

Lecture 4 – Hebrews 1: Jesus, Prophets & Angels

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 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. 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. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. Hebrews 1:1-4

Key Terms

God, old revelation & new revelation, Jesus & the angels, drift & rebellion

Lecture Objectives

- Outline the comparison given between old and new revelation
- Identify some of the applications given to the original audience
- Describe how the argument and application of the preacher is appropriate or inappropriate for the church today

Preliminary Questions

- Many believers experience “spiritual dry spells.” What sorts of events and circumstances (micro level and macro level) can lead to “spiritual dry spells”? What are the dangers? How have you dealt with them? How have you advised others to deal with them?

Hebrews 1: Jesus, Prophets & Angels

I. Contexts

- A. Review of historical situation
- B. Literary “context”: a surprising opening
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

II. Literary Structure (Hebrews 1:1-14)

- A. Jesus and the prophets of the old revelation (1:1-4)

Old Revelation	New Revelation
In various times and ways	
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
God spoke (aorist participle) to the fathers long ago by the prophets	God spoke (aorist indicative) to us in these last days by Son
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Summary: Jesus is greater than the law and the prophets.	

Goal of Writer:

Jesus and the angels (1:5-14)

Jesus	Angels
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
Summary: Jesus is greater than the angels	

Why the comparison with angels?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

B. Jesus and the Old Testament hopes (1:5; 6; 7; 8)

1. Psalm 45

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. "Bursts the banks of propriety":

C. Summary: Hebrews is setting us up to understand...

- 1. Jesus is greater than the prophets
- 2. Jesus is greater than the angels
- 3. Jesus is greater than the word of the Old Testament

D. When dealing with cults: Cults always go wrong in three areas:

- 1. Christology
- 2. Soteriology
- 3. Authority

E. Some helpful thoughts from Hebrews:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

IV. Application Section 2:1-4

A. Structure: Reason + Imperative + Rhetorical question + Reason

- 1. Reason: (see B.)
- 2. Imperative:
- 3. Rhetorical question:
- 4. Reason:

B. Main point:

- 1. Drift vs. overt rebellion:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

- d. _____
- 2. How does “drift” happen?
 - a. Then?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - b. What about today?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) “Accommodation to the culture”:
 - a) Why is it so easy for us?
 - b) Idolatry: Lose sight of the distance between cultural and Christian values