

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Colossians 2:9

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

John 8:56-58

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

Max Lucado in his book God Came Near: Chronicles of the Christ says:

He came, not as a flash of light or as an unapproachable conqueror, but as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. The hands that first held him were unmanicured, calloused, and dirty.

No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla.

Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts.

Angels watched as Mary changed God's diaper. The universe watched with wonder as The Almighty learned to walk and talk. Children played in the street with him. And had the synagogue leader in Nazareth known who was listening to his sermons . . .

Jesus may have had pimples. He may have been tone-deaf. Perhaps a girl down the street had a crush on him or vice-versa. It could be that his knees were bony. One thing's for sure: He was, while completely divine, completely human.

For thirty-three years he would feel everything you and I have ever felt. He felt weak. He grew weary. He was afraid of failure. He was susceptible to wooing women. He got colds, burped, and had body odor. His feelings got hurt. His feet got tired. And his head ached.

p. 26

A Visit From God!

Charles Spurgeon wrote, "This great Prince entered our abode. This little planet of ours was made to burn with a superior light among its sister stars while the Creator sojourned here in human form. If for the first time you had heard of the visit of the Incarnate God to this world, you would be struck with a wonder which would last throughout eternity. This is the heart of the Gospel--the incomparable fact of the incarnation of the Son of God, His dwelling upon the earth, and His presentation of Himself as a sacrifice unto God for the sins of mankind."

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

(In His Image by Dr. Paul Brand & Philip Yancey)

That glorious form, that light unsufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,
.....
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

John Milton
"On the Morning of Christ's Nativity"

He whom the world could not inwrap
Yonder lies in Mary's lap.

Martin Luther

p. 130

"WHO BEING THE RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY AND THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS NATURE (REAL BEING), AND WHO IS BEARING UP ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER."

In this verse we have considered:

His GLORY,

His NATURE,

and now we are going to look at:

His POWER.

STATEMENT #5:

"WHO IS BEARING UP ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

His Word is so powerful that all He has made is sustained by that Word.

The word "UPHOLDING" can be translated: "bearing along." It communicates the idea of movement and progress to a given end.

Colossians 1:17

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

John 2:9, 10

And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now."

John 9:6, 7

When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). And so he went away and washed, and came back seeing.

John 11:43, 44

And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." He who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings; and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Pink, in commenting on this phrase that we are considering, says:

The Spirit of truth continues to describe the dignity and majesty of Him in whom God now "speaks" to us. Here is a declaration that is unequivocal in meaning and unlimited in its scope. Against the statement "by whom" God "made the worlds," it might be argued that, after all, the "Son" was only a minister, an agent whom God employed for that great work. In reply it would be sufficient to point out that there is no hint in Scripture of God ever having assigned to a mere creature, no matter how exalted his rank, a work which was in any wise comparable with the stupendous task of "making the worlds." But as if to anticipate such an objection, to show that the "Son" is high above the noblest and most honoured of God's ministers, it is here affirmed that "He upholdeth all things by the word of His power," that is His own power; we may add that the Greek reads "His own" as in Matt. 16:26-- "his own soul"; and "His own house" (Heb. 3:6). The "upholding" of all things is a Divine work.

p. 37

F. B. Meyer says:

At his word rainwater and dew become grape juice; tiny handfuls of grain fill the autumn barns; storms die away into calm; fish are led through the paths of the seas; rills are sent among the mountains; and stars are maintained in their courses, so that "not one faileth."

p. 13

Black points out:

What is here being ascribed to the Son is the providential government of the universe, which is the function of God himself.

p. 35

Owen says:

Such is the nature and condition of the universe, that it could not subsist a moment, nor could anything in it act regularly unto its appointed end, without the continued supportment, guidance, influence, disposal, of the Son of God.

p. 6

J. Vernon McGee says:

He keeps the thing running, keeps it functioning. This is one of the tremendous things He is doing today.

p. 509

Who Holds It?

Eugene Cerman, one of the astronauts who enjoyed the exciting adventure of walking on the moon, said with wonder, "Our world appears big and beautiful, all blue and white! You can see from the Antarctic to the North Pole. The earth looks so perfect. There are no strings to hold it up; there is no fulcrum upon which it rests." Contemplating the infinity of space and time, he said he felt as if he were seeing earth from God's perspective when it was created.

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

In these 3 STATEMENTS that we have been looking at in verse 3 we have considered:

- 1.His NATURE,
- 2.His GLORY,
- 3.and His POWER.

In other words, we have examined His PERSON.

Now, in the remainder of the verse, we are going to turn from His PERSON to His WORK.

We will see:

the CROSS

and the INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

of our Savior described in these last phrases.

First of all, we see the CROSS:

STATEMENT #6:

"WHEN HE HAD MADE PURIFICATION OF SINS"

1 Peter 1:18, 19

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 2:24

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

And it is this Person who has provided purification for sins. This is God's supremely great Son; hear Him!

Griffith Thomas says:

He is not only the Revealer of God, but the Redeemer of man, and this particular aspect of His redemptive work, "purification of sins," is probably emphasized here because cleansing is the main theme of the Epistle.
pp. 23

MacArthur says:

It was a wondrous work when Jesus Christ created the world. It is wondrous that He sustains the world. But a greater work than making and upholding the world is that of purging men of sin.
p. 18

Our third verse concludes with the 7TH AND FINAL STATEMENT about Jesus Christ:

"HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH."

In STATEMENT #6:

"HE MADE PURIFICATION OF SINS."

In STATEMENT #7:

"HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH."

