

Discussion Notes for Hebrews 1 :4-14

The context of this section is an examination of several Old Testament scriptures in order to show the superiority of the Son of God to the angels. We ended last time at verse 3 but it's probably best to include that verse as you read down through verse 14.

Remember, this letter was written to JEWISH CHRISTIANS who were being tempted to return to the Law of Moses so that they might escape persecution.

- Although Christians today and for years have loved to read and study Hebrews, who was the intended audience for this letter?
- How does keeping the intended audience in mind help us to interpret the statements made in this letter?
- In **verse 5** the author quotes two Old Testament passages, one from Psalm chapter 2 and the other from 2 Samuel 7. In both passages, who is doing the speaking and about whom are the statements made?
- What does the word “begotten” mean (**verse 5**) and how is it different from the word “created”?
- Since God says about the Son, “**TODAY I have begotten you...**” we are given a time reference. Since Jesus was begotten at a point in time, where was Jesus before He was begotten as a human being? (Read **John 1:1** and discuss.)
- The Greek word that is translated “begotten” means “alone” in the sense of unique and literally means: *the unique one*. What does that tell you about Jesus?
- **Verse 6** refers to Jesus as “**the firstborn.**” How are to understand that statement in terms of understanding the deity of Jesus?
- In **verse 6** the author quotes **Psalm 97:7** to reveal that God has commanded to do something concerning the Son. What are they to do?
- Read **Revelation 5:6–8,14** and note that the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb of God (Jesus). Now, compare that with **Revelation 19:10**.
- In **verse 7** the author quotes Psalm 104 concerning angels calling them God’s “**ministers.**” What does that tell you about angels?
- **Verses 8 and 9** contain another quote from the Psalms. Note the various statements that the Father makes about the Son.
- The incarnation (Jesus becoming a human) makes for some admittedly challenging language. While God the Father addresses the Son as “God” saying “**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...**”) He also says, “**Your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness...**” The first statement addresses the Son of God. The second addresses the Son of Man but both statements and titles refer to the same person.
- In **verse 10** God the Father speaks of the work of Creation accomplished by Jesus. What is the author Hebrews trying to convey to his readers by this quotation?

- **Verses 11 and 12** continue with quotations from Psalm 102. What do you see as the author's intention in quoting this passage and applying it to the Son of God?
- The final two verses of this section (**verses 13-14**) contain a quote from Psalm 110. The author reminds us that God the Father has given the PROMISE of VICTORY to the Son. Keeping in mind that the recipients of this letter were enduring persecution for their faith, why do you think the author felt it necessary to include these statements?