

HEBREWS

(Primary textbook: Holy Scriptures. Primary translation: NIV.)

- I. JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS (1:1-14)
 - A. The Preeminence of the Son (1:1-4)
 - B. The Son Superior to the Angels (1:5-14)

(Section A was covered in the previous lesson. This lesson will cover B.)

Previously, we looked at verses 1-4 of chapter one. The rest of the chapter (verses 5-14) is primarily comprised of quotations from the Old Testament. Like the opening paragraph (1:1-4), they range all over the history of redemption. There are seven quotations, just as there were seven major facets of Christ shown in that first paragraph. However, the quotations do not correspond item for item with the earlier list. The author probably wanted to undergird the general idea of Jesus' superiority rather than to secure the certainty of each item by itself.

1. What is the first word of verse 5?

The conjunction "for" (Greek: *gar*) ties the two halves of the chapter tightly together. It indicates the cause or reason for something just stated. The reason we know that Jesus holds the exalted position stated in the opening paragraph will be found in the following quotations from Scripture. The first part of the chapter presented Jesus' supremacy; the last half will prove it.

2. For which of what group did God ever say? (v.5)

The author of Hebrews compared Christ to angels in order to lay the foundation for his argument that Christianity is superior to Judaism. Although today's average Gentile reader doesn't realize it, the Jew believed that the Old Testament law (and thus his religion) was given by angels. (See Acts 7:35; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2.) The writer therefore began his comparison of the two ages, or the two religious systems, by contrasting their messengers, the angels in one case, and the Son in the other. In order to illustrate that Jesus Christ is preeminent over the angels, the Hebrews author quotes from the Old Testament.

3. You are my What? I have become your What? (v.5) What Old Testament verse is quoted here? (See footnote referenced)

4. Or again, I will be His What? He will be My What? (v.5) What Old Testament verses are quoted here? (See footnote referenced)

5. And again, when God brings His what? Into what? (v.6)
6. He says what? (v.6) What Old Testament verse is quoted here? (See footnote referenced)
7. In speaking of what group? (v.7)
8. He makes His angels what? His servants what? (v.7) What Old Testament verse is quoted here? (See footnote referenced)
9. But about Whom? (v.8)
10. He says, Your what? O Whom? Will last how long? And righteousness will be what? (v.8)
11. You have loved what? And hated what? Therefore Whom? Your What? (v.9)
12. Has set you above whom? By doing what? With what? (v.9)
13. What Old Testament verses are quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9? (See footnote referenced)
14. He also says, In the what? O Whom? You laid what? And the heavens are the what? (v.10)
15. They will what? But You will what? They will all what? Like what? (v.11)
16. You will roll them up like a what? Like a garment they will be what? (v.12)
17. But You will do what? And your what? Will do what? (v.12)
18. What Old Testament verses are quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12? (See footnote referenced)
19. To which group? Did Whom say? (v.13)
20. Sit where? Until I make what group? A what? For Your what? (v.13)

21. What Old Testament verse is quoted in Hebrews 1:13? (See footnote referenced)

22. Are not all angels what? Sent to do what? Those who will do what? (v.14)

Let's review the central thought of each of these quotations so that we can see more clearly the writer's argument:

1. God's pride in Jesus' work (the cross). – Hebrews 1:5a (Psalm 2:7)
2. God's promise/pledge to the Son-Father Relationship. – Hebrews 1:5b (2 Samuel 7:14)
3. Incarnation: angels are assigned to worship the Son. – Hebrews 1:6 (Deuteronomy 32:43)
4. Incarnation or general role: angels serve (the Son). – Hebrews 1:7 (Psalm 104:4)
5. The Son's righteous rule. – Hebrews 1:8-9 (Psalm 45:6-7)
6. The Son created the universe and will bring it to an end; but He remains the same forever – Hebrews 1:10-12 (Psalm 102:25-27)
7. The Son reigns, and God subdues His enemies. – Hebrews 1:13 (Psalm 110:1)

After the series of quotations the Hebrews' writer makes one closing statement concerning the angels' place (1:14). They are to serve those who will inherit salvation. Instead of being above mankind, angels find themselves beneath mankind, serving those who by the power of this marvelous Son Jesus are now destined to inherit salvation. By His work believers become heirs with Jesus. He is heir of all things; they are heirs of salvation. Chapter two will explain how Jesus joined mankind to provide this inheritance for all His brothers and sisters in the human family.

Let's close by looking at what one commentator says: "By referring to Psalms and other Old Testament passages, the Hebrew writer was able to show the Jewish Christians that Jesus Christ, the revealer of Christianity, is above the angels. The Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, teaches that Christ has a more excellent Name and a more exalted position than the angels. Through the Scriptures, the writer was able to demonstrate that the angels are of no interest in themselves. While they were mediators of the revelation that foreshadowed the Christian age, even they must pay homage to the Son, who is the fulfillment of this revelation. Thus the Christian age, or the age of redemption, is as much higher than the Old Testament as the Son is greater than the angels."

“Making Disciples for the Master”