Colossians 2:9, 10

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

The work of redemption has been accomplished and now the victorious Son of God sits "DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH."

We move in this 7TH STATEMENT from:

His REDEMPTIVE WORK on the cross

to His INTERCESSORY WORK as He represents us before "THE MAJESTY ON HIGH."

It is interesting that there is no CHAIR in the tabernacle because the priest's work under the old covenant was never finished.

Hewitt says:

The completeness of the great work of purification is seen in the next movement of Christ, which was from the cross to the crown, from earth's footstool to heaven's throne where He sat down at the right hand of God. This well-known language taken from Psalm 110:1 proclaims His dominion over the whole world and shows His supreme dignity. The Son came to earth in humiliation, but by such condescension revealed His Father to humanity. He died on the cross, but in so doing opened the gateway of life to sinners. He ascended to heaven, and there reigns not only as King of the Jews, nor as man's King, but as Sovereign of the universe.
p. 53

MacArthur says:

Here we have God's portrait of Jesus Christ. We have seen the preeminent Christ in all His offices. We have seen Him as prophet, the final spokesman for God. We have seen Him as priest, atoning and interceding. We have seen Him as King, controlling, sustaining, and seated on a throne. This is our Lord Jesus Christ.

A man who says that Jesus Christ is anything less than this is a fool and makes God out a liar. God says that His son is preeminent in all things.
p. 20

J. Vernon McGee says:

"He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." This actually is the message of Hebrews. The Lord Jesus received a glory and a majesty when He went back to the Father's throne that He never had before. There is something in heaven today that was not there twenty-five hundred years ago or in eternity past, because in the glory now is the man with nail-pierced hands and the prints of nails in His feet and a spear wound in His side. Even in His glorified body they are there, and when we see Him, we shall know Him by the prints of the nails in His hands. Twenty-five hundred years ago He was God, but today He is the God-man.
p. 509

Bruce sums up the third verse well by saying:

Thus the greatness of the Son of God receives sevenfold confirmation, and it appears, without being expressly emphasized, that he possesses in himself all the qualifications to be the mediator between God and the human race. He is the Prophet through whom God has spoken his final word; he is the Priest who has accomplished a perfect work of cleansing for his people's sins; he is the King who sits enthroned in the place of chief honor alongside the Majesty on high.

p. 50

F. B. Meyer says:

The Lamb is in the midst of the Throne. Behold his majesty, and worship Him with angels and archangels, and all the throng of the redeemed. Prostrate yourself at his feet, consecrating to Him all you are and all you have. Comfort yourself also by remembering that He would not sit to rest from his labors in redemption, and in the purging away of sins, unless they were so completely finished that there was nothing more to do. It is all accomplished and it is all very good. He has ceased from his works, because they are done; and therefore He is entered into his rest. And that word "until" is full of hope. God speaks it, and encourages us to expect the time when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power; and when death itself, the last enemy, shall be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

p. 15

Hebrews 7:25

Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

Westcott also observes:

It will be noticed that the Lord is regarded even in this brief introductory statement in His threefold office as Prophet (God spake in His Son), Priest (having made purification of sins), and King (He sat down).
p. 3

DeHaan says:

In these three verses the Holy Spirit introduces the Book of Hebrews and its inexhaustible treasure of divine revelation concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the Saviour of the world, the Purger of our sins, the rightful Heir of all things and the coming eternal King, now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
p. 15

Wiersbe summarizes by saying:

Creator, Prophet, Priest, and King--Jesus Christ is superior to all the prophets and servants of God who have ever appeared on the sacred pages of the Scriptures. It is no wonder that the Father said, at the hour of Christ's transfiguration, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear yet Him" (Matt. 17:5). Two of the greatest prophets were there with Jesus--Moses and Elijah; but Christ is superior to them.
p. 19

(A Dance With Deception: Revealing the Truth Behind the Headlines by Charles Colson with Nancy R. Pearcey)

A few protesters brought banners. One banner read: "A baby in a manger or a fat guy in a red suit? The choice is yours."

Another banner took aim at the ACLU "The ACLU is jealous of manger scenes," it read, "because it doesn't have three wise men or a virgin in its organization."

It was a well-aimed jab. But all humor aside, I will never forget the pathos of the image on the news that evening. The protesters were huddled behind barricades--carefully keeping their feet off public property--praying and singing their carols.

Instead of Christmas joy, the atmosphere was one of confrontation and protest.

(Holiness by J. C. Ryle)

We must ask them to lay their hands on their hearts, and tell us whether their favourite opinions comfort them in the day of sickness, in the hour of death, by the bedside of dying parents, by the grave of a beloved wife or child.

We must ask them whether a vague earnestness, without definite doctrine, gives them peace at seasons like these. We must challenge them to tell us whether they do not sometimes feel a gnawing 'something' within, which all the free inquiry and philosophy and science in the world cannot satisfy.

p. 11

v. 4 having become as much superior to the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Obviously "Son" is the superior name which Jesus "has inherited." There is a special sense in this name, in its kingly ramifications.

The words "HAVING BECOME AS MUCH" point us back to all the things that we have considered in His PERSON and in His WORK.

A KEY WORD here is the word "SUPERIOR."

He is indeed "SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS" as the argument is going to unfold before us.

Why does the writer bring ANGELS into the picture at this point? The fact is that angels were also revealers by the fact that many times they brought the message to man.

We see ANGELS at the GIVING OF THE LAW:

Acts 7:53

You who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it."

Galatians 3:19

Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.

