Hebrews and Me
October to December, 2018

Session 1 – Hebrews 1-2
The Son, Prophets, Angels and Me

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Hebrews 2:10  Bringing many sons to glory!
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Introduction to Hebrews

• Author: It’s anonymous.
  – Almost everyone (400-1500 AD): Paul
  – Doubts in recent centuries

• Addressed to Jewish Believers
  – Don’t Fall Away from Christ to Judaism

• Written about 63 AD

• biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/hebrews/1.htm
The Prophets, the Son and Me

• Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

• “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” [Mt. 16:14; Mark 8:28; Luke 9:18]
Who Do You Say I AM?

• **Jews** reject Him as a false prophet
• **Muslims** make him a prophet, with Abraham, Moses, David and others; Mohammed is the final prophet. ‘Jews and Christians have corrupted their scriptures; don’t read them.’
• **Bahá'ís** believe Bahá'u'lláh is the final prophet, after Moses, Buddha, Christ, and Mohammed
• **Cults** today deny Jesus Christ’s full divinity
• **Our Bibles include the OT Prophets!**

Our Lord Jesus is Son, Heir and Creator, and the only way to the Father (John 14:6, Acts 4:12).
3 The **Son** is the **radiance of God’s glory** and the **exact representation of his being**, **sustaining all things** by his powerful word. After he had **provided purification for sins**, he **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven**.

4 So he became as much **superior to the angels** as **the name he has inherited is superior to theirs**.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, “**You are my Son**; today I have become your Father”? [Ps. 2:7] Or again, “I will be his Father, and **he will be my Son**”? [2 Sam. 7:14; 1 Chron. 7:13]

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “**Let all God’s angels worship him**.” [Dt. 32:43]

7 In speaking of the angels he says, “**He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire**.” [Ps. 104:4]
8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." [Ps. 45:6-7]

10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." [Psalm 102:25-27]

13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? [Psalm 110:1]

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
Denying that He’s the Son of God

- **First-century Jewish believers** were pressured to say He’s just God’s messenger (angel or prophet)
- **Today’s Muslim-background believers** are pressured to deny His divinity
- **Today’s Hindu-background believers** are pressured to make Him one of many gods
- **Cult members and Unitarians** deny His divinity
- It’s *politically incorrect to say He’s the only way!*

He’s the Son of God, Creator, Heir of all, Lord, Risen, Exalted, Enthroned, the Only Savior!
## Angel Reference Counts

The Hebrew & Greek words mean ‘messenger’
The translators use ‘angel’ for non-humans

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What Angels Are

- *Created* – Revelation 4:11  You **created all things**, and by your will they were created and have their being.

- *Many* - Revelation 5:11  **many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand.**

- *Spirits* - Hebrews 1:14  Are not all angels **ministering spirits** sent to **serve those who will inherit salvation**?

- *Immortal* – Luke 20:36  They can **no longer die; for they are like the angels.**

- *Single* - Mark 12:25  When the dead rise, **they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.**

- *Scary* – Luke 2:9  An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and **they were terrified.**

- *Undetectable* – Hebrews 13:2  **Some people have entertained angels without knowing it.**

What Angels Do

- **Obey** - Psalms 103:20  **Praise** the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who **do his bidding**, who **obey his word**.

- **Communicate** – Genesis 16:7-9  **The angel of the LORD found Hagar** ... “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.”

- **Kill** – 2 Chronicles 32:21  And the LORD sent **an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men** and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king.

- **Help** - Psalms 91:11  For **he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways**

- **Praise** – Luke 2:13  Suddenly **a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God**

- **Gather** - Matthew 13:49  The **angels** will come and **separate the wicked from the righteous**.
Angels and Me

Believe in them

• Acts 23:6,8 “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee.” ... (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.)

Don’t worship them or focus on them

• Colossians 2:18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

• Revelation 22:8f I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant!”
Discussion Questions

1. What does ‘radiance of his glory’ mean? See John 1:14,18 and Colossians 1:15.
2. What does it mean that Jesus sustains all things?
3. Why do politicians mention God more than Jesus? What makes Jesus unacceptable in our culture?
4. What’s the attraction of Unitarianism?
5. Should we get more sermons on angels?
Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

1. What does ‘radiance of his glory’ mean? See John 1:14,18 and Colossians 1:15. ‘The image of the invisible God.’ ‘We saw his glory.’

2. What does it mean that Jesus sustains all things? The universe doesn’t run itself!

3. Why do politicians mention God more than Jesus? They think they’d lose votes! What makes Jesus unacceptable in our culture? His ‘narrow’ claim to be the only way. Sin. Satan’s deception.

4. What’s the attraction of Unitarianism? I don’t know! I’m not attracted. Nor to Islam or the cults.

5. Should we get more sermons on angels? No! Colossians 2:18 seems to forbid it!
Listen! Escape! Don’t Drift or Ignore!

- Hebrews 2:1-4  We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.  
  2 For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment,  
  3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.  
  4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- Listen carefully! Escape judgment! Get saved!
- Don’t drift away! Don’t ignore this glorious gospel!
- It comes from Jesus. It’s confirmed by His word and people
- God confirms it by miracles.
- God uses miracles according to His will.
Discussion Questions

1. Is the message spoken by angels binding? Does every violation and disobedience receive just punishment?

2. How can anyone escape?

3. Why does it say, ‘Don’t drift or neglect,’ instead of saying, ‘Don’t worry, believers can’t drift away’?

4. How is the gospel confirmed to people today?

5. How can I convince people to believe and escape?
Discussion Questions – *Suggested Answers*

1. Is the message spoken by angels binding? Does every violation and disobedience receive just punishment? 
   Yes. Yes.

2. How can anyone escape? *Let Him be my sin-bearer and Savior.*

3. Why does it say, ‘Don’t drift or neglect,’ instead of saying, ‘Don’t worry, believers can’t drift away’? 
   *Professing believers do fall away. Beware!* 

4. How is the gospel confirmed to people today? *God’s word. The Holy Spirit. Miracles then and now.* 

5. How can I convince people to believe and escape? 
   *Pray. Share unashamed. Live consistently.*
The Son of Man, Incarnate, Crowned

- Hebrews 2:5-8 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor 8 and put everything under his feet.” [Psalm 8:4-6] In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

- Genesis 1:26 Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule ... over all the earth

- Philippians 2:5-11 Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ... God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name ...
Bringing Many Sons to Glory

Hebrews 2:9-13 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. 12 He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.” [Psalm 22:22] 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” [Isaiah 8:17; both contexts are Messianic]
Why He Shared Our Humanity

Hebrews 2:13-18  And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” [Isaiah 8:18] 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
Discussion Questions

1. Why did He share our humanity?
2. Why did He suffer death?
3. So what?
Discussion Questions – Suggested Answers

1. Why did He share our humanity? To destroy the devil, free the slaves, become our High Priest, make atonement, and help the tempted.

2. Why did He suffer death? – To bring many sons to glory, an eternal family in heaven enjoying and worshipping Him.

3. So what? – Listen! Escape! Don’t drift or ignore! Trust Him! He can help in temptation now and will be with you always! Share this news! Eternity is eternal!