

Hebrews 1:5 – 2:4

In our last study, we went through several passages in Hebrews and learned a few things about the author, recipient and more importantly, the purpose of the book.

The author is familiar with the situation and history of the recipients. He is concerned that they will fall back to the old ways, instead of persevering on in their confession of Christ. This book then, is written to serve as a “word of exhortation” (in other words, a sermon) from the author to the recipients. The purpose is to encourage and exhort them to persevere in their faith in Christ, and not to give into temptation to fall back to their old ways. (We will discover what these “old ways” are in future studies.)

Starting from this week, we will start to dig deeper and discover how he accomplishes this.

Launch

What are some things that Christians are tempted to have more confidence in (or think as superior) compared to Jesus, unconsciously and unintentionally?

Hebrews 1:1 – 2:4 – The Son is Greater Than the Angels

Read Hebrews 1:1 – 2:4.

- 1) What message is the author is trying to tell his readers in chapter 1?
- 2) What method does he use to do that?

Take the time to look up the Old Testament quotations in Hebrews 1. Read the Old Testament passage in its original context, and try to figure out how the author is applying the OT passage to God’s Son. Don’t worry about getting all the “right” answers. Just try to do it to the best of your abilities.

Old Testament Passage	Old Testament Context	Application to God’s Son
Psalms 2:7	<i>The psalm is about God installing his king to rule over the world, and calls all other kings to worship him.</i>	<i>God has installed his Son to be ruler of the world. This means that the Son is greater than the angels.</i>
2 Samuel 7:14		
Psalms 45:6-7		

Psalm 102:25-27		
Psalm 110:1		

- 3) Why do you think he is comparing God's Son to angels? What do you think this says about the role of angels in the recipients' thoughts?

- 4) Look at your notes on what God says about his Son (3rd column of your table). What conclusion(s) can you draw about the Son?

- 5) What does the author say the angels are sent to do? (v14) Does that surprise you?

Summarise Hebrews 1 in your own words:



Hebrews 2:1-4

After comparing God's Son to angels, the author of Hebrew turns to apply what he has just said to his readers.

- 1) What does the author ask us to do? Why? (v1)
- 2) What is the reason given for us to do what is commanded in verse 1? (v2-3a)
 - a. What do you think verse 2 is referring to?
- 3) How does "this salvation" in verse 3 come to us?
- 4) What else did God do to testify about this salvation? (v4) Where do we read about this in the Bible?

Application

- 5) What are some ways that Christians are tempted to drift away from the faith? What are some "first steps" in doing so? What are some practical steps to avoid that?
- 6) How can we encourage each other to "pay the most careful attention to what we have heard"?
- 7) Look back to your answers in the Introduction. Based on what we have learned from this passage, what can we say about the things you listed?

The comparison that the author of Hebrews makes between angels and God's Son serves to demonstrate that the Son is far superior than any other angels. He uses a number of Old Testament quotations to prove his point that far greater things have been said about the Son by God compared to angels. The Son is God's king, and his throne will last forever. The Son is the one who laid the foundations of the earth and his years will never end. The same thing cannot be said of any angels or anything else in all of creation.

That is why we must pay most careful attention to the salvation that this Son has brought. If the message the angels brought in the Old Testament has punishment for its disobedience, how much more severe are the consequences of rejecting this greater salvation brought by the Son? This is why the author's heart is for his readers to fix their eyes on the Son, and not to drift away. Let's us do the same, for the Son is greater than anything else in all of creation, including angels.