

In this week's passage, the writer uses numerous Old Testament passages (mostly Psalms) to make clear the superiority of Jesus the Son. Because of the contrast made between Jesus and angels, we may assume that there was some sort of preoccupation with angels that the author wants to correct. As you study this week's passage, read these verses slowly, allowing yourself to be captivated by the majesty of the Son.

➤ Read Hebrews 1:5-14.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

7 In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

8 But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice 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.”

10 He also says,

“In the beginning, 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.”

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”?

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

1. Go back through the passage, highlighting everything the writer says about the Son, and circling everything the writer says about angels.

2. Verse 5 is drawn from Psalm 2 and 1 Chronicles 17:13–14. They speak of an heir of David who will be God’s own Son. Read Psalm 2. How is the Son described in this psalm?

God is always embracing Jesus as his Son, always acting as Father, both to Jesus and to those who belong to Jesus.¹

3. In 1 Chronicles 17:10b–14, God makes David promises through the prophet Nathan.
- What are the promises?
 - How do we know that Jesus is the heir God promised David? (Lk. 1:31–33; 3:21–22; 9:33–35; Rom. 1:2–4)
 - What are some ways that Jesus fulfills the promises made to David? (Eph. 1:19b–23; 2:19–22; 1 Cor. 15:24–26)

4. Verse 6 says that the angels worship the firstborn. In doing this, what are the angels acknowledging? (Rev. 22:8–9; consider how the Son is addressed in Heb. 1:8)

Firstborn

The “firstborn” in a family is the heir who has certain rights and privileges. The writer of Hebrews uses this title to indicate Jesus’ superiority and authority. It does not imply that he was created; on the contrary, Hebrews makes it clear that he has always existed.


5. While angels can't compare to Jesus, what does the writer tell us about them? (vv. 7, 14)

6. Verses 10–12 are from Psalm 102:25–27. Note how contrast is used in these verses to emphasize the superiority of the Son. Get used to it—the writer will use contrast over and over again to keep making this point throughout the book. What aspects of the Son does this section emphasize?
 - v. 10

 - v. 11

 - v. 12

7. Verse 13 quotes Psalm 110, a messianic psalm that would have been well known to the original readers of Hebrews; here we read God's invitation to the Son to sit at his right hand. Why does the Son deserve this place of honor? (Heb. 1:3; Jn. 17:1–5; Acts 2:22–36)

8. Who are "those who will inherit salvation" (v. 14)? (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 2:1–9; * Ps. 91:9–15)

9. Throughout this passage the author of Hebrews makes clear that while angels are pretty cool, the Son is better by far. The Son is the gift that was under wraps in the Old Testament but is now revealed for all to see. Chapter 1 has looked at many facets of Jesus' majesty through the lens of Old Testament prophecy. Think back through the lesson and write words or draw pictures of things that most amaze you about the Son.

10. Most of us would not say that we put angels on the same level as Jesus. But we often honor and trust people and created things more than him. Ask the Lord to help you take in the greatness of Jesus so that everything else is put in its proper place.

*📖 For further study

¹ J. Ramsey Michaels, *Hebrews*, in *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*, ed. Philip W. Comfort (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2009), 335.