We see the CHERUBIM at the GARDEN OF EDEN:

Genesis 3:24

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

We see ANGELIC BEINGS EMBROIDERED IN THE VEIL OF THE TABERNACLE separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies,

and we see them BOWING OVER THE MERCY SEAT on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant.

Isaiah 6:2, 3

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Revelation 20:1

And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Lewis Sperry Chafer in his Systematic Theology says:

These celestial beings are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament, and out of this extended body of Scripture the student may construct his doctrine of the angels.

The designation angel--whether mal'k of the Old Testament Hebrew or aggelos of the New Testament Greek--means 'messenger.' These beings execute the purpose of the One whom they serve. The holy angels are the messengers of their Creator, while the fallen angels are the messengers of

Satan--"the god of this world"--whom they elect to serve.
p. 3

John Calvin in his Institutes says:

The angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence toward us. They regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways, and exercise a constant solicitude that no evil befall us.

Westcott says:

The fourth verse forms a transition to the special development of the argument of the Epistle. The general contrast between 'the Son' as the mediator of the new revelation and 'the prophets' as mediators of the old, is offered in the extreme case.

p. 16

The thought of the exaltation of the Incarnate Son fixes attention on His Manhood. Under this aspect He was shewn to have become superior to angels in His historic work. And the glory of 'the name' which He has 'inherited' is the measure of His excellence.

p. 16

By the 'name' we are to understand probably not the name of 'Son' simply, though this as applied to Christ in His humanity is part of it, but the Name which gathered up all that Christ was found to be by believers, Son, Sovereign and Creator, the Lord of the Old Covenant, as is shewn in the remainder of the chapter.

p. 17

F. B. Meyer says:

Apart from Scripture, we should have been disposed to infer the existence of other orders of intelligent and spiritual beings besides man. As the order of creation climbs up to man from the lowest living organism through many various stages of existence, so surely the series must be continued beyond man, through rank on rank of spiritual existence up to the very steps of the eternal throne. The Divine mind must be as prolific in spiritual as it has been in natural forms of life.

But we are not left to conjecture. From every part of Scripture come testimonies to the existence of angels. They rejoiced when the world was made, and they are depicted as ushering in with songs that new creation for which we long. They stood sentries at the gate of a lost Paradise; and at each of the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem an angel stands (Rev. 21:12). They trod the plains of Mamre, and sang over the fields of Bethlehem. One prepared the meal on the desert sands for Elijah; another led Peter out of jail; and a third flashed through the storm to stand by the hammock where the Apostle Paul was sleeping (Acts 27:23, 24).

But in the mind of the pious Hebrew the greatest work which the angels ever wrought was in connection with the giving of the law. The children of Israel received the law "as it was ordained by angels" (Acts 7:53, R.V.). It was necessary, therefore, in showing the superiority of the Gospel to the Law, to begin by showing the superiority of Him, through whom the Gospel was given, over all orders of bright and blessed spirits, which, in their shining ranks and their twenty thousand chariots, went and came during the giving of the decalogue from the brow of Sinai (Psa. 68:17).
pp. 10-11

Bruce says of the remaining verses in our passage:

In these ten verses our author adduces seven Old Testament passages to corroborate his argument that the Son of God is superior to the angels.
p. 52

MacArthur says:

Angels minister to God and do His bidding. They are both spectators and participants in His mighty works, both redemptive and judgmental. They ministered to Christ in His humiliation. At the conclusion of His temptation angels came and ministered to Him. They also minister to God's redeemed by watching over the church--assisting God in answering prayer, delivering from danger, giving encouragement, and protecting children. They also minister to the unsaved, by announcing and inflicting judgment.
p. 24

Wiersbe says:

Jesus is greater than the angels because He is the eternal Son of God Whom the angels worship and serve. Angels serve God's people (Heb. 1:14), even though we may not recognize them (Heb. 13:2; Gen. 18). Angels give special care to children (Matt. 18:10) and intervene in the lives of God's servants when they need special help (Acts 5:17-21; 12:1-10). When believers die, the angels escort them to glory (Luke 16:22); and when Christ returns, angels will accompany Him (Matt 25:31). We must not worship angels (Rev. 22:9) or pray to them; but we can trust God to send them when we need them most.
p. 812

In the Tyler Morning Telegraph for Friday, June 24, 1994 we have an article called:

Angels' Popularity Reaching New Heights
by Judy Tarjanyi
The Toledo Blade

For heavenly beings who supposedly can't be seen, angels are enjoying high visibility these days.

They're the subject of enough books to warrant their own section at your neighborhood bookstore, the theme for songs by musicians as diverse as Enya and Rickie Lee Jones, and resplendent in a host of products ranging from guardian-angel pins (with or without one's birthstone) to automobile visor clips.

They're even on Broadway, in Tony Kushner's "Angels in America," and on television. NBC recently aired a two-hour special, "Angels: The Mysterious Messengers," and PBS has a similar program in the works, based loosely on David Connolly's book, "In Search of Angels."

"Anything that comes out with angels just sells," says Ken Churchill, of Churchill's Religious Goods and Gifts, whose angel trade has picked up noticeably in the last three years.

Mr. Churchill's store in West Toledo, Ohio, carries angel mugs, stickers, boxes, pictures, plaques, puzzles, and rings, plus a sprinkling of angelic book titles and a wide selection of celestial figures, which stand, at least for the moment, among a panoply of saintly statues.

Lee Post, a Toledo bookseller, said she created an angels subsection of the religion and metaphysics sections at her store three or four months ago because she had so many titles that specifically dealt with angels. A recent check of her shelves revealed nearly 30 separate titles.

