

Hebrews 1

V1-2

The prophets spoke God's word and were generally killed for it. God has also spoken through His Spirit and through his word. Now he speaks through his son – Jesus. It's basic to Christianity that God has chosen to reveal himself to us.

These two stages of revelation correspond to the OT and the NT.

V2-3

Says 7 things about Jesus

Heir to all things – everything the whole universe

God made the universe through him – like John 1

He is the reflection of God's glory – Christ is identified with God's wisdom and glory, he personifies God

He is the image or essence of God – to see Jesus is to see the Father

He upholds all things – sustains the universe

Made purification for our sins – he sacrificed himself on the cross as the perfect sacrifice one for all once and for all

Sat down at the right hand of God - Jesus shared God's glory before the beginning of time and since his resurrection he is again enthroned at God's right hand (a traditional position of power)

V4

The Jews revered the angels so this letter is saying that Jesus is far superior. Hebrew uses "better" a lot to stress how superior Christ is to the old order

V5-14

10 verses quoting OT passages make it clear that Christ is superior to the angels

v5a

Psalm 2:7 – never addressed to an angel. Angels called collectively "sons of God" but not individually. This is Messianic.

V5b

Quotation from 2 Sam 7:14. Refers partly to Solomon – but the divine promise is not exhausted in him. The later prophets look forward to a greater coming son of David. Micah 5:2-4, Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 55:4, Ezekiel 21:27, and most especially Zechariah 9:9. Qumran texts support this notion of a coming son of David. See also Romans 1:3.

V6

He is worshipped by angels. Title of firstborn goes back to Psalm 89:27 – see also Deut 32:43 from song of Moses. Rabbinic tradition has it that angels were to worship Adam and Christ as the last Adam is also to be worshipped.

V7

From Psalm 104 – as high as the place of angels may be it is inferior to Christ.

V8-9

From Psalm 45:6. As the Messiah of the Davidic line, Christ can be addressed not only as God's son but as God.

V10-12

From Psalm 102:25-27. The words originally addressed to Yahweh are applied to the Son because everything was created through him.

V13

From Psalm 110. This is always interpreted as a Messianic psalm. The NT always applies it to Jesus.

V14

The most exalted angels, like Gabriel, get to stand in the presence of God – yet they minister to human beings who are granted (future) salvation, so how much greater is the Son - Jesus