RESTORING HARMONY

Anyone who ever took the initiative to tidy up his/her wardrobe knows that the process may generate even more disorder. Simply defined, chaos is the absence of order. But then, what is order? In Genesis 1 we understand that order assumes an arrangement according to preestablished criterion, so that the outcome is harmonious and even advantageous—a clean wardrobe. Related to order is differentiation where you can classify things according to kind, color, size, or shape. By doing this efficiently, some are even able to find their black socks in the dark without waking up their spouse with the lights.

However, organized things do not stay arranged. The principle of entropy (the second law of thermodynamics) states all things naturally move from the original order to disorganization. Sicknesses, environmental deterioration, and eroded family relations are some examples of the results of sin. Unless external energy is introduced, everything suffers chaos and eventual destruction.

Hebrews says not only that the Son was the Heir of all things and Creator of worlds (and systems), but also that He upheld “all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:2, 3, NKJV). This week we will explore Genesis to analyze how God brought order out of chaos, and what principles He used to uphold these systems. The role of God’s Word will be explored not only in Creation, but also in upholding what He created—from our bodies to our marriages, and even our finances. Those who pay attention to His Word and reverently apply it to their lives will see the reversal of entropy’s consequences! There is hope!
inScribe

Write out Hebrews 1:1–4 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Hebrews 1:1–4. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

Why is it unsafe for humanity to rely on its own criteria for differentiation while trying to avoid chaos and to keep harmony (social, relational, physical)?

What is one area in your life that order is needed amid chaos?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying all of Hebrews 1:1–4?
What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

After having provided everything in the garden, why would God establish a restriction to two perfect beings?
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 1:26–29
Genesis 2:8–17
Exodus 20:3–17
Malachi 2:16
Malachi 3:8–12
Isaiah 58:13, 14
Romans 6:23
John 3:16

What other verses come to mind in connection with Hebrews 1:1–4?

Review your memorized verse from Hebrews 1:1–4.
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Meditate on Hebrews 1:1–4 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

How have you offered Jesus as your first offering?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw01-6

God: The Upholding Giver
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

How can these personal applications be made practical on a social level?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw01-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why are rules and restrictions fundamental for aesthetic and relational harmony?

How is genre distinction (for example, in God’s proposed diet) different from a restriction and rather protection against chaotic conditions?

If you could give just one suggestion to someone facing a chaotic situation in life, what would that suggestion be? (Hint: Heb. 1:2–4).

What restricted things determined by God’s Word are still a test of faith and allegiance to Him, even after the Fall?

What specific action proposed by Jesus will lead us to trust, not worrying about food, clothing, or anything else? (See Matt. 6:25–34.)

Why do you believe that God did not destroy Satan immediately after his rebellion, trying to usurp God’s position?