

## Hebrews 1:7-14 – The Son is Superior to Angels

The first two verses of Hebrews compared and contrasted the Old Testament prophets with the Son of God. Verses 4-14 of chapter 1 document through Old Testament quotes that Jesus, the Son of God, is superior to the angels. These 11 verses contain 10 verses from the Old Testament. The quotes are from the Psalms with the exception of a quote from 2 Samuel and a quote from Deuteronomy. It may seem obvious to us that Jesus is superior to angels. Why did Hebrews focus on this early in the book? I believe that it is due to the understanding that the Jews had which was that the law was delivered through angels. In Acts 7:53, Stephen said “you received the law as delivered by angels”. Galatians 3:19 says, “Why then the law? ... it was put in place through angels...”. These believers needed to focus on Jesus, the fulfillment of the law, and not on the law above all else. Jesus said in John 5:39, “you think that in them [the Scriptures] you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me.

### Read Hebrews 1:7-9.

Hebrews is different from other books when quoting Old Testament passages. Other books often mention the human writers of Old Testament passages. In the first chapter of Hebrews, Old Testament passages are introduced, if at all, with “he said”, “he says” or “he has said”. The “he” refers to God.

In verse 7, how were angels described? What Old Testament passage was this from? See Psalm 104:4. Some translations of Psalm 104:4, like NASB and NIV, have a different word order. They have something like “makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants / ministers”. (1:7)

In verses 8 and 9, what did God say about his Son? What Old Testament passage was this from? See Psalm 45:6-7. Psalm 45 is generally about the marriage of a king. Verses 6-7 stick out. A rare few think that Psalm 45:6a should be translated “Your throne is God”. That doesn’t make sense and has no parallel in the rest of the Bible. The translation of “Your throne, O God” is how almost everyone translates the verse. The psalm either breaks from a focus on the king and turns the focus on God or the king is addressed as “God”. The writer of Hebrews interpreted Psalm 45:6 in the second way. God’s Son, the Messiah, is God. (1:8-9)

Based on verses 7-9, how is the Son superior to the angels? What is the takeaway from these verses? (1:7-9)

### Read Hebrews 1:10-14.

Verse 10 starts with “And” which goes back to “of the Son he says”. Verses 10-12 are another quote from the Old Testament which the writer of Hebrews puts in the category of things God said to or of the Son. Which OT verses are these NT verses from? See Psalm 102:25-27. What is the message of these verses? (1:10-12)

In the Hebrew text of Psalm 102:25, the word “Lord” is not there. The word “Lord” is in Ps. 102:25 in the Greek translation of the OT (LXX). It seems clear that the author of Hebrews was quoting from the Greek translation of the OT. That applies to all the OT quotes in Hebrews and not just this one. If you look at Psalm 102, nothing may jump out at you to say that it is a Messianic Psalm. It appears to me that based on 1:2, “through whom he also created the world”, that the writer of Hebrews therefore applied Psalm 102:25-27 to Jesus, the Son. (1:10-12)

How do verses 10-12 show that Jesus, the Son, is superior to angels? Are angels eternal? (1:10-12)

What Old Testament passage was quoted in verse 13? See Psalm 110:1. Psalm 110 is clearly a Messianic Psalm. I’m surprised that the first part of the verse was not quoted, “Yahweh says to my Lord”. Jesus assumed that the Jewish leaders understood “my Lord” to refer to Christ, the Messiah. See Mark 12:35-37. (1:13)

Who can sit at the right hand of God? What does verse 13 say about God’s Son, the Messiah? The point seems obvious that God does not submit enemies under the feet of angels and that angels do not sit at the right hand of God. (1:13)

Based on verse 14, what was said about the nature and task of angels? Who are “those who are to inherit salvation”? (1:14)

Luke 24:27 says “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself”. The Old Testament is full of passages about Jesus Christ. There is a balance. I would be hard pressed to find Christ in Ezra 2:12, “The sons of Azgad, 1,222”. Although this verse is in the context of God’s plan to return Israel to the Promised Land. I do see Christ in the big picture of Ezra. Then there are passages like Psalm 22, Psalm 110, Isaiah 53 and many others like them which clearly speak of Christ.