

Hebrews 1:4-7

Messiah the Son

Clearly understanding this passage and all that it entails is important, failing to do so can lead (and has lead) to many HUGE doctrinal errors and gross heresies. At first glance it seems to say that Christ was somehow less and became more. That He was as some point equal to or even slightly less than the angels but he grew... nothing could be further from the truth, and to rightly understand this passage is to have a greater view of Christ, His person, His work, His role as Messiah and the great love that He has for us to undertake our redemption. Keep in mind as we work our way through this passage (and even throughout the book) that this is written to Jews who confess Christ as Messiah, but clearly are having some issues reconciling their belief in the Jewish Messiah and their adherence to their own Jewishness. In other words, we have to filter this letter through the author's original intent.

I. COMPARATIVE

a. He is as much more than the angels AS the name Jesus is superior to all others

Philippians 2.9-11

b. His position as Redeemer is that much more than any office, role or position that any angel ever had.

c. There is a distinction made here between Christ's eternal, essential nature and His roles or offices

II. HAVING BECOME

a. Deals with role as mediator

There is an echo of Paul's words from

Philippians 2.5-11

b. His essence itself is eternal

c. The promised messiah entered into time and the promises are then brought in with full force for the Messiah, but Christ is eternally the Son, now made Mediator,

III. BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

a. The Jews understood that they had received the OT covenant from the ministry of angels

Acts 7.53

Deut 33.2

Gal 3.19

b. The Jews saw the angelic beings as the highest of all God's creation - they understood that all of God's interaction with them had been through the "angel of the Lord", a phrase which actually often refers to Jesus in a pre-incarnate appearance.

c. The messiah being a man, made Him less in their mind

John 5.17-18

- d. He, the Son of God had always been better and more than the angels, but the point is the Son of Man had to become such... to prove that the Son of God was superior was needless, but to show that the Son of Man has been exalted to a place far above all others is absolutely needful if the Jews could be expected to give Christ the glory that is His due.

IV. BY INHERITANCE

- a. His own promised birthright

Every OT messianic promise was made as a declaration of the inheritance of Jesus.

- i. He was declared to be King of a Kingdom that would never end
- ii. He was promised to be the victor over the ancient enemy
- iii. He was foretold to be the One who would finally set us free from death...

b. His own earned honor

The praise of heaven for every one of His perfect deeds. He is the only One worthy!

c. His own reward, the love-gift of the Father

V. GOD HAS PRONOUNCED THE GOD-MAN (MESSIAH) AS SON, AND THUS, SUPERIOR

a. No angels are sons in the same way

b. The eternal relationship of the Triune God has been fully conveyed to Messiah

c. The nature of God is present and manifestly revealed

d. The angels of God worship the messiah (son of Man)

e. This nature of the Son is superior to the angels

f. They are His servants