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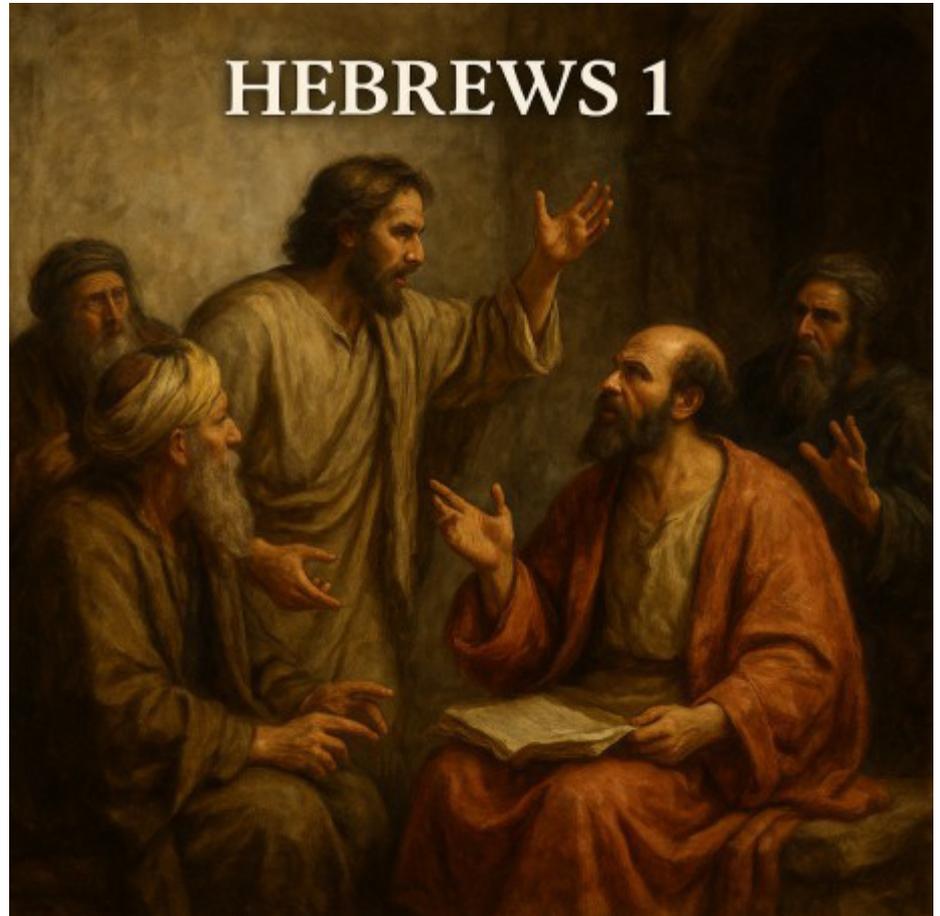
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Hebrews 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Hebrews 1

Hebrews 1:1

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways.

† The letter opens by reminding readers of God's past revelation through the prophets. He spoke in many ways, through visions, dreams, symbols, and direct words. This points back to the Old Covenant as the foundation.

Hebrews 1:2

In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world.

† The writer contrasts the past with the present. God's final word came through His Son in the last days of the Old Covenant age. Christ was the heir of all things, the one through whom God made the ages. The focus is on covenantal fulfillment, not the end of the physical universe.

† Josephus (Against Apion 2.190) spoke of the prophets as God's voice to Israel, but the Son surpasses them all.

† Josephus (Wars 6.109) also described the destruction of Jerusalem as "the end of the Jewish nation," confirming that the "last days" referred to that covenantal transition.

Hebrews 1:3

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

† Jesus is the perfect revelation of God, His very image. He accomplished purification for sins through His sacrifice and now reigns at the Father's right hand. His exaltation shows the completed work of redemption.

† Philo of Alexandria (On the Confusion of Tongues 146) described the Logos as the "image of God," language similar to Hebrews, showing that Jewish thought connected divine radiance with God's Word.

† The Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 describes wisdom as "a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God." This Jewish background makes the description of Christ unmistakable as God's perfect image.

Hebrews 1:4

Having become so much better than the angels, to the extent

that He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

† Christ is superior to angels, bearing a greater name and authority. The Son is not a servant but the heir, fulfilling what angels only foreshadowed.

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did He ever say, "You are My Son, today I have fathered You"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him and He will be a Son to Me"?

† The writer quotes Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14 to show Christ's unique sonship. Angels were messengers, but Jesus was the promised Son of David and Son of God.

Hebrews 1:6

And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

† The firstborn, Christ, receives worship from angels. This highlights His supremacy over all spiritual beings. The quotation recalls Deuteronomy 32:43 in the Septuagint.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice, 4Q400) exalted angelic worship in Jewish imagination, but Hebrews shows that Christ alone is worthy of that worship.

Hebrews 1:7

And regarding the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire."

† Angels are described as servants, instruments of God's power. They are not sons or heirs but created beings used for ministry.

Hebrews 1:8-9

But regarding the Son He says, "Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His

kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of joy above Your companions."

† The Son's kingdom is eternal. Unlike angels or earthly rulers, Christ reigns with perfect righteousness. This quotation from Psalm 45 points to His exalted kingship.

Hebrews 1:10-12

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they all will wear out like a garment, and like a cloak You will roll them up; like a garment they also will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end."

† The creation language points to the stability of Christ in contrast to the perishable old order. The heavens and earth here symbolically represent the Old Covenant world that was passing away. Christ remains unchanged, reigning forever.

† Isaiah 51:16 uses "heavens and earth" as covenant language, showing God's creation of Israel as His people. Hebrews applies the same imagery.

† Josephus (Wars 5.19) called the temple and Jerusalem "the very heaven and earth" for the Jews, making it clear the writer of Hebrews was speaking covenantally.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 4.25) also spoke of the perishing of the present order and the coming renewal, echoing this covenantal contrast.

Hebrews 1:13

But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"?

† Psalm 110 is quoted, showing the unique authority given to Christ. No angel was ever invited to sit at God's right hand. This authority belonged only to the Son.

† Rabbinic tradition (Midrash Tehillim on Psalm 110) also recognized this as a messianic psalm, proving the Jewish expectation that it pointed to the Messiah.

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to provide service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

† Angels are ministering spirits, serving those who are heirs of salvation. Christ reigns as King, while angels serve His people. This contrast concludes the argument of His superiority.

Application For Us Today

† Hebrews 1 reminds us that Christ is the final and complete revelation of God. We don't look for new prophets or additional revelations, we look to the Son.

† The contrast between angels and Christ warns us not to elevate servants above the King. Whether it's angels, traditions, or church leaders, nothing compares to Christ's supremacy.

† The covenantal language of the old creation passing away shows that Christ's kingdom is eternal and unshakable. We live in the reality of His reign, not waiting for another age to come.

† Futurists misuse "last days" as if it's our time, but history proves it was the last days of the Old Covenant. Josephus himself recorded the end of the Jewish nation, confirming Hebrews was speaking of that transition.

† Just as angels ministered to those inheriting salvation, God still works all things for the good of His people. Our assurance rests in the risen, reigning Christ who never changes.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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