

Hebrews: Growing Deeper with God

Sunday, March 1, 2015

Hebrews 1:4-14

I. Introduction

The most crucial question for each person to answer correctly is Jesus' question to His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Matt. 16:15

II. Christ is Superior/Better

v.4 – Thesis Statement

Become - (ginomai) - It means "a dated event of history" and it designates a superiority which was achieved and clearly indicates that the theme here is not the Son in his eternal existence but Christ with his glorified human nature." Hughes

Superior/Better - kreitton from kratos = strong which denotes power in activity and effect is the comparative degree of good (intrinsically good).

Name – onoma - is the distinctive designation of a person or thing and includes the ideas of title, character, reputation or authority.

The writer of Hebrews has given the name '**Son**' in speaking of Jesus!

Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:19-21; Phil. 2:9-11

The superiority of Christ to angels is now confirmed by a sequence of seven quotations from the OT scriptures which attest his Sonship and his sovereignty.

III. Seven OT passages

- 1) Psalm 2:7
- 2) 2 Samuel 7:14

Proves that: God is His Father and Jesus is the Son and Jesus is God's only begotten Son

Angels were called "sons" in the OT but they are never referred to as "My Son".

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD..." Job 1:6

Luke 1:32,33,35; Mark 1:11; Luke 9:34,35; Romans 1:3,4

Here we see that the resurrection is the event that ultimately "declared" Jesus to be the Son of God because if He had been just any man, He could not have been resurrected from the grave, but He was the Son of God and death could not hold Him.

"today I have begotten you" – refers to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"To sum up, we may say that at every moment of his earthly mission the incarnate Messiah is the Son beloved and accepted by the Father, but that the 'day' spoken of here on which he is said to have been begotten by God, is the day of his glorious victory

and vindication, the day also which, for the purpose of our author's argument here, establishes for all to see his absolute superiority to all angels." Hughes

Jesus sonship is now our sonship, his inheritance is now our inheritance, and his exaltation is now our exaltation.

v.6 – *"And again, when he brings the **firstborn** into the world, he says.*

Firstborn means primarily to position, or rank. Jesus is the One with the right to the inheritance of all creation.

Psalm 89:27; Romans 8:29

In all the above cases, firstborn clearly means highest in rank, not first created.

3) Deu. 32:43; Psalm 97:7

4) Psalm 104:4

Proves that: Jesus is to be worshipped by angels and angels are His ministers

Worship - proskuneo - means to prostrate oneself in homage before another in the full sense of worship, not mere reverence or courtesy.

v.8 - *"But of the Son he says,*

5) Psalm 45:6,7; Isa 61:1,3

6) Psalm 102:25-27

Proves that: Jesus Christ is God forever and ever and Jesus is immutable and eternal

v.13 – *"and to which of the angels has he ever said, Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?*

7) Psalm 110:1

Proves that: Jesus is honored as victor over all

In Hebrews 1:3 - Jesus sat down, marking the act of assuming this place of honor, but here the verb sit is present imperative a command calling for Jesus to sit continually, clearly speaking of a permanent seat next to God the Father.

Jesus taking His seat at the right hand of God is taken from Ps 110:1 where David writes...The LORD (God the Father) says to my Lord (God the Son): "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

IV. Ministering Spirits

Angels are important as the writer of Hebrews emphasizes but Jesus is infinitely, incomparably much better than the angels. Fix your eyes on Jesus not on the angels who themselves obey the voice of Him Who Alone is bearing all things to their final conclusion by the word of His power.

Let's pray!