Ms. Post thinks angels are flying high in popularity these days because of the comfort derived from believing in them. "It gives people hope that there is a higher plan and a source, that there's help and guidance for them."

The Rev. Robert Haas, pastor of Toledo's Good Shepherd Parish and a lifelong angel believer, agreed.

"People want something beyond to give meaning to life, to reach God. But God is so vastly superior to us. Angels are above us, but they're kind of more on our level."

The Rev. Edward O'Connor, who taught theology for 41 years at the University of Notre Dame, said he thinks the revival of interest in angels follows a period in which they were neglected.

"Intellectuals in the church by and large don't believe in them and brush them off, so they disappeared from currency and people realized they lost something important," O'Connor said.

Angels appear in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but they also pop up among New Agers, who view them as resources that can be contacted for personal empowerment and enrichment.

Likewise, angels bear some similarity to the Native American concept of spirit guides and to the Bodhisattvas in Buddhism, individuals who are ready to become Buddhas, but who postpone their enlightenment to help mankind.

The other orthodox view of angels, drawn from the Judeo-Christian tradition, is that they are spiritual beings created by God to serve God and to aid humanity.

Although they possess understanding and free will, they are considered superior to humans. They also have the ability to take on human form to deliver messages, but, contrary to some popular film portrayals, angels are not humans who have died and gone to heaven.

The Rev. Billy Graham, who may well have planted the seeds of the current angelic revival with his 1975 book, "Angels: God's Secret Agents" (just re-issued by Word Publishing as "Angels"), says angels can speak, change appearance, and shuttle quickly between heaven and earth.

He also says they are believed to number in the millions, but do not reproduce. And they are mentioned nearly 300 times in the Jewish and Christian scriptures.

When Dr. Graham wrote his best-selling book nearly 20 years ago, it was because he felt the times warranted a reminder of the special power and blessings offered by angels. At the time, he predicted that angels would be a comfort in a coming period of world crisis.

Most of the current interest in angels centers around the angel encounter, an eyewitness account of an angel sighting by an earthling.

People love such stories, said Rick Hamlin, a senior editor of Guideposts magazine, because in them, "God does all the work. We all love mystery and we're fascinated with sort of a glimpse of the beyond."

Since long before the onset of the current angel rage, Guideposts, the inspirational periodical founded by the late Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, has provided a regular forum for angel stories. Many of them have been published in a collection entitled "Angels Among Us."

Mr. Hamlin said angel stories remain among the magazine's most popular. In fact, he said, the publication's single most requested story is about an angel encounter entitled "The Host of Heaven," first published in December 1963.

The story tells how the author, Dr. S. Ralph Harlow, and his wife were walking through the woods near their home in Massachusetts on a spring morning when they heard the murmur of muted voices in the distance. The voices seemed to be coming close at a faster pace than the Harlows were walking. But no one appeared to be around them.

Then, they looked up and saw a group of six beautiful young women in flowing white garments about 10 feet above. Dr. Harlow said the group appeared to be engaged in earnest conversation.

After comparing notes with his wife, Dr. Harlow concluded the two had seen the same thing. Although he had previously considered angels to be largely symbolic, after that experience he was no longer skeptical and came to believe that the biblical account of the angels at Christ's birth was an objective experience.

Guideposts always checks the stories it receives for credibility and biblical soundness and tries to make sure they are grounded in reality, Mr. Hamlin said. Dr. Harlow's was considered a good one because of the presence of two eyewitnesses and the credibility of the author, who was a college professor with degrees from Harvard, Columbia University, and Hartford Theological Seminary.

Having read countless angel manuscripts, Mr. Hamlin said he has concluded that often angels come to people who have car trouble.

"They seem always to be wearing blue jeans and T-shirts. They fix the car, and the person turns around to thank them and is no longer there.

". . . A lot of the stories we get are protection stories, and one of the angel's traditional roles in life is that of protector."

His favorites are what he calls "angels unaware" stories, where, for instance, a dog suddenly appears to protect someone in a dangerous area.

Mr. Hamlin said he thinks that the proliferation of angel interest has come about as a popular reaction against religion de-emphasizing the transcendental, mystical side of things.

Scripps Howard News Service

Famous Angels

Some famous angels:

-- Michael: Often depicted with a sword, Michael is the archangel who led the angels remaining faithful to God during Lucifer's rebellion.

-- Gabriel: According to Christian teaching, Gabriel appeared to Zachary to announce the birth of John the Baptist and to Mary to tell her she had been chosen by God to be the mother of Christ. Muslims believe that Gabriel also appeared to the prophet Mohammed in the caves of Mount Hira, near Mecca.

-- Raphael: In Judaism and Christianity, Raphael is an angel of healing and the guardian of Tobias. Muslims believe Raphael will sound the trumpet on the Last Day.

-- Lucifer: Originally one of the brightest of the archangels, Lucifer, or Satan, is the angel who led a rebellion against God and was banished from heaven. Muslims refer to him as Shaitan or Iblis. As chief of the fallen angels, it is said that Satan can disguise himself as an "angel of light."

-- Munkar and Nakir: In Islam, the angels who will interrogate all those who rise on the Last Day, except martyrs, who go directly to their reward.

-- Kirman-Kathibeen: The angels who sit on each side of Muslims, writing down their good and bad deeds.

-- Jonathan Smith: Smith was a "probationary angel" portrayed by the late Michael Landon on the popular television series, "Highway to Heaven." As a human who died and went to heaven, Smith does not fit the true definition of an angel, but his efforts to do good on the earth are in keeping with the mission of traditional angels.

