

## HEBREWS – PRESSING ON

“Lord, Please Don’t Let Me Grow Mildew!”

Week 3

Jesus is the final word from God, He is the Word of God, He is the Son of God, He is God!

John Owen, a prominent 17<sup>th</sup> C Puritan remarked, “If I have observed anything by experience it is this: a man may take the measure of his growth – and decay – in grace according to his thoughts and meditations upon the person of Christ and the glory of Christ.

In facing life’s hardships we must develop an abiding preoccupation with Jesus!

The Jewish believers who rec’d this letter/epistle were not only undergoing the fiery times of life under Nero – the Jewish people who were not believers in Jesus had branded these Jewish believers as *meshumadim* (traitors to Israel’s faith). Many of these Jewish believers had been rejected by family and friends. The author is conveying the love and full acceptance they’ve rec’d from the eternal God in the Messiah – the Son, the heir of all things, the Creator, the Sustainer of all things, the One Who upholds all things.

Psa. 139:5 – “You hem me in behind and before; You have laid Your hand upon me.” God holds us together and presses us to Himself.

And this One, the author PROCLAIMS, is the One Who made purification for our sins - Who DIED for OUR sins. How can you be careless about this One – the author is asking?

In this introduction – Jesus is NOT on trial before men. . .

. . . men are on trial before Jesus. Jesus has already been approved by the Father.

Specifically, as noted by the author of Hebrews, Jesus is superior to three “pillars” of Biblical Judaism: angels, Moses, the Levitical priesthood. This he does by way of contrast. This is NOT a contrast between the bad and the good for both are from God.

Psa. 19:7 – “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. . .” The law reflects Who God is – holy and perfect. We are NOT – holy and perfect; thus, we cannot keep the law.

Gal. 3:24 – The law is a “tutor bringing us to Christ that we might be justified by faith”.

Gal. 3:25 – “But after faith has come we are no long under a tutor. . .”

The contrast is between the good and the better – the foundation/the promise under the Mosaic Law and the fulfillment – JESUS.

About Jesus the author continues in Hebrews 1:4-14:

Heb. 1:4

“having become” - ??

Jesus Who is the SOVEREIGN ETERNAL GOD was – for a while – made a little lower than the angels.

Heb. 2:9 states that Jesus was made a little lower than the angels – for the suffering of death – at His first coming – at His incarnation – to taste death for everyone.

The Gk. verb “having become” refers to a change of state NOT a change of existence. Strong’s lexicon speaks of this verb addressing – to arise, to come upon the stage, to appear in history.

This speaks to the Son of God becoming man.

Why “lower than the angels”?

Man in his fallen state is lower than the angels.

Angels – of which there are 108 references to – in the OT and 165 in the NT – are of a “higher order” in that their primary purpose is to render special worship and service to God!

Why are angels being considered in the book of Hebrews?

The Law was given to Moses by God through Angels (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Dt. 33:2; Psa. 68:17)

There was a dangerous tendency developing in the early Church (Col. 2:18; Gal. 1:8) to worship angels.

Jewish mindset – angels were one rung below God. The Jewish people held angels in very high regard as the highest beings next to God. Jesus as better than the angels – proclaims that He IS God!

The author clearly disclaims such concepts. The Son of God is SUPERIOR to the angels.

Jesus is better than the angels. . . BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS!

He has become so much better than the angels as He has, by inheritance (possession), obtained a more excellent name than they

Acts 4:12 – There is no other NAME under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

Jer. 23:5-6 – He is the Branch (Messianic title) Who is JEHOVAH – I AM THAT I AM!

Phil. 2:5-11 - He thought it not robbery to be equal with God – because He IS GOD! He didn’t steal the “title” of God – He is God. He didn’t hold onto that glory that He had with the Father from eternity past – He emptied Himself of His glory – BUT HE DID NOT empty Himself of His deity.

**Phil. 2:9-11** - “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Heb. 1:5

Jesus is superior than the angels because He is the unique Son of God - Heb. 1:5 – quote from Psalm 2:7 – “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. . . .” He GAVE (He didn’t create) – He GAVE His unique Son Who is GOD – Who was already the Son – Who is ETERNALLY the Son.

“begotten” – one of a kind; of the same kind. Father and Son share the same being. Unique!

“begotten” – not made/created. HE CREATED (Col. 1:16)

Isa. 9:6 – “Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is GIVEN. . . .”

