



To get a better understanding of Hebrews, check out this video:
thebibleproject.com/explore/hebrews

Monday

Hebrews 1:1-4 Ephesians 1

The author of Hebrews immediately begins to hammer home the main thought behind the writing of the letter in the first four verses. The goal is for the readers of this letter to see the greatness of Jesus and be encouraged to endure the persecution they are undergoing by holding tight to their faith in Jesus. The mention of Jesus being greater than angels may seem odd, but in the Old Testament, angels went between God and man. Angel literally means messenger. Much of the Jewish faith rested on what God had communicated to them through His angels, or messengers, in the Old Testament. So... while God communicated with His people through angels in the Old Testament, He has now communicated with us by sending His Son. In the past, God spoke to His people "at many times and in various ways." He has now spoken to us in the greatest, clearest way possible by sending His Son to reveal His character and nature as well as the Good News of His plan of reconciliation. Jesus is the better way that God has revealed Himself and His plan to us. Take a moment and think about what it would be like if God had not chosen to reveal Himself to us through Jesus. Now, thank Him because He did! What is your response to God's love that is revealed in Jesus?

Tuesday

Hebrews 1:5 Psalm 2

There are two reasons the author mentions Psalm 2 at this point in the letter. The primary reason is to reinforce the fact that Jesus is so much greater than the angels through whom God communicated to His people in the past. Think back to yesterday's message. The temptation for the Jewish Christians was to abandon faith in Jesus, and go back to their Jewish faith to avoid persecution. Second, Psalm 2 is an example of a "Messianic psalm." "Messianic" comes from the word Messiah which means "anointed one." The Messiah is the One the Jews believed, and still believe, will come to save (think Savior) God's people and set up God's kingdom on earth. So... a Messianic psalm is a psalm written about the One who would come and rescue God's people and establish God's kingdom rule forever. To pull all of this together, it is as if the author is saying, "Don't abandon your faith in the message that was so important God communicated it through His Son for a message that God communicated through angels who are far inferior. And don't forget that Jesus is the King of kings who has delivered, and will deliver us from the struggles and sufferings of the world as we know it!" Can you imagine how much these thoughts would have encouraged these suffering Christians to stand firm in Jesus? How can this message encourage you to keep stepping in faith today?

**Wednesday****Hebrews 1:5**
2 Samuel 7

The second quotation in Hebrews comes from 2 Samuel 7 and continues to press the truth that Jesus is the promised and long awaited Messiah, or Savior, who is superior over all things, including the angelic messengers of the Old Testament. In this passage, God speaks through the prophet Nathan to tell King David that he is not the one who will build His "house" (temple). He tells him it will be Solomon, David's son, who will build it. It's fascinating to see that while King David is not the one who will build God's house, God promises David He will establish his house (family) and throne forever. This is huge because God promises David that there will be one from his family line that will rule forever. Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. In the scope of this letter the author is once again emphasizing how much greater Jesus is than the angels, or messengers of the Old Covenant, and He is indeed the long awaited Savior of the world. Again, we see the author's main point that the readers of the letter should not turn back to something inferior to what they now have in Jesus. Through the readings from the last three days, are you beginning to see how the author is building His argument that Jesus is better than their Old Covenant faith? Sit with these thoughts for a while and let the greatness of Jesus stir an excitement in your heart.

Thursday**Deuteronomy 32**
Hebrews 1:6

If you follow the line of thought so far laid out in the Book of Hebrews, the quotation from Deuteronomy 32 is fairly simple to understand. What is a little confusing is when you turn to Deuteronomy 32:43 where this quotation was taken and you don't find it worded this way in your Bible. The reason for this is that the author is quoting this verse from the Septuagint, which is a translation of the Hebrew Bible into the Greek language. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament was originally written in Greek. Through the translation from Hebrew to Greek, the wording changed somewhat but the author's letter in Hebrews is still clear. He is once again showing us the greatness of Jesus. Not only is He God's Son, the King who will rule forever, and greater than the angelic messengers of the Old Testament, but He is so great that even the angelic messengers worship Him. Again, how much greater is the message He brings than the one sent to man by God? Typically, when we read about someone's encounter with an angel in Scripture, they are left in awe and even terrified because of their magnificent appearance. How much more should we be in awe of the Creator of all things who, through Jesus, has made a way for us to come to Him?

**Friday****Hebrews 1:7
Psalm 104**

Psalm 104:4 is the scripture quoted in Hebrews 1:7 and it, like the quotation from Deuteronomy 32:43, comes from the Septuagint. Even though this passage reads a little different than our translation from the Hebrew, the meanings of the verses are very similar and the author's purpose clear. The angels are to be seen as creative beings who serve God's purposes. In contrast, as we will see tomorrow in verses 8 and 9, Jesus is the eternal Son of God. This not only reinforces the author's point thus far, that Jesus and His message are superior to the angels and the message they brought, but it should also reinforce our awe and love for God when we see what the Son has done. "[Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:6-8) Amazing! Jesus, the very nature of God, humbled himself to serve us by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin so that we could be made right with God. Philippians 2 goes on to say that in light of what Jesus did, God exalted Him to the highest place. If that was God's response to Jesus' work on our behalf, what should ours be? How would being more conscious of Jesus' humble service impact our life?

Saturday**Hebrews 1:8-9
Psalm 45**

In these verses the author is stressing Jesus' eternal sovereignty. His rule will be without end, and because of His sovereignty, all of His promises will be fulfilled. To a people persecuted for their faith in Jesus, and to all who live in this fallen world, knowing that in the end God will fulfill His promises is extremely comforting and our greatest source of hope. Jesus clearly told us that as long as we are in this world we will have trouble. But He also said to take heart because He has overcome the world. No angel could ever do for us what Jesus has done. In all of life's trouble it is often easy to ask the question, "Why?" "Why did this happen?" or "Why am I going through this?" The truth is there are a lot of questions that we will never answer. There are, however, some things we know about God that gives us strength when we don't have the answers. We know that God is good. We can't look to the cross that Jesus hung upon without seeing God's goodness. We know that God is faithful. God has and will fulfill His promises through Jesus. And in today's reading we are seeing the sovereignty of Jesus. If we know that God is good, faithful, and sovereign, then the conclusion we are able to arrive at is that we can trust Him. What areas of your life do you need to entrust to the God who is good, faithful, and sovereign?

**Sunday****Hebrews 1:10-12**
Psalm 102

Yesterday, we saw that God has revealed His goodness, faithfulness, and sovereignty to us through His Son. Because He is all of these things we know that we can trust Him. But for how long? Is it a promise for today? Tomorrow? Next year? A hundred years from now? The answer is found in the next three verses that are part of our reading today. Even though the heavens and the earth will pass away, Jesus will always remain the same. The first persecuted readers of this letter could take heart and be encouraged because what Jesus has promised will be true forever. While their current troubles were severe and intense, they could look forward to a day when Jesus made all that is wrong, right. Paul stated it this way in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." How could this mindset impact your perspective of God and life?