Scripps Howard News Service

The real problem with this focus on angels can well be seen in the Scriptures. Back in Ezekiel 28 we have the description of Satan, that anointed cherub:

Ezekiel 28:14, 15

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Isaiah 14:13-15

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Colossians 2:18

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind.

God the Father's intention and plan is that the entire focus of truth be upon His eternal Son and on no other created being, whether it be men or angels or whatever.

The FOCUS OF TRUTH, then, is upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Back in verse 2 we learned that he was:

"APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS."

And now here He has:

"A MORE EXCELLENT NAME."

What does it mean to have:

"INHERITED A MORE EXCELLENT NAME THAN THEY"?

He is a SON.

He is SOVEREIGN.

He is CREATOR.

He is the LORD of the Old Covenant.

The Father's PET NAME for His Son was to call Him, "SON."

The fact that Jesus Christ is an heir and that He has inherited this better name, lends DIGNITY and DOMINION to Jesus Christ.

Psalm 29:1, 2

Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Ephesians 1:21

Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

Philippians 2:9

Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.

In the remainder of the passage, the writer is going to quote from 7 DIFFERENT OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES,

focusing on 4 IMPORTANT ISSUES--

the first being that He is "SUPERIOR TO ANGELS."

v. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? And again, "I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to me"?

The word "FOR" indicates that now we have a REASON for the previous statement in verse 4 that He is much superior to the angels.

There are 2 QUESTIONS here, and both of these are quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures:

QUESTION #1 is a quotation from Psalm 2:7:

"YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BECOME YOUR FATHER."

QUESTION #2 is from 2 Samuel 7:14:

"I WILL BE HIS FATHER, AND HE WILL BE MY SON."

The FOCUS here is on the RELATIONSHIP that the Son has with the Father.

Ray Stedman quotes C. S. Lewis:

. . . what we make with our hands is always something different from us, but what we beget with our bodies is always the dearest thing in the world to us because it is part of us. Thus, the angels were made; the Son begotten. What we beget has the same nature we have; what we make is always different. The angels, being made, cannot have the same relationship as the Son, who was begotten.
p. 9

We must see the word "TODAY" from an eternal perspective. A primary focus of the word is upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His sitting at the right hand of God, which takes us back to verse 3.

Acts 13:33

That God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'

Griffith Thomas says:

It is probable that these seven passages are descriptive of Christ as "Son," from His Incarnation to His Glory. The first two refer to His Sonship; the third to His Coming; the fourth and fifth to His Exaltation and Rule; the sixth to His Millennial Reign, and the seventh to the Culmination of all things.
p. 26

Bruce observes:

The eternity of Christ's divine Sonship is not brought into question by this view; the suggestion rather is that he who was the Son of God from everlasting entered into the full exercise of all the prerogatives implied by his Sonship when, after his suffering had proved the completeness of his obedience, he was raised to the Father's right hand.
p. 54

v. 6 And when He shall have brought again the firstborn into the inhabited earth, He is saying, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The reference is to the Second Advent when the kingly prerogatives of the Son will be recognized with open angelic worship.

This is a glorious promise of the **SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**: whenever "**HE SHALL HAVE BROUGHT AGAIN HIS FIRSTBORN**" SON.

Jesus Christ has yet another mission into the world that is still future.

He has written over His first experience--

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

And now He awaits the time when the Father will bring Him again into the world.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

v. 7 And with reference to the angels He is saying, "Who is making His angels winds, and His servants a flame of fire."

The **FUNCTION OF THE ANGELS** is to be:

like the "**WINDS**" THAT BLOW

and like the "**FLAME OF FIRE**" THAT BURNS.

How interesting it is to see that with the **COMING OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN ACTS CHAPTER 2 AT PENTECOST** we have these **2 MANIFESTATIONS**:

1. "A mighty wind"
2. "flaming tongues of fire."

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The writer contrasts the servanthood of angels and the eternal dominion of the Son.

The writer quotes from Psalm 104:4 here.

J. Vernon McGee says:

It is easy to understand that angels were very important to the Hebrews because most of them were well acquainted with the Old Testament. They thought of angels as next to the very throne of God. They had read of the appearance of angels to many of God's servants and to many of the prophets. Angels were very important beings to them.
p. 511

2 Kings 6:16, 17

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Matthew 26:53

"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

That's 72,000 angels that are on alert status!

v. 8 But with reference to the Son He is saying, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His Kingdom.

This Son is a KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The quotation in verses 8 and 9 comes from Psalm 45:6, 7.

v. 9 You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, anointed you, with the oil of gladness above your companions."

The picture in our minds is the picture of the ANOINTING OF DAVID in 1 Samuel 16:10-13:

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."

So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Being Holy Without Being Smug

"Pursuing holiness means growing into the likeness of Christ who not only hated wickedness but also loved righteousness."

Our culture regards being holy as something very negative, but that is not a biblical perspective at all. In Scripture, holiness is not a smug, holier-than-thou attitude; it is a one-word description of God's essential nature. He calls His people to be holy. His ultimate goal for us is to be conformed to Christ.

How do we measure our Christlikeness? Heb. 1:9 tells us that Jesus loved righteousness and hated wickedness. He didn't just avoid sinful words and deeds but actually loved righteousness to the point that even his emotions and motives were holy. To be like Him, we must do more than just

get rid of our grosser sins. The desire to be like Him must be the controlling influence in our lives.