He didn’t become the Son of God – He was given AS the Son of God.

Jesus is the ETERNAL SON OF GOD. This truth was affirmed at His incarnation (Isa. 9:6) and at His resurrection (Rom. 1:4).

Jesus’ resurrection is the validation of His work. The resurrection clearly divides Him from the rest of humanity providing irrefutable evidence that He is the Son of God.

He is eternally the Son; His incarnation had been decreed from the foundation of the world.

It was when He entered the world that He was DECLARED to be the Son of God. He then took on the role of submission to the Father (John 1:18; Matt. 3:17).

The NT affirms that Jesus is the “Son of God”

- An angel tells Mary that she will bear a son who will be known as the “Son of the Highest” (Luke 1:31-32, 35). Guess what? Mary, being Jewish, knew what that meant! Psalm 2!
  - The Jews knew about the Son of God (Psa. 2; Prov. 30; John 1:49; Matt. 16:16; Matt. 26:63; John 11:27).

That the Jewish people knew that the Son of God equated to God:

- Matt. 16:16 – Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!
- John 1:49 - Nathaniel proclaimed, upon meeting Jesus, that He is the Son of God – the King of Israel!
- John 11:27 – at the raising of Lazarus from the dead, Martha told Jesus, “You are the Messiah, the Son of God Who is to come into the world.”
- Matthew 26:63-65 – the High Priest asked Jesus if He is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus’ response, “It is as you said.” This, to the High Priest, was blasphemy – Jesus claiming to be God.
- At Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration, God speaks audibly affirming that Jesus is His Son (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
- At Jesus’ baptism (Matt. 3:16-17) – when He came up from the water, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and a voice came from heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.”

- On the Mt. of Transfiguration – Jesus, in a glorified body, spoke with Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) who “appeared.” Voice from the cloud, “This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.”
- So, we see Jesus being declared to be the Son of God at His baptism. At His temptation, when Satan attacks Jesus’ divine Sonship and Satan loses the fight (Matt. 4:3-6), Jesus PROVES that He is the Son.
- Terrified demons recognize Jesus as God’s Son when He confronts them (Matt. 8:29; Mark 1:23-25; 3:11-12).
- Jesus claims to be the Son of God (Matt. 11:27; 26:63-64; 27:43; Luke 22:70; John 11:4; 14:9).
- Jesus teaches that the eternal destiny of men and women turns on their response to Him as God’s Son, sent by God to rescue them from sin’s ruin (John 3:16-18).
- Jesus claims the Son and the Father always speak and act as One, and one day at His command the dead will rise (John 5:19-27).
- Jesus’ resurrection is the clearest declaration and most convincing proof that Jesus is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4).

No angel has been called “Son of God” (collectively, in Scripture, angels are called “sons of God” – Gen. 6:1; Job 1:6)

Jesus is ETERNALLY the Son of God. He must be. He is God.

- Psalm 2:12 – “Kiss the Son lest He be angry, and you perish in the way. . . blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”
  - Isa. 48:11 – I will not give My glory to another.
- As very God, Jesus is eternal (Malachi 3:6 – “I am the LORD, I change not” )
- “Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb. 13:8).

What does “Son of God” mean?

“Son” – the title of the Second Person of the Tri-unity of God/the Trinity which expresses:

A relationship – with the First Person of the Trinity – God the Father  
 He is the Son – so He is heir – of all things (since He created all things)  
 Voluntary submission to the First Person of the Trinity – for the purpose of fulfilling the program of Redemption which was established in eternity past.  
 Rev. 13:8 – He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.  
 Again – voluntary submission - NOTE: Isa. 53:10 – NASV – “But the LORD was pleased to crush, putting Him to grief, IF He would render Himself a guilt offering. . . .” The Tri-une Godhead determined that the Second Person of the Trinity would empty Himself of His glory and lay down His life.

In identifying with man and coming to earth at His first coming - JESUS DID NOT GIVE UP HIS DEITY!!! He is always and forever – ETERNALLY God!

He emptied Himself of His glory (John 17:5). He SET ASIDE His glory and the independent exercise of His attributes (on earth He was not omnipresent; He was hungry; He grew weary)

The Second Person of the Tri-Une God – in His incarnation – completely submitted Himself to the will of the First Person of the Tri-Une God.

Phil. 2:7 – “HE MADE HIMSELF of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men.”

