

Hebrews 1:1-9 NIV

INTRODUCE: Background Notes (context)

The book of Hebrews is a letter written to Christians who had begun following Jesus after growing up in the Jewish faith. These Jewish converts to Christianity were a discouraged, persecuted minority in the broader society, and they experienced the temptation to merge the gospel with Jewish religious laws. The author of Hebrews speaks to their situation by making a case for the supremacy of Jesus Christ above all other leaders, social systems, political systems, and religions. Hebrews says that Jesus is enough, Jesus is above all, and Jesus is better (15 times!). Jesus is the full revelation of God, the perfect mediator who reconnects humanity and all of creation with God. Jesus is resilient over death and empowers all those who follow him to endure suffering and hardship while persevering in joy-filled faith.

SEE

Let's look closely at the passage and note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, cause, and effect, etc. Underline or highlight the text, make sections and label them. Share what you see with the group during group sharing time.

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In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits and his servant's flames of fire."⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

DISCUSS

Let's get curious and ask questions that will help us discuss what the author wanted the original readers to understand. Good questions come from key observations. Ask your questions, Then we'll answer the two questions below.

1. What do you notice about the way the author describes Jesus, the Son of God? In your own words, how would you describe what the Son of God has accomplished?
2. Why do you think the author opens this letter with an emphasis on Jesus being superior to angels?

Central Truth

(work together to write one short sentence that captures the big idea of the passage)

APPLY

1. Spiritual Invitation: In reference to the scripture you just studied, what are your thoughts about Jesus in relation to:
 - a. He has ultimate power
 - b. He created the universe
 - c. He is most beautiful and compelling
 - d. He contains the full truth about life
 - e. He loves you the most
 - f. He deserves your worship, time, resources, and attention
 - g. He holds all things together
 - h. He can forgive you and make you right with God
 - i. He is Lord and has control of your life
2. Pray: Spend some time sharing your thoughts about Jesus to Jesus. Thoughts you agree with and don't agree with. Ask Jesus to give you clarity and a healthy view of who he is. Write down whatever comes to mind after praying and don't worry if it is not super clear. You can share it with a friend or your bible study group.