In practical terms, this means doing as Paul instructed the Ephesian believers--taking off the old self and putting on the new self. Holiness, then, cuts two ways. We not only eliminate sinful habits but also pursue positive character traits. Paul specifically told the Ephesians to stop stealing and put on generosity, to replace vulgar talk with speech that edifies others, and to practice kindness and compassion in place of anger and bitterness.

"Being holy without being smug" by Jerry Bridges. Decision, Mar. 1993. Pages 13-14.

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

v.10 And "as for you, in the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands;

This is a quotation of Psalm 102:25-27.

Whereas we have seen God's Son as:

SUPERIOR TO ANGELS

THE KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We now see Him as:

THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

Pink says:

The closing verses of Heb. 1 present a striking climax to the apostle's argument. They contain the most touching and also the most thrilling references to be found in this wondrous chapter. In it the Holy Spirit completes His proof for the superiority of the Mediator over the angels, proof which was all drawn from Israel's own Scriptures.

p. 68

v.11 they themselves will perish, but as for you, you are remaining; and they all will become old as a garment,

The word "THEY" refers to the earth and the heavens;

"THEY THEMSELVES SHALL PERISH."

2 Peter 3:7, 10-13

But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

1 John 2:17

And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

v.12 and as a cloak you will roll them up; as a garment they will also be changed. But as for you, you are the same, and your years will not come to an end."

Ray Stedman says:

Notice a very interesting thing here, you scientists among us. There is here described very plainly what has been called "the second law of thermodynamics," the degenerative faculty in the universe. All things will grow old like a garment, but not the one who made them and who keeps them, the Son of God.

p. 11

Draper says:

Jesus Christ is unchanging in his purpose. He will someday roll up the heavens like a vesture (1:12). The word "vesture" speaks of something like a robe or a cloak to be thrown over a shoulder or wrapped around the body. The heavens and the earth are to be changed, but Jesus Christ is the same and his "years shall not fail." Literally translated, verse 12 states that the years of Jesus Christ shall never be completed. He just never runs out of years.

p. 33

A. T. Robertson quotes Moffatt who says:

"Nature is at his mercy, not he at nature's."

p. 340

How's Your Foundation?

Did you know that the land beneath your feet is actually moving? According to the Smithsonian magazine, scientists are studying what they call "crustal plates" that are emerging at the location of ridges deep within the oceans. It is believed that when these plates abut and lock together, the sudden release of accumulated stress is the cause of earthquakes. Yes, there is a constant imperceptible change going on below us.

This "shifting" is not limited to land masses and ocean depths. It is taking place in every area of life. The songwriter summed it up in these words:

"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
 Change and decay in all around I see--
 O Thou who changest not, abide with me!"

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

There are 2 CONTRASTS in verses 11 and 12:

1. THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH WILL PERISH, BUT THE LORD WILL BE REMAINING.
2. "THEY (referring to the heavens and the earth) ALL WILL BECOME OLD AS A GARMENT . . . BUT (in contrast) YOU (referring to the Lord) ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

Both of these phrases:

1. "YOU ARE REMAINING" in verse 11 and
2. "YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END" in verse 12

refer to the ETERNITY of the Son of God.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever.

In an Our Daily Bread article we read the following story:

During a severe financial crisis, a farmer, whose homestead had been in the family for three generations, was forced to sell all his goods to pay his debts. After everything had been auctioned, he came back into the living room, sat down on an old box, and looked around at the empty farmhouse. Noticing a familiar item hanging over the fireplace, he said, "Thank God, there's one thing they haven't sold!" The auctioneer had overlooked it, and it became for the farmer a most precious possession. It was a little card with silver lettering that read: ("THOU REMAINEST!") His furniture and his farm implements were all gone, but there was great comfort in those words, for they reminded him that his richest treasure--the love of God and the salvation Jesus Christ provides--could not be taken from him.

v.13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Be sitting at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The writer drew this section to a climax with a final Old Testament quotation, one which is crucial to the entire thought of the epistle. It is taken from Psalm 110 which he later employed in his elaboration of the Melchizedek priesthood (Psalm 110:1).

We have seen God's Son as:

- superior to angels,
- a King of righteousness,
- a Creator of the universe,

and now we see Him:

in a position of honor at the "RIGHT HAND" of the Father.

We saw this back in verse 3:

"When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

I am reminded of:

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

It would be good for us to reflect back on the 7 QUOTATIONS that the writer uses to show Christ as being superior to the angels.

The first 2 PASSAGES have to do with RELATIONSHIP.

QUOTATION #1:

Psalm 2:7

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

QUOTATION #2:

2 Samuel 7:14

I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me.

QUOTATIONS #3 and #4 have to do with ANGELS.

QUOTATION #3:

Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 96:7; 97:7

"And let all the angels of God worship Him."

QUOTATION #4:

Psalm 104:4

Who is making His angels winds,
and His ministers a flame of fire.

QUOTATION #5 has to do with the KINGDOM:

Psalm 45:6, 7

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom.
You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.
Therefore God, your God, anointed You with the oil of gladness above
your companions.

QUOTATION #6 focuses on the ETERNAL CREATOR:

Psalm 102:25-27

You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
 And the heavens are the works of Your hands.
 They themselves shall perish, but You are remaining;
 And they will all become old as a garment,
 And as a mantle you will roll them up;
 As a garment they will also be changed.
 But You are the same,
 And Your years will not come to an end.

