

Christmas Meditation

Hebrews 1-2

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"Seeing Him who was Made Lower than Angels" – pt. 1

Book of Hebrews

1. Word of Exhortation (13:22)

- He exhorts his reader to "hold fast" to Christ and not return to the Old Covenant
- e.g. Hebrews 2:1; 3:6; 3:12; 4:1; 4:11

Book of Hebrews

1. Word of Exhortation (13:22)

2. Superiority of Christ

- he grounds his exhortation in the depth of the doctrine of the superiority of Christ and the New Covenant

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

(Hebrews 1:1-4)

Superiority of the Son

1. He is the final revelation

- He culminates (fulfills) all prior revelation from God through the prophets
- He is not merely another prophet but as Son is Himself the revelation (cf. John 1:1)

Superiority of the Son

2. He is the appointed heir of everything
- refers to His future inheritance of and reign over the universe on the basis of His suffering

Superiority of the Son

3. He is the unique Son of God
- He is the creator the world
 - He is the very image of God's essence
 - He sustains everything by His mighty word

Superiority of the Son

4. He has become greater than the angels
- He inherited the highest name (i.e. "Son") at His exaltation on the basis on His sufferings, a name not given to any angel
 - He is worshiped by the angels
 - All angels are ministering spirits but He is the eternal, unchanging God

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*.

² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

(Hebrews 2:1-4)

Superiority of the Son

Q: Why this emphasis on angels?

1. The prior revelation of God (OT) was mediated through angels, but His final word is given in His Son, and therefore must not be neglected

Superiority of the Son

Q: Why this emphasis on angels?

2. The world to come is not ruled by angles but by redeemed man through the exalted man, Jesus Christ

Superiority of the Son

- ❖ *Let us marvel at the Christmas reality that this Son was made for a little while lower than the angels!*