

Hebrews Jesus and Angels Part 1

△ Hebrews 1:1 - 2:4

Intro

The author of Hebrews starts his argument immediately

He does not have time to give a greeting to the recipients

Even though he finishes his writing as a letter

This feels like an essay

But unlike an essay, he does address his listeners and himself

So like a letter, Hebrews is still an oneseide dialogue

As was clear from the video, we do not know who the letter is for

We call them the Hebrews

As in order to understand what the author is saying

You need to have a grasp of the Old Testament

So the assumption is made that the recipients are a community of Jewish

Christians, familiar with the Hebrew Bible, or what we call the Old Testament

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God

Also as the video highlights

The theme of the letter is to present Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God

Like in the letter of the Galatians, maybe the addressees were also wanting to go back to familiar ways of worship

And the ways that God spoke in the past, through Angels, Prophets and Priests

And the assurance of sacrificial practices to obtain the grace of God

So the author builds an argument for the readers that this is no longer valid

As Jesus has come now instead of all these

Opening Statement

△ Heb 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors

The author refers to the Hebrew Bible and the traditions

Prophets, like Moses, Elijah, Ezekiel

In these last days

That is the last 50 years or so from the Author's perspective

Scholars consider Hebrews to be written between 60-90 AD

But the early Christians assumed that Christ would return soon

And therefore called their time the last days

God spoke to us by a (the) Son

Who is he?

The appointed Heir of God

Through whom he created the world

Echo of John 1?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

All things came into being through him

And without him not one thing came into being

He is the reflection of God's Glory

The imprint of God's being

He sustains all things by his powerful word

Again an allusion to John 1

You cannot be closer to God than the Son

Without being God

The Son of God is God

What did the Son do?

He made purification for sins

by this death and resurrection

More about that later in Hebrew (8-10)

He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty

He had gone to Heaven

And is seated at the right hand of God

Wow, what an introduction

This is our God: Jesus Christ our Lord!

Link to the first part of the argument

Jesus has become superior to angels

Because his name (his identity) is much better, higher and beautiful!

The Son is superior to Angels

△ Heb 1:5-14

Now the Author starts his case to prove that the Son is greater than angels

He does this by quoting the Old Testament

He does not add a lot of words himself, but he let the Old Testament texts speak for himself

He uses the Greek Translation of the Old Testament

Called the Septuagint

Called the Septuagint

De Septuagint of Septuaginta, vaak afgekort tot LXX, het getal 70 in Romeinse cijfers, is de vertaling in het Koinè of Oudgrieks van de Tenach of Hebreeuwse Bijbel, die tussen circa 250 en 50 v.Chr. werd gemaakt.

Which was commonly used as Greek translation for contemporary Jews and therefore also Christians

It explains why the OT reference texts in English in the New Testament often differ from our own English translations, who are based on the original Hebrew

Why Angels?

In the New Testament time the belief existed that Moses received the law through Angelic beings

Exod 20:1: God spoke all these words:

The book of Jubilees: And He said to the angel of the presence: Write for Moses from the beginning of creation till My sanctuary has been built among them for all eternity.

An ancient Jewish apocryphal text

Was well known to early Christians

So the belief had come under the Jews of the 1st Century that angels at least assisted God in giving the Law to Moses

Acts 7:38 He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our

ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.

Acts 7:53 you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

Gal 3:19: ... The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.

Since Jesus Christ suffered and died, how can he be superior to Angels?

So the Author of Hebrews spends the two first chapters to make the case that Jesus is greater than Angels

Powerpoint with the OT quotations

The first warning!

△ Heb 2:1-4

Now that the Author has demonstrated that Jesus is greater than angels

He delivers his first warning:

Pay attention to Christ!

Do not drift away

He compares the message of the angels

Which we have seen the Author believed to have been instrumental to delivering the law to Moses

And with the Law of Moses comes a just penalty for transgressions or disobedience

with the great Salvation of our
Lord Jesus Christ

As Jesus is greater than the
Angels

Then also his message of
forgiveness of sins by believing in
him is greater than the former
message

Which was the Law of Moses and all its
sacrifices for the atonement of sin

Not only is this the message of the
Son

But it is accompanied by signs and
wonders

or miracles

As well as the gift of the Holy Spirit

So you are foolish to ignore all that

Backtrack to a former now defunct order

Or to just take it for granted

This is the greatest gift ever given to
us as individuals and the whole of
humanity

The warning for us

Although for us the Law of Moses
and all the customs that Israel had

to conform too, is not relevant to us

But the warning can be the same

Once we have inhabited the gospel for a while

We may lose some enthusiasm

We may lose our first love

We may investigate other faiths

New Age, Buddhism, Islam, or even Atheism

But the Author warns us for that

There is not other faith that will lead to us inheriting the salvation from our God the Father, except by believing in Jesus Christ!

