



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

JESUS, GREATER THAN ANGELS

HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

There are many important themes and truths woven into this meticulously written book. The one theme that pulls all of these together however, turns around the supremacy of Jesus. In simple terms, we might think of it this way: Jesus is greater than ...

The author of Hebrews does not identify himself. Many suggestions have been made, from Paul, to Luke, to Apollos, among others. The recipients are also left undefined for us. The letter is steeped in Old Testament thought, which comes together and reaches its final climax in the person and work of Jesus. The recipients may have been Jewish priests who had become followers of Jesus (Acts 6:7) or they may have been Christians from diverse backgrounds, all of whom needed to understand how Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Old Testament scriptures.

Hebrews was most likely written between 67 – 69 AD.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

The writer begins with the stunning statement that Jesus is the very radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature! (1:4) He is the supreme revelation of God. His supremacy will reverberate throughout the complete book, beginning to end.

In the 6th and 7th decades AD, many gnostic teachers (who presented themselves as people with special knowledge) had created a fascination with all sorts of levels of heavenly beings, including angels. Discussions and debates about the roles and importance of different angels turned people's eyes and hearts away from Jesus. There was even some discussion about where Jesus fit into this hierarchy of celestial beings, as if He might not be fully God.

So the Holy Spirit immediately establishes the supremacy of Jesus. He is far superior to angels, and He alone can be the Savior of all men who believe. Jesus is greater.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK:

Hebrews 1 - 2

I. The Day of the Lord is coming. (1-10)

- A. The fallacy of those who scoff at Jesus' coming. (1-7) v4
- B. The Lord's patience is for repentance. (8-9)

II. How to live with the end in mind. (11-18a)

- A. Holiness and godliness. (11)
- B. Expectation (12)
- C. Repentance (12)

Four actions to help us live holy, expectant lives. (14-18a)

- 1. Be diligent! (14)
- 2. Repent! (15)
- 3. Be careful. (17)
- 4. Grow (18a)

III. Doxology of Jesus! (18c)

How does this apply to me?



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