jesus' existence was stretched across the entire continuum and for our sake.
- From 3:1-11. Temple worship was a tangible demonstration of the continuum.
- From 5:11-14. One should not take lightly the remarkable personal enrichment that flows down the continuum.
- From 8:7-13. The new covenant embraces the controlled language sequence and the controlled temporal continuum.
- From 11:1-40. This index of the faithful presents to the mind the admirable state of soul of those who depended in the God of the continuum.
- From 12:14-17. Rejection of the continuum is godless.

#4. On this end of the continuum it's good to hear: "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the covenant, even Jesus

our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (13:20, 21.)