Therefore do not neglect such a great salvation

As the other options do not lead to salvation and eternal life

But to our deaths in the end

So for us too the warning comes:
Do not drift away!

Make every effort to stay in the love of Christ Jesus

He is our Lord, our God and our Salvation!

Amen

Hebrews 1:5 – Psalm 2:7

For to which of the
angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;

today I have become
your Father”?

He said to me, “You are
my son;

today I have become
your father.

Hebrews 1:5 – 1 Chron 17:13

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my
Son”?

*I will be his father, and
he will be my son. I will
never take my love
away from him, as I took
it away from your
predecessor.*

Hebrews 1:6 – Deut 32:43

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Rejoice, you nations, with his people,

*[and let all the angels worship him,]**

for he will avenge the blood of his servants;

he will take vengeance on his enemies

and make atonement for his land and people

* Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint)

Hebrews 1:7 – Psalm 104:4

In speaking of the angels
he says,

“He makes his angels
spirits,

and his servants flames
of fire.”

He makes winds his
messengers,^[a]

flames of fire his
servants.

[a] Or angels

Hebrews 1:8-9 – Psalm 45:6-7

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;

a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;

a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy.

Hebrews 1:10-12 – Psalm 102:25-27

He also says,

“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment.

You will roll them up like a robe;

like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same,

and your years will never end.”

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment.

Like clothing you will change them

and they will be discarded.

But you remain the same,

and your years will never end.

Hebrews 1:13-14 – Psalm 110:1

To which of the angels did God ever say,

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet”?

*Are not all angels ministering
spirits sent to serve those who
will inherit salvation?*

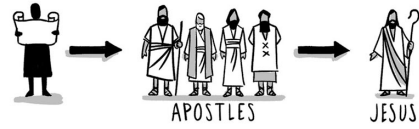
The Lord says to my lord:^[a]

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

^[a]Or Lord

AUTHOR: ?

- PAUL?
- BARNABAS?
- APOLLOS?



THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD



AUDIENCE: ?



SEE 10:32-34



PERSECUTION & IMPRISONMENT

2 MAIN GOALS

#1

ELEVATE JESUS AS SUPERIOR

#2

CHALLENGE THE READER TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS DESPITE PERSECUTION

THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



ABRAHAM



MOSES AT MT. SINAI



PRIESTS AND SACRIFICES



THE WILDERNESS

THE PROMISED LAND

1:1-3

IN THE PAST GOD SPOKE TO OUR ANCESTORS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US IN HIS SON

"THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S GLORY"

"THE EXACT IMPRINT OF GOD'S NATURE"

JESUS

THESE METAPHORS MAKE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN JESUS AND GOD

GOD

1-2

ANGELS & TORAH



WARNING

ISRAEL

JESUS

GOOD NEWS

GOD'S WORD

FOLLOW GREAT MODELS OF FAITH



ABEL



ENOCH



NOAH



ABRAHAM



SARAH



ISAAC



JACOB



JOSEPH



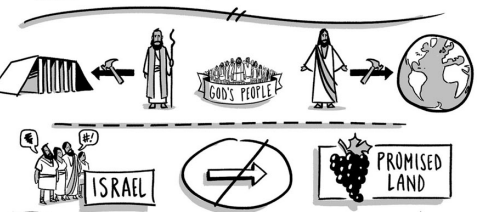
MOSES



RAHAB

3-4

MOSES & THE PROMISED LAND



WARNING

ISRAEL

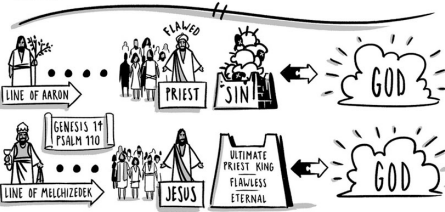
US

NEW CREATION

HOPE FOR NEW CREATION

5-7

PRIESTS & MELCHIZEDEK



WARNING

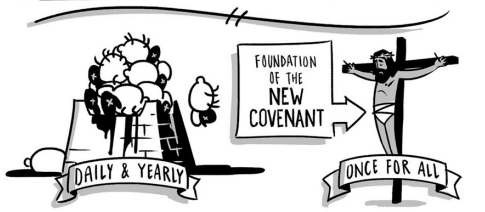
REJECTING JESUS

REJECTING RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

ETERNAL PRIEST

8-10

SACRIFICE & COVENANT



WARNING

OFFER OF FORGIVENESS

PERFECT SACRIFICE

DESPITE HARDSHIP & PERSECUTION GOD WILL NOT ABANDON HIS PEOPLE

11-13

Extra Tips

#1

LOOK UP OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS (THERE ARE A LOT)

#2

THE POINT IS TO FEEL A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT NOT AFRAID

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