

I. Lesson Jesus and the Angels Pt. 2 (Heb 1:5-14)

A. Jesus's Unique Sonship (1:5-7)

The Hebrews writer makes an important distinction between the sonship of Jesus and the status of the angels. The Hebrews writer is likely aware of Gen 6:4 and other texts which speak of the angels as “sons of God.” But here he makes a distinction between Jesus and the angels. Notice the repeated statements, “to which of the angels” and “to the Son.” The writer wants to make a stark contrast between the two. Though heavenly beings, Jesus cannot be discussed along the same lines as angels. The Son is eternal whereas, without beginning or end. The angels are immortal. They have a beginning but no end. Furthermore, the angels are created. The Son is not.

1. The angels are never recognized as *the Son* who is begotten of God. Here the writer draws on Ps 2:7.
2. The Son is the unique son of David. Here the writer draws on 2 Sam 7:14.
3. The firstborn of God was meant to receive worship from the angels. Here he draws from Ps 97:7.
4. The angels are *made* as spirits or as elements in the world. He draws from Ps 104:4. This verse shows the power of Jesus over the angels.

Question: Do we rightly acknowledge the uniqueness of Jesus? Though he was human, he was God. What does that mean to us? How can we better show him our devotion as the God who came near?

B. The Everlasting Rule of God's Son (1:8-14)

The writer has switched his argument to the everlasting nature of the rule of Jesus and that of Jesus himself. Jesus is above them in that he is over them and all of the cosmos. His rule over all things has no end, including the angels.

1. The throne of the Son is forever, and he rules rightly. Here the writer draws from Ps 45:5-7.
2. The Son outlasts his own creation. While creation has been around for a long time, it is nothing in comparison to the Son of God. The writer draws from Ps 102:25-27; Isaiah 50:9; 51:6. It was common for Jewish writers to cite many texts from different places, often placing them out of their specific context, to make a specific point.
3. The Son sits on the right hand of God and overcomes all of his enemies. Here the writer draws from Ps 110:1. This passage of Scripture is very important in messianic interpretation.
4. Angels are ministering spirits who serve God by serving the people of God. The writer clarifies the role of the angels. They are made to help the people of God do the bidding of God. They are “ministering spirits” or spirits of service. They are not to be worshipped but here to make sure the work of God is done.

Question: Do we have faith in the reign of Jesus? Do we think that he is still in charge? How do we show it?