

## Hebrews 1:4-8

Suggested Reading: John chapter 1 as a primer for this week's study. Will open with the following selected readings: John 1:1-5, 9-18, 26-34

### Hebrews 1:4 (NOTES)

- Having established who Jesus is in verses 1-3 (deity, Son of God, Agent of creation, equal to God the Father, Savior, and Lord, the writer now moves on to declare, explain, and defend the superiority of Jesus over first, the angels, then humanity (ch. 2), Moses (ch. 3), the Sabbath (ch. 4), the priesthood (ch. 5-7), and having brought a better covenant (ch. 8-10).
- What are angels? The NT Greek word, *angelos*, means "messenger." Angels are created beings, without flesh. They exist in the spirit realm and are without earthly bodies. However, they can manifest themselves as human beings. Satan, formerly known as "Lucifer" (Heb. - bearer of light) was an angel. When he rebelled against God, he and one-third of the heavenly host was ejected from heaven and converted into demons, #Heb 13:2, Isaiah 7:14
- Jews then and now must understand that the Messiah, Jesus, would not just be an ordinary man chosen (anointed = messiah/christ) by God, but the second person of the triune godhead, having condescended from heaven to become incarnate with the flesh of humankind. Being Himself God, Jesus, the incarnation of the second person of the godhead is superior to all created things, as He is their creator, and they were created for Him. #Col 1:15-18
- "having become much as better than the angels" - Having *become* means that Jesus (in His humanity, in His position as a man) did not start out as higher than the angels. When Jesus came into the world as a human (Immanuel = God with us), He set aside His glory, power, and rights as God to become a full and complete human. He did not give up His deity, which would not be possible, but He condescended from His high position in glory in heaven, to become a lowly human, the son of a laborer. In doing this, He subjected Himself to created things - including angels.
- But, when He was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, God the Father revealed Him as deity and placed Him above the angels. #Heb 2:7-10
- "He has inherited a more excellent name than they"-Jesus means God is Salvation. Angels have name-Michael, Gabriel, even Lucifer. But the name, Jesus, is above all others because no other named person, angel, or thing can save us from our sins. this power is unique to Christ. #Philippians 2:9-10, Acts 4:11-12

### Hebrews 1:5 (NOTES)

- Note: I am teaching from an NASB 1995 Update translation-the latest version of the *New American Standard*. This Bible translation is the most accurate, word-for-word, translation available in the English language. It is based upon the ancient texts, research, and original translation work done that produced the King James version in 1611 AD which is known as the "Authorized Version."

- Note: When you see words in ALL CAPS in the NASB, you are seeing a quotation from the OT. In such cases, the location of the quote is referenced at the end of the verse, should you care to look it up. The only exception to the ALL CAPS rule is when the "LORD" appears, with the "ORD" being still capitalized, yet slightly smaller in font than the capitalized "L." In these cases, the word LORD is being used in place of the Name *Yahweh*, which is the Name given by God to Moses in the burning bush. It means "I am that I am" and is actually spelled Y-H-W-H in Hebrew. The Hebrew language has no consonants. The reason for the LORD instead of YHWH spelling is because of the 3rd of the 10 commandments - not to use God's Name for vain purpose. Exodus 20:7
- "For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'THOU ART MY SON,'" - The angels are created. They are not gods, or eternal. They had a beginning. Jesus had no beginning. He exists eternally. Eternality is an attribute of deity. Hebrews 1:11
- "TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE"-This is an OT quote. It refers to God having given the second person of the godhead a body of flesh and having established Him as Son- a title to which no other person or being has or ever will or can be eligible. 2 Samuel 7:14, Hebrews 10:5
- "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME" - This speaks of the dignity, uniqueness, and intimacy of the relationship between the first and second persons of the godhead. They share a love for each other. "WILL" and "SHALL" refer to a future time. The 2 Samuel quote above was OT and, thus, written before Jesus had come to the earth. Prior to His incarnation, Jesus was not "Son". John 14:31, 15:10

#### Hebrews 1:6 (NOTES)

- "when He again brings the first-born into the world" - This is a reference to the Resurrection of Christ, which, in a sense, is a second birth - He is the first-born of the dead. Colossians 1:18
- "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM" - The angels worship Him as higher than the creation, of which they are part. The day will come when the kings of the earth worship Him, all people will worship Him, even the animals will worship him. Psalm 89:27, Romans 14:11, Psalm 150:6

#### Hebrews 1:8 (NOTES)

- "But of the Son" - The writer is contrasting the position of the Son as having an everlasting throne compared with the angels who do God's bidding in more mundane tasks - "winds and a flame of fire." Jesus is superior because He has the throne. Angels do not have thrones. Not even Satan.
- "THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER" - Jesus will sit on the throne established for Him by God through Israel's King David. Jesus' throne is eternal. Luke 1:32-33

- "THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER" - A scepter is a short rod held by a ruling monarch. It is a symbol of royalty, sovereignty, power, and authority. Of the twelve tribes of Israel, Judah is the royal tribe from which the kings descend. Jesus, known as the Lion of Judah, is the final King of the line. He and His scepter were prophesied by Jacob (Israel), the son of Isaac, the grandson of Abraham. Genesis 49:8-12
- "Shiloh" is a form of the word, *shalom*, which means *peace*. "Solomon" means *peaceful*. Shiloh is a reference to the Messiah, the One "to whom peace belongs", or "Prince of Peace" = Shiloh.
- Jesus will rule and reign in righteousness. Righteousness is a reference to the attribute of **GOODNESS**. Goodness is an attribute of God and is shared by Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:1-5