

Hebrews 1: God Has Spoken to Us by His Son

1. “God, who at _____ times and _____ ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the _____, has in these _____ spoken to us by His _____.”

[Though the writer only makes reference to the prophets, we should remember that from the beginning God has always had an authoritative message for man (Gen 1:26-30; 2:15-17; 4:3-7/Heb 11:4). Also, though the English word “prophet” carries the general meaning of “one who foretells the future,” the most basic meaning of the Greek word translated “prophet” is “one who speaks for another” (esp. deity, cf 2 Pet 1:20-21). Therefore, the patriarchs would have been included in the meaning of the word.

[Of particular importance is the phrase “these last days.” There is much talk today concerning the “last days.” Because of a misunderstanding of Scripture, and Matthew 24 in particular, most people in the denominational world believe there are present signs pointing us to the onset of what they call the “last days.”]

- a. What would be established in the last days according to Isaiah 2:2-3 and Micah 4:1-2?

- b. Joel 2:28-32 contains a prophecy about the inauguration of the last days. When did the last days begin according to Peter in Acts 2:1-18? _____

[These are prophecies concerning the establishment of the kingdom of God, also known as the Church (Matthew 16:16-18; Colossians 1:12-18).]

2. Identify the nine descriptive clauses referring to Christ in vv 2-4, and be prepared to discuss the correlating passages:

a. _____ (cf Ps 2:7-8; Matt 28:18; 1 Cor 15:24-28; Rom 8:16-17)

b. _____ (cf John 1:1-3; Col 1:16-18)

c. _____ (cf 2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

d. _____ (cf John 10:30; 12:45; 14:9; Col 1:14-15)

e. _____ (cf Heb 11:3; 2 Pet 3:5-7)

f. _____ (cf 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 2:1-2; Heb 9:22-28)

g. _____ (cf Matt 26:64; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56)

h. _____ (cf Heb 2:5-9; Jude 9)

i. _____ (cf Acts 4:12; Phil 2:5-9)

[In a court of law, the opening statement sets the tone for the trial, and can make or break the entire case. The author of Hebrews makes a strong opening statement in defense of his overall theme, the superiority of Jesus Christ. All of these phrases show the unique nature of Jesus and His relationship to the Father. None of the patriarchs or great men of the Mosaic dispensation, neither any angel in heaven, could lay claim to such power, authority, and closeness to the Father.]

The following quotations help us distinguish between Jesus the Son and the angels. Fill in the blanks and identify the Psalm from which the text is quoted.

3. “For to which of the _____ did He ever say, “You are my _____, today I have _____ you?” Psalm _____

[The implication here is that God never said any such thing to the angels.]

4. “I will be to Him a _____, and He shall be to me a _____.” Psalm _____

5. “When He again brings the _____ into the world, He says, “Let _____ the _____ of God _____ Him.” Psalm _____

[Only God is worthy of worship: Ex 34:14; Deut 6:14; 13:4; John 4:24; Rev 19:10; 22:9. Also, one cannot be made God, for God always existed and will always exist (Psalm 90:2). As created beings, angels can never be made deity and worthy of worship.]

6. “And of the _____ He says, Who makes His _____ spirits, and His _____ a flame of _____.” Psalm _____

7. “But to the _____ He says, “Your throne, O _____, is forever and ever: a _____ of _____ is the _____ of Your _____.” Psalm _____

8. “You Lord, in the _____ laid the _____ of the earth; and the _____ are the work of your hands. They will _____, but You _____; and they will all grow _____ like a _____; like a _____ You will _____ them up; and they will be _____: but You are the _____, and Your years will not _____.” Psalm _____

[These verses are devastating to the Jehovah’s Witness’ doctrine of the nature of Christ. The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe Jesus to be the archangel Michael deified by God the Father. In fact, in their New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, Jesus is referred blasphemously to as “a god” in John 1:1, and they imply that Jesus is a created being by their translation of Colossians 1:16, “all other things were created by him.” Also, Thomas, upon seeing Jesus following the resurrection, made the following statement to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.”

Jesus referred to Himself as deity in John 8:58 when He said to the Jews, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” This claim of deity so incited the Jews that they took up stones to kill Him (v 59). Jesus also accepted man’s worship (Matt 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25).

Verse 10 identifies Jesus as the Creator of all things. This corresponds to John’s testimony in John 1:3 and to Paul’s testimony in Colossians 1:16. Taken in consideration with Exodus 20:11, there can be no doubt that Jesus is indeed deity, being in existence “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:2).

Finally, note the language of verses 11-12. In verse 11 the “they” that shall perish, and the “they” that shall wax old as a garment refers to the foundations of the earth and the heavens of verse 10. In verse 12, Jesus is spoken of as folding up the earth and the heavens, an allusion to bringing them to a conclusion (3 Pet 3:10-13). Yet, Jesus is spoken of as being unchanging (cf Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8) and His years unfailing (unending). What magnificent statements to the power and nature of our Savior!]

9. “But to which of the angels has He ever said: ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your _____ Your _____?’”

[The author turns back to his comparison of Jesus and the angels, and again the implication is that God never said any such thing to the angels.]