



A NEW AND BETTER WAY



A STUDY IN HEBREWS

WEEK TWO: THE PERSON OF JESUS

Read Hebrews 1

Having set the scene as to the necessity of a blood covenant in Study No.1, we will look today at the centrality of the person of Jesus. At the beginning of this book of Hebrews it tells us that God spoke many times and in many ways to the Jewish people through the prophets. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel for example, all prophesied telling the Israelites whatever it was God needed to say to them.

However, we now enter a new and better era when God speaks through his son, Jesus.

- How does God explain why Jesus is so special?
- What position in heaven was Jesus given?
- What is God showing us through verses 2-3?

Read verses 5-14

There are many references throughout scripture about angels but I wonder if we stop to think about them. They are part of the universe God created and are sometimes referred to as *'the host or armies of heaven'*. [Nehemiah 9:6](#) says: *"You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host ... and the host of heaven worships you."* Angels are personal spirit beings created to worship and serve God. We don't know when angels were created in relation to the events of Genesis 1-2, but Scripture indicates that angels were present when God created the earth ([Job 38:4-7](#)) "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"

Angels are also listed in [Psalm 148:2](#) *"Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts."* [148:5](#) *"Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created."* [Exodus 23:23](#) *"For my angel will go before you and bring you*

into the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them". Numbers 20:16 "But when we cried out to the Lord, he heard our voice and sent an angel and bought us out of Egypt;"

- What do these scriptures tell us about how God used angels?
- Do they give us a sense of the importance of angels?

There is no specific mention of 'guardian angels' although in Matthew 18:10 tells us: *"Beware that you don't despise a single one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father."* This scripture does seem to say that we do have angels watching over us. Also, [Psalm 91:11](#) says: *"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all our ways."* (NIV)

- What do these scriptures teach about how God regards us?

[Read again Hebrew 1:5-14.](#)

From all that we have read, it is clear that angels are important beings in God's plan but, again we see the person of Jesus as being a *better way*.

- What differences does the writer show between Jesus and the angels?
- [Read verses 7-9 of Hebrews 2.](#) This is the ultimate, once for all, sacrifice that Jesus made for us. How do we respond to this?
- Jesus was certainly 'a new and better way'. Can we in any way compare the Aaronic priests with him?

[Read Hebrews 3:1-8 and 4:1-8](#)

Moses and Joshua were the two highly revered leaders of the Children of Israel and readers of this epistle would immediately understand what is being said. They had accomplished an incredible task in bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and, under Joshua, entering the Promised Land. Both were faithful to God.

The website Maranatha, gives the following explanation of what is the rest of God:

"The generation of Israelites who were delivered from bondage in Egypt, never entered into the rest they were promised to enter into, because of unbelief and disobedience. This generation, which Moses led, became distracted by things of little eternal value; they also looked back into the idolatry that they learned in Egypt. So much so that while Moses was receiving the word of the LORD written

for the first time ever for humankind, they seduced Aaron into making a golden calf and they worshipped an idol made by hands in the wilderness. After that, they continued to murmur, complain, and disobey the word that was revealed to them.

When we hear the gospel and respond with faith, we enter into God's rest, just as He promised when hearing is mixed with faith. Faith is a verb; in that it is demonstrated by action. We show forth our faith and how much we believe the word that is preached, by our willingness to be doers of the word and not just hearers only. In fact, the more we do as the word says, the more faith is infused into our hearts. Because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. We do well when we walk in obedience before the LORD who knows what is best for us, because He made us, and created a path for us to walk from the foundation of the world."

There is, I believe, an important lesson here for us to learn concerning being obedient to God's word.

When we read through the account of the journey out of Egypt, repeatedly we see that the Israelites forgot all that God had done for them and turned away from following in his path. That is why they were so long in the wilderness and all of those who left Egypt did not live to see the Promised Land, the land of rest. Only Joshua and Caleb, two of the 'spies' who went to see what the land of Canaan was like, were allowed to enter because they brought back a good report and believing that God would fulfil his promises.

- Do we remember all that God has done for us?
- What does that mean to you?
- Do we, as the old hymn says, "trust and obey"?



Prayer:
Thank you for your faithfulness to us and may we in return be faithful to you.