

A Study of the General Epistles

NT Survey Lesson 143—Hebrews 1

Introduction: We do not know for certain the human author or where the people lived to whom this letter is written; but, this does not take away from the power and importance of its message. The writer of Hebrews (possibly Apollos?) seeks to show his readers (Jewish Christians in Italy?) the superiority of the priesthood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ over the priesthood and sacrifices of the OT. He wants to encourage these Christians to hold to their faith in Jesus Christ rather than return to the practice of the Jewish religion.

In the first major division of the book (1:1-7:28) the writer shows these Hebrew Christians that their priest is “a Son, made perfect, forever” (See 8:1). In keeping with this “main point” the author begins his letter by showing that Jesus as the Son of God is superior to the angels God had used to present his truth in times past.

Lesson aim: To show Jesus’ superiority to angels as God’s mediator of the new covenant.

God speaks through His Son in the last days—Heb. 1:1-4

1. By whom did the Hebrew writer say God spoke long ago to the Jewish fathers? (v. 1) How did he speak to them?
2. How did he say God speaks “in these last days”? (v. 2)
3. How is the Son described? (v. 2-4) Write down what you think each phrase means.
4. What point about Christ, in particular, does the Hebrew writer want to prove to his readers? (v. 4)

Proof that Jesus as the Son of God is superior to angels—Heb. 1:5-14

1. What three OT quotations prove that Jesus has inherited a more excellent name than angels and is thus greater? (v. 5-6) What does each say about Jesus?
2. What is the writer saying about angels in v. 7? (Hint: In Hebrew poetry the poet tries to write down lines that mean the same thing in different words. Remember our analogies?--Wind is to fire as angels are to what?)
3. To what other two OT passages does the writer appeal that describe the Son? (v. 8-12) What do each of these verses teach us about the Son?
4. What other thing was never said to angels but was said to Christ? (v. 13) How does Christ fulfill this verse?
5. How then does the Hebrew writer describe angels? (v. 14) What is their purpose?
6. What exhortation does the writer give in chapter two based on the idea proven in chapter one? (2:1-4)