The final quotation that we have here in verse 13,
QUOTATION #7, focuses on AUTHORITY:

Psalm 110:1

"Be sitting at my right hand
 until I make your enemies
 a footstool for your feet."

v.14 Are they not all ministering spirits, being sent out
 to render service for the sake of those who are about to be inheriting
 salvation?

The verse begins with a reference to the ANGELS, calling them
 "MINISTERING SPIRITS."

Back in verse 7 the function of the angels is TWO-FOLD:

- 1.They are "winds"
2. and a "flame of fire"

And now we learn in verse 14 they are "MINISTERING SPIRITS."

THERE IS NO SALVATION PROVIDED FOR ANGELS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The salvation that is referred to is the salvation of the future. The Psalm described the deliverance of God's people from the oppression of their enemies and their consequent enjoyment of God's blessings. The Son's own triumph over His enemies has just been mentioned. This is the final victory over all enemies that belongs to God's King.

Oh, how we ought to MAGNIFY and MARVEL in the grace of God in view of the fact that there is no salvation provided for angels.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

Jude 1:6

And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

1 Peter 1:12

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look.

(Basic Theology by Charles C. Ryrie)

VI. In Relation to the Church

A. Basic Ministry

Basically angels help believers (Heb. 1:14).

B. Background Ministry

Angels have been involved in communicating and revealing the meaning of truth which the church benefits from today (Dan. 7:15-27; 8:13-26; 9:20-27; Rev. 1:1; 22:6, 8).

C. Specific Ministries

1. Prayer requests. They bring answers to prayer (Acts. 12:5-10).
2. Salvation. They aid in winning people to Christ (8:26; 10:3).
3. Observing. They observe Christian order, work, and suffering (1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; Eph. 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12).
4. Encouragement. They encourage in times of danger (Acts 27:23-24).
5. Present at death. They care for the righteous at the time of death (Luke 16:22).

Whether angels continue to function in all these ways throughout the present age is uncertain. But they did perform these ministries and may well continue to do so even though we are not aware of them. Of course, God is not obliged to use angels; He can do all these things directly. But seemingly He chooses to employ the intermediate ministry of angels on many occasions. Nevertheless, the believer recognizes that it is the Lord who does these things whether directly through using angels (notice Peter's testimony that the Lord delivered him from the prison though God actually used an angel to accomplish it, Acts 12:7-10 compared with vv. 11 and 17).

Perhaps an inscription I once saw in an old church in Scotland states the balance well.

"Though God's Power Be Sufficient to Govern Us,

Yet for Man's Infirmary He appointed His angels to Watch over Us."

Probably the statements about angels observing the conduct of redeemed people startle our thinking as much as any of these truths. The reason for their interest in us may stem from the fact that since angels do not personally experience salvation, the only way they can see the effects of salvation is to observe how it is manifest in saved human beings. We are indeed a theater in which the world, men, and angels make up the audience (1 Cor. 4:9). Let us put on a good performance for them as well as for the Lord before whom all things are naked and open.

pp. 132-3

Lane says:

The rhetorical question in v 14 is designed to call the hearers to decision. It demands an affirmative answer. They are to recognize that in contrast to the Son, who is invited to share the divine presence and splendor, angels are sent forth on a mission of assistance to those who find themselves oppressed and confused in a hostile world.
p. 32

Wuest says:

Here the writer sums up the function of the angels as compared to that of the Son. He is the highest dignity, a co-ruler with God. They are His servants, appointed to minister to the heirs of redemption.
p. 50

Hewitt points out:

Service, not dominion, is the function of all angels, to whatever class they may belong, for are they not all ministering spirits?
p. 60

The full realization of the blessedness of salvation awaits the believer in the world to come, but as he is an heir of salvation he already partakes of this blessedness. Thus he is saved from the power and fear of death, from the practice of sin, and from the customs, spirit and love of the world, being succoured when tempted, having a conscience purged from guilt, becoming a partaker of the Holy Ghost, entering into God's rest, and inheriting the promises.
p. 61

Bruce says:

The salvation here spoken of lies in the future; it is yet to be inherited, even if its blessings can already be enjoyed in anticipation. That is to say, it is that eschatological salvation which, in Paul's words, is "nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11) or, in Peter's words, is "ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:5). Our author does not need to explain to his readers what he means by this salvation; the term and its meaning are familiar to them already. What they do need to understand is the fearful danger to which they will be exposed if they treat this salvation lightly.

p. 65

J. Vernon McGee says:

Christ is the Son; angels are servants. Christ is King; angels are subjects. Christ is the Creator; angels are creatures. Christ at this moment is waiting until His enemies will be made His footstool. The Father never gave such a promise to an angel, but He says that some day His Son shall rule.

p. 513

F. B. Meyer says:

In verse 14 they are spoken of as ministering spirits, "sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation" (R.V.). This liturgy of service is a literal fact. When struggling against overwhelming difficulties; when walking the dark, wild mountain pass alone; when in peril or urgent need--we are surrounded by invisible forms, like those which accompanied the path of Jesus, ministering to Him in the desert, strengthening him in the garden, hovering around his cross, watching his grave, and accompanying Him to his home. They keep pace with the swiftest trains in which we travel. They come unsoiled through the murkiest air. They smooth away the heaviest difficulties. They garrison with light the darkest sepulchers. They bear us up in their hands, lest we should strike our foot against a stone. Many an escape from imminent peril; many an unexpected assistance; many a bright and holy thought whispered in the ear, we know not whence or how--is due to those bright and loving spirits. "The good Lord forgive me," says Bishop Hall, "for that, among my other offenses, I have suffered myself so much to forget the presence of his holy angels." But valuable as their office is, it is not to be mentioned in the same breath as Christ's, which is set down for us in this chapter.

p. 11

The Pickup Truck

Pastor Don Whitney and his wife had an unusual experience on their wedding night: "We were married in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the night of January 8. The snow began to fall in the Ozarks just as we left the church, but we had no idea at the time that we were driving into the teeth of an 18-inch snowfall, the worst winter storm in Arkansas history.

