



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Advanced Study AS11: God's Son and Agent (Heb 1)

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Read: Hebrews, Chapter 1

Introduction: This opening theme of the Epistle we call 'Hebrews' aims to show that Jesus, the Son of God, brings the fullest revelation of God to mankind. The author contrasts Jesus with other significant agents of revelation – prophets and angels, whose revelations were fragmentary and incomplete.

1. B.C. (Heb 1:1. Compare Amos 3:7). The Epistle opens with a mention of God speaking in various ways by (lit. 'in') the prophets. Explore the methods of communicating God's message that prophets used in Old Testament days.

2. God's Son the Agent of Revelation (Heb 1:2-3). Consider in what ways Jesus is a superior messenger of God than the prophets who came before Him.

Consider the expression '*last days*'. Do you think this includes today? If so, how does God speak through His Son today?

Ponder on the expression "the express image of (God's) person" (v3) and how this applies to the life and teaching of Jesus.

3. God's Son and Heir (v2). 'Heir' in the sense of receiving something from a father, not necessarily after a father's death (compare Luke 15:12). God's Son is heir to what?

4. God's Son the Agent of Creation (v2). Some have seen a reference to the involvement of the Trinity in the plurals used in the Genesis account of the creation of man, "Let *us* make man in *our* image" (Gen 1:26). Notice what Jesus does with what He created (v3).

5. God's Son the Agent of Redemption (v3) Notice the contrasts: All who came before Jesus were messengers, some of whom prophesied of the Redeemer; Jesus is the One about whom they prophesied. Angels serve God in heaven (Isaiah 6:1); only Jesus sits at God's right hand. Consider what it is to "sit at (God's) right hand."

6. God's Son Superior to the Angels (vv 4-14). Here the author lists a series of Old Testament texts to show the uniqueness of the Son of God among the heavenly host. Note in particular the ascription "My Son" (v5), a quotation from Psalm 110. Angels were sometimes referred to as God's sons (Psalm 89:6), but consider the uniqueness of Jesus.

Self Examination: Do I give the Lord Jesus the honour and respect He is due?

To dig deeper: If you are interested to explore verses 4-14 in detail, identify what O.T. texts the author uses as proof texts and further consider in which ways Jesus is superior to angels. For wider exploration, search for the "*therefore(s)*" throughout the Epistle and identify their contexts. *For example:* "Solid food is for the mature" (Heb 5:13) "Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings" (Heb 6:1)