

God Has Spoken
“The Exalted Son”

Introduction: Hebrews written to the tottering church community in Rome.

- Threatened with imminent persecution
- Questioning the veracity and trustworthiness of the Christian message
- Considering abandonment/return to Judaism
- A. **Opening Words**—God has spoken finally and definitely in His Son—Jesus Christ. No more fragments or multiple manners—REVELATION OF THE SON!
- B. **Trustworthiness of Son**
 1. Universal heir
 2. Creator and sustainer of all
 3. Perfect and FULL revelation of the Father
 4. Redeemer who purged our sins at Calvary
 5. Now sits at the Father’s right hand as His work of redemption is complete

HE IS THE EXALTED SON!

(Our focus today)

- C. **The obvious of question elicited**—what has God said in the revelation of His Son?
- D. **Before it is addressed**—the author will press upon the readers the eminent majesty of the son (1:5-14)

NOTE: This is done in order to secure their proper attention to the “great salvation” effected and revealed in Christ’s fulfilled sonship.

- E. **How does the author focus the reader’s attention toward the Son’s majesty?**

ANSWER: By comparing the Son to angels

Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:4 NKJV

- F. **Traditional esteem the Jews gave to angels is clear (4 examples)**
 1. **Stood in heavenly presence around His throne and serving as His attendants at His bidding**

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:2-3 NKJV

2. Extra-biblical Jewish Literature

1st Enoch 20:5 "Michael, one of the holy angels who presiding over human nature, commands, the nations."

3. Angels thought to be intermediaries present at Mt. Sinai (Stephen)

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." Acts 7:51-53 NKJV

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Galatians 3:19 NKJV

4. The angels were ministering spirits to believers and held in high esteem—angel worship and issue with Colossians

Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. Colossians 2:18 NKJV

G. Underlying truth: The Word of the Son is superior because HE is superior to the angels (5-14)

1. This text unpacks superiority
2. Based on the firm foundation of the Word of God

H. Understanding the context of this

1. Common notion—this text refers to the entire scope of Jesus' existence
 - a. Pre-existence

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. Hebrews 1:10 NKJV

b. Incarnation

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? Hebrews 1:5 NKJV

c. External exaltation

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Hebrews 1:13 NKJV

2. Literary structure points to something else

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:3-4 NKJV

- a. Sat down at the right hand of Majesty on High
- b. "Having become" so much better than the angels

—Refers to a transition from one status to a new one

—From a "little lower" than the angels to "a name greater than theirs."

3. This should not surprise us when we read the next chapter

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2:5-9 NKJV

- a. World to come is NOT subject to angels (but to the Son by implication)
- b. Was made lower than the angels in His humiliation but now crowned with glory and honor

4. Hebrews 1:5-14 all points to His exaltation (ascension or seating at the Father's right hand)

I. Structure of the Text (3 parts)

1. Verses 5, 6—13, 14

- a. Moves from the Son (5, 13) to the angels (6, 14)
- b. Both introduced—“to which of the angels did he say”
- c. First pair begins with Christ’s Sonship—to the angels worship
- d. Second pair begins with Son’s exaltation—to the servant nature of angels

2. Looks like this

- a. V. 5—Nature of the Son—“You are my son...”
- b. V. 6—Position of the angels—“Let the angels worship Him.”
- c. V. 13—Position of the Son—“Sit at my right hand.”
- d. V. 14—Nature of the angels—“Ministering spirits

3. Verses 7-12

- a. What God says about angels (7)
- b. What God says to the Son (8-12)

Three Contrasts

I. Contrast One: The Son’s Nature vs. the Angels’ Position

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? and "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:5-6 NKJV

- A. Underscores the unique relationship between the Son and the Father—unlike anything He has or has ever had with the angels.