When you think of the word “Son” – what does that mean? Relationship; obedience; submission.

That relationship/obedience/submission to the Father came about in eternity past – when it was determined by the Godhead that the Second Person of the Trinity would be the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

The Father/Son relationship was understood in the NT – John 14:8-9 – Philip – “Show us the Father. . . .” Not so much FULLY understood in the OT. What was the Second Person of the Trinity called in the OT? The Messiah, the Branch, Jehovah, God, the Angel of the Lord. . . . YET – we see the Son of God in Prov. 30 and in Psalm 2.

We have most definitely the concept of God the Father in the OT – but it doesn’t come to full scope until the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity – until the Son of God is born into this world – until the Son of God takes on flesh!

And “Father” – we see more in the NT – Matt. 6:9 “Our Father” – “Abba Father” – new understanding for the Jewish people. God is our Father – but “Daddy Father” – more personal!

#### Heb. 1:6

Jesus is superior to the angels because the angels are told to worship Him – Psa. 89:5-7; I Pet. 3:22; Rev. 5:11-13

Jesus is the “firstborn” – priority of position – preeminence of position; the “firstborn” was “first in line” and received the position of favor and honor; highest position and honor was given the “firstborn”

#### Heb. 1:7

Jesus is superior to the angels because they are His servants - Heb. 1:7 quotes Psalm 104:4, describing angels as God’s instruments of judgment in their swiftness and destruction.

Heb. 1:8-9

Jesus is superior to the angels as He is God – and is called “God” Heb. 1:8-9 – quotes the Messianic Psalm – Psa. 45:6-7.

Jesus is addressed as God and king/sovereign. Jesus is the True and Living God, called so here by GOD THE FATHER!! He is called so by John in John 1:1, by Thomas in John 20:28, and by Paul in Titus 2:13 and Titus 3:4.

Heb. 1:9

Therefore God (Jesus), Your God (God the Father), has anointed You with the oil of gladness (Holy Spirit). We see the Tri-unity of God -

- Therefore God – speaking of Jesus, the Son of God
- Your God – The Son submitting to the Father while being of the same nature – very God of very God (Col. 2:9 – in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily)
- Has anointed You .
  - “Anointed” – prophets, priests, and kings would be anointed in the OT.
  - The Holy Spirit sets believers apart and empowers them for service (Acts 1:8; I John 2:20, 27; John 14:26; John 16:13)
  - “Oil of gladness more than your companions” – His companions – those who were anointed as prophets, priests, and/or kings. Jesus fulfilled all three roles: Prophet (Word of God), Priest (He sacrificed Himself and is the perfect sacrifice), King (King of Israel noted on sign above cross; hailed as King at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem; God the Father will set Him on David’s throne for 1,000 years)

Heb. 1:10-12

Jesus is superior to the angels because He is the unchanging Creator

Note that Jesus is called LORD in verse 10 – LORD – Jehovah (the covenant God of Israel; I am that I am)

Jer. 23:5-6 – the BRANCH (Messianic title) will be called “Jehovah our righteousness”!!!

His years will not fail – Jesus is ETERNAL!

One day the Son, Who created the universe, will destroy the heavens and earth He created. BUT HE remains unchanged.

Heb. 1:13

Jesus is superior to the angels because He is now sitting at the right hand of God - a position NOT shared by any angel. Psalm 110:1 is quoted. (Acts 2:33; Acts 7:56)

Jesus is superior to the angels because He has sat down – having COMPLETED His work. The angels minister continually.

At God the Father’s right hand – to be seated at the right hand of a ruler or host meant occupying a place of high honor. The position itself was considered an indicator of the power and authority of the one holding it.

Someone who sat at the king’s right hand was, as in the modern English idiom, his “right-hand man” – the one acting as the principal agent of the king’s authority, through whom He carried out his most important work.

In addition, sitting at the right hand was a statement of fellowship and favor between the central figure and the individual so honored.

Jesus is sitting now at the right hand of God the Father (Psa. 110:1; Acts 2:33-35; 5:31; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; I Pet. 3:22)

Heb. 1:14

While Christ’s destiny is to reign (Matt. 22:44; Acts 2:35), the angels’ destiny is to serve the recipients of salvation.

“. . . Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” – expresses the sovereignty of Jesus over all!

. . . THEREFORE. . . Heb. 2:1-3.