



Preface

The book of Hebrews begins with an introduction declaring the nature and superiority of Jesus Christ. The book is rich in direct quotations and references from the Old Testament, arguing that God's glory and redemptive plan are ultimately revealed and fulfilled in Jesus.

Observation

1. What are the ways that God spoke in the past and in these last days (Heb. 1:1-2)?
2. Based on Heb. 1:1-4, how is the Son being described? What other verses in Chapter 1 support the descriptions?

*Leaders' note: Several keywords are **heir**, **creator**, **radiance of God's glory**, **exact representation**, **sustainer**, **provided purification of sins**, **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty** (≈ equality with God)*

3. What were the beliefs about the messages spoken through angels? What is the consequence of violating or disobeying the messages spoken through angels?

Leaders' note: In the past, God spoke through angels and messages spoken through angels were very highly regarded. More will be discussed in Interpretation Q2-3

Interpretation

1. In what ways is the Son superior over the angels?

Leaders' note: The author builds his support for the superiority of Jesus over the angels by stringing together various Old Testament texts to substantiate his argument.

Jesus is shown as superior by the nature of...

- i. *his relationship to the Father – Heb. 1:5 referencing Ps. 2:7; 2 Sam. 7:14; 1 Chro 17:13*
- ii. *his position over the angels – Heb. 1:6-7 referencing Deut 32:43; Ps. 97:7; 104:4 and Heb. 1:13-14 - referencing Ps. 110:1*
- iii. *his kingly authority – Heb. 1:8-9 referencing Ps. 45:6-7*
- iv. *his eternal lordship over creation – Heb. 1:10-12) referencing Ps. 102:25-27*

2. What does Jesus' superiority over the angelic beings reveal to us about Christ?

Leaders' note: The heart behind this question is to help us realize that Christ is God's ultimate revelation to the world and we shall grow in our confidence in Christ and allegiance to Him.

3. What are the things that “we have heard” (Heb. 2:1) and how does Heb. 2:3 fortify our faith in God’s salvation being confirmed through Jesus?

*Leaders’ note: This is the **first warning** written in Hebrews. The author is warning the people against neglecting the message that they have heard about Jesus Christ and drifting away from faith.*

The author made a case for the importance of Mosaic law that was given by the angels. Violating and disobeying the Mosaic law resulted in just punishment.

Christ is superior over all things and was confirmed by signs, wonders, and miracles. Rejecting or neglecting the message of salvation made available through Christ will result in more recompense.

Application

1. How has the passage transformed our views and attitude towards Jesus Christ?
2. How have we allowed our environment to shape our priorities and draw our attention away from Christ?
3. What things in our life have we placed in a position of superiority over God?
4. How can we consciously prioritize Jesus in our thoughts and actions in our everyday life?

Optional Prayer Exercise: Praying the Psalms

The Psalms are Spirit-inspired words, given us by God to speak about God and to God. (Christopher Ash, “*How to Pray the Psalms*”)

Begin by picking a psalm, read it slowly, and try to paraphrase it verse-by-verse and make it personal while expressing every feeling that you feel to God.

Example: Praying from Psalm 45:6-7 (Quoted in Hebrews 1:8-9)

“We worship You, O God, our Lord and King whose throne lasts forever. Jesus Christ, You are our righteous and just King whom we long to trust, worship, and submit to. In Your mighty and precious name we pray, Amen.”