1. Occasionally angels referred to as “sons of God”

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Psalms 29:2 NKJV

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. Job 1:6-7 NKJV

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Job 38:7 NKJV

2. Never an angel singled out for a special father/son relationship

B. Misunderstandings

1. Puzzled that there is a “day” when the Father begat the Son.
2. Others might see this speaking of the birth narrative (angels worshipping when He came into the world.”

C. But this does not fit context—“sat down at the right hand of majesty on high.”

D. Sonship speaks to His exaltation (session—seated at the right hand)

1. First quote comes from Psalm 2:7

"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." 7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. Psalms 2:6-8 NKJV

KINGSHIP

2. Second quote comes from 2 Samuel 7:14

- a. David wants to build a temple
- b. Would be Solomon instead

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 2 Samuel 7:12-14 NKJV

Also Kingship

3. Both quotes speak of Sonship or inheriting the promised position of exaltation—King
4. Son humbled Himself lower than angels in His incarnation but became Son (King) in His exaltation

IMPORTANT: Firstborn—first to receive inheritance

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:28-30 NKJV

(Glorification)

5. No longer a little lower than the angels

E. But what about v. 6?

But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6 NKJV

“Brings firstborn into the world.”

1. World=oikomene

(NOTE: Many see this as His birth and while angels announced His birth—did not worship Him)

NOTE ALSO: Often this word means civilized world or inhabited world of earth

2. But, for believers our citizenship is not here

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13-14 NKJV

For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. Hebrews 11:14 NKJV

- a. Our true civilized or habitable world is not earth, but heaven—great cloud of witnesses
- b. See also Hebrews 2:5

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. Hebrews 2:5 NKJV

NOTE: The author thinks of the world to come as “oikoumene” and the angels will not rule but will serve.

SUMMARIZE: When God exalted Christ to His right hand as King (begotten), He commands the angels to worship.

HE IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS!

- He is Son/King
- They must worship

II. Contrast Two: What God says about the Angels and what He says to His Son (1:7-12)

A. What does God say about the angels?

And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." Hebrews 1:7 NKJV

1. Made—created beings
2. Angels made “winds”—pneuma
3. Minister flames of fire
4. Changeable
5. Wind/fire bush at Sinai
6. Awesome manifestations but not like the Son

B. To the Son He says

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." 10 And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." Hebrews 1:8-12 NKJV

1. Christ called God (deity emphasized)
2. Throne forever—nothing transitory

NOTE: The role of the angels to minister to heirs of salvation will end

3. Anointed as King forever—permanent office that will last forever
4. Holds a scepter than provides access to the Father—righteousness

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. Hebrews 1:8 NKJV

(ILL) Esther/Ahasuerus

5. Earthly obedience

You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." Hebrews 1:9 NKJV

6. The permanent nature of Son vs. the transitory nature of angels is seen again in v. 10

And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." Hebrews 1:10-12 NKJV

NOTE: Taken from Psalms 102

Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. 27 But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. Psalms 102:25-27 NKJV

- a. Created realm destined to decay
- b. Christ the Lord has place of permanence
- c. Role of the angels is to minister to us in the earthly realm
- d. Christ will forever

Important will see later in letter

Whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Hebrews 12:26-27 NKJV

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

About the angels—temporary servants
Of the Son—permanent King

III. Contrast Three: The Son's Position vs. the Angel's Nature

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:13-14 NKJV

A. Son is exalted at God's right hand until all enemies are subjected.

1. Will not sit forever

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NKJV

(Then in this present day of Grace)

2. Enemies will be destroyed

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV

3. He will reign forever

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:25-28 NKJV

B. The angels minister to us as we await our full inheritance

Conclusion: God Has Spoken in His Son

1. Who is trustworthy
2. Who is exalted (far above all the powers)
3. In times of doubt and wavering we must know this

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Ephesians 1:15-21 NKJV

- Finished work
- Sovereign control
- Intercessory activity
- Provided access
- Eternal reign

This will be repeated focus of Hebrew's author

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens Hebrews 8:1 NKJV

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV