

## Outline notes for Hebrews 1 and 2

### Outline 1 – Hebrews 1.1-4

#### *Introduction to the Epistle to the Hebrews*

- The author – we do know! – The Triune God – 1.1;2.12;3.7 (see 12.25!)
- The readers – Jewish believers enduring “afflictions” 10.32-34
- The message – Christ is supreme; therefore “Let us go on...” 6.1 – don’t go back (to Judaism)!

The **law**, the **land** and the **Levitical economy** have all been superseded. Christ is greater than the prophets and angels through whom the law was given mediatorially (1.1-2.18; Ac 7.53); He is greater than Moses and Joshua who led them to the land (3.1-4.13); and His priesthood after the order of Melchisedec is greater than the order of Aaron (4.14-10.39) and His sacrifice (once for all) supersedes those of the Levitical economy

- The outline – based on the above
  - ✓ Let us come – “...within (inside) the veil” – chapters 1-10
  - ✓ Let us go forth – “...outside the camp” – chapters 11-13

#### *The superiority of Christ to the prophets 1.1-4 – (one sentence!)*

- The basis of communication – not now progressively, multifariously, and instrumentally but “in Son” – “unto us” not “the fathers”
- The sevenfold glories of the Son through Whom [“the”] God speaks
  - ✓ Appointed heir of all things (with respect to (wrt) creation) – **FOR** Him
  - ✓ By Whom also He made the worlds (wrt creation) – **THROUGH** Him
  - ✓ Who being ~~the~~ brightness of His [the] glory (wrt God)
  - ✓ ~~The~~ express image of His Person (wrt God)
  - ✓ Upholding all things by the word of His power (wrt creation) – **IN** Him
  - ✓ When He had by Himself purged our sins (wrt Himself)
  - ✓ Sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (cf 8.1; 10.12; 12.2) (wrt to God)
- The more excellent name – v4 also links with the following

#### *Note four references in Hebrews to being seated at the right hand (rh)*

| Reference | Location                         | Emphasis      | Name      |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1.3       | Right hand of Majesty on high    | Right hand    | Son       |
| 8.1       | Rh of throne of Maj in t heavens | Maj in t h    | Servant   |
| 10.12     | On the right hand of God         | Sat down      | Sacrifice |
| 12.2      | Right hand of the throne of God  | Throne of God | Sufferer  |

## Outline 2 – Hebrews 1.5-14

The superiority of Christ to the angels in deity demonstrated by seven quotations from the OT balancing the seven glories in vv1-4

- V5a – Ps 2.7 – “Thou art My Son...” – He is Son
- V5b – 2Sam 7.14 – “I will be to Him a Father...”
- V 6 – Ps 97.7 – “Let all the angels...” – cst Luke 2.13; John 1.18 (He is Firstbegotten=firstborn = Col 1.15; Col 1.18; Rom 8.29; Heb1.6)
- V7 – Ps 104.4 – “Who maketh His angels spirits...” – He is Lord
- Vv8-9 – Ps 45.6-7 – “Thy throne O God...” – He is Sovereign
- Vv10-12 – Ps 102.25-27 – “Thou, Lord in the beginning...” – He is Creator
- V13 – Ps 110.1 – “Sit on My right hand...” – He is supreme

Thus inasmuch as – Christ has a better name (Son) and a better relationship (Father); the Person worshipped is greater than the worshippers; the seated Sovereign is greater than His servants; the Creator is greater than His creatures; and sitting in dignity is superior to sending forth in service – so Christ is greater than the angels.

| <b>Thou art My Son... v5 – in</b>       | <b>The Firstborn v6 – Pre-eminence in</b> |
|---|---|
| Incarnation – Heb 5.5                   | Creation – Col 1.15                       |
| Resurrection – Acts 13.33 (cf vv 30,34) | Resurrection – Col 1.18; Rev 1.5          |
| Ascension – Heb 1.5                     | Redemption – Rom 8.29                     |
| Manifestation – Ps 2.7                  | Glory and dominion – Heb 1.6              |

### ***Expansion of quotation 5 from Ps 45***

- His essential deity – “O God”
- His eternal throne – “for ever and ever”
- His righteous sceptre – “sceptre of righteousness”
- His holy character – “loved righteousness and hated iniquity”
- His divine anointing – “God hath anointed Thee”
- His unique honour – “oil of gladness”
- His supreme position – “above Thy fellows”

### ***Expansion of quotation 6 from Ps 102***

- His essential deity – “Thou Lord [=Jehovah] (Newberry)...”
- His evident eternity – “in the beginning”
- His majestic creativity – “laid the foundation...earth ...Heavens”
- His utter dependability – “they shall perish...Thou remainest”
- His tireless activity – “wax old...Thy years fail not”
- His manifest immutability – “they shall be changed...Thou art the same”

### Outline 3 – Hebrews 2.1-18

#### ***The superiority of Christ to the angels in humanity***

- Chapter 1 – His deity – “...so much better than the angels” v4
- Chapter 2 – His humanity – “...a little lower than the angels” v9

#### ***A parenthesis***

- The first warning passage 2.1-4 – Give heed “...to the things...heard” and don’t “...neglect so great salvation”
  - ✓ (One of five warning passages in Hebrews – for others see 3.7-4.11; 6.4-8 (maybe 5.11-6.20); 10.26-39; 12.25-29)

#### ***The incarnation of the Lord Jesus 2.5-18***

- The fact of the incarnation – vv 9, 14, 17 – note development
  - ✓ A little lower than the angels 9 – purpose stated
  - ✓ Took part of blood and flesh 14 – note order – order in vital humanity
  - ✓ Made like unto His brethren 17 – a tripartite being
- The purposes for the incarnation 5-18
  - ✓ Sovereignty – to have dominion 5-8
  - ✓ Suffering – to taste death for every [thing] man 9
  - ✓ Sufferings – to make Chief Leader perfect through sufferings 10-13
  - ✓ Supremacy – to destroy the devil 14
  - ✓ Security – to deliver from fear of death 15
  - ✓ Satisfaction – to be a merciful and faithful High Priest 16-17
  - ✓ Succour – to succour them that are tempted 18

In vv 10-13 the Lord is seen in threefold relationship to His own and they are seen in a threefold relationship to Him

| <b><i>The Lord</i></b>             | <b><i>The believer</i></b>                        |
|------------------------------------|---|
| The Captain of their salvation v10 | Sons v10 – future – brought to glory – dignity    |
| The Sanctifier vv11-12             | Brethren vv11-12 – past – sanctified – fellowship |
| The Anticipator v13                | Children v13 – present – comfort – relationship   |

#### ***Verse 13 is a quotation from Isaiah 8.17-18***

*And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.*

The application here is interesting in the context of the Lord’s relationship to His own children. Isaiah’s first child was called Shear-Jashub (7.3) which means “a remnant shall return”. His second child was called Maher-shalal-hash-baz (8.1) which means “speed the spoil – hasten the prey”. Thus Lord puts His trust in God for future of nation and its return (v17) – Is’s first son Meantime has us (His children) as a comfort (v18) – Is’s second son