"Road conditions rapidly deteriorated as we drove west across the Oklahoma border where the snow had been drifting longer. Not only did the blowing snow blind our vision, the blizzard obliterated the tracks of the few other travelers who had preceded us on the highway. For long stretches at a time, the only way to determine that we were actually on the road was for me to stick my head out of the window into the below-zero wind chill and stay to the right of the dead weeds in the ditch whose tops could still barely be seen sticking out above the snow. We feared for our lives.

"Our situation became so desperate that finally we agreed to stop at the next house we passed and ask if we could stay, even though it meant not only spending our first night together in a small country house with complete strangers, but probably most of our honeymoon as well. Heading toward a resort hotel on a secluded lake in northeastern Oklahoma, however, we were traveling relatively minor two-lane roads and in rural areas. It seemed as though we'd never drive by a house. Finally, we did, but no one was home! The same thing was true at the next house. We had no choice but to keep moving.

"We went for miles without seeing another vehicle, and we were not at all sure we could find our way on these back roads. But about 1:30 a.m., headlights appeared out of the snow in our rearview mirror. To our surprise, the vehicle pulled out to pass in spite of the treacherous conditions. An old pickup moved around us and then settled comfortably in front of us at our same rate of speed. Comforted by his company, we decided to follow in the ruts made by his tires regardless of where he went.

"For half an hour the truck turned this way and that onto desolate country backroads, plowing a path for us through the fierce storm. Suddenly the old truck slowed to a stop in front of an arch across the road. From his headlights we could read on the arch the name of our resort. He had led us to the very spot we had been trying to reach! Then the pickup turned around, drove past us and out of sight into the blizzard.

"Why, of all places, did the driver of the truck head for such a remote location on such a horrible night? And why, after traveling for so long in the storm to get there, would he turn around at that point? Was it an angel that guided us safely out of danger and escorted exactly where we needed to go? We could never prove to you that it was, but you could never convince us that it wasn't."

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

[SBC Life, Sum. 1993. Page 10.]

Knock Knock

A minister was visiting some of his members one afternoon. As he knocked on one woman's door, she called out, "Angel, is that you?"

The minister replied, "No-but I'm from the same department!"

(From InfoSearch 3.5)

(Holiness by J. C. Ryle)

If there is any point on which God's holiest saints agree it is this: that they see more and know more and feel more and do more and repent more and believe more as they get on in spiritual life, and in proportion to the closeness of their walk with God. In short, they 'grow in grace', as St Peter exhorts believers to do; and 'abound more and more', according to the words of St Paul (2 Peter 3:18, 1 Thess. 4:1).
p. 20

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: In former times God spoke by means of the prophets, and in these last days has spoken through His Son.

LESSON #2: Jesus Christ planned the program and created the worlds.

LESSON #3: Jesus Christ is God in human flesh as we have witnessed His glory, His nature, and His power.

LESSON #4: He is the One who holds all things together.

LESSON #5: By His death on Calvary's cross He has made purification of sins.

LESSON #6: There is no chair in the tabernacle because the priests under the old covenant never finished their work.

LESSON #7: In these verses we have seen Jesus Christ as the prophet, the priest, and the king.

LESSON #8: Jesus Christ is superior to the angels.

LESSON #9: Angels have a unique ministry of service for the sake of those who are about to be inheriting salvation.

LESSON #10: We need to be reminded that Satan is a fallen angel, and he can be transformed as an angel of light.

MacArthur sums it up by saying:

In this brief fourteen-verse chapter, we see the deity of Jesus Christ established by divine names. He is called Son, Lord, and God. By divine works He creates, sustains, governs, redeems, and purges sin. By divine worth He is the one to be worshiped by the angels and all other creatures in the universe. By divine attributes He is omniscient, omnipotent, unchanging, and eternal. In all these ways the superiority of Jesus Christ is proclaimed.

p. 37

"ARE THEY NOT ALL MINISTERING SPIRITS, BEING SENT OUT TO RENDER SERVICE FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO BE INHERITING SALVATION?"

Salvation is not something that you can earn or qualify for. It is something which is given as a gift, and it is an inheritance which is ours as a result of coming to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Jesus Christ is the whole truth, and His invitation to you is to experience the wholeness that can be yours by knowing Him.

One writer said:

We can come to know Jesus better but we can never find anything better than knowing Jesus.

(If I Really Believe, Why Do I Have These Doubts?)
by Lynn Anderson)

And Lois Cheney scores a direct hit on Richard's mentality in God Is No Fool:

I once knew a young man who was searching for God. And I was touched by his search; and I prayed for his search; and I loved his search.

He read a lot of books. He thought and thought about their ideas. He talked to many people, in pairs and in groups; they matched their minds with his and they furthered his search. He walked and sought God in the rain. He climbed and sought God on the mountain. He closed himself off from the world and sought God in his soul.

He would describe his searchings and travels for truth. He would explain how he had meticulously and prayerfully sorted, rejected, and accepted.

As the years went on I changed from anticipating the recounting of his searches, to simply receiving them; to being bored with them; to avoiding them; and him. You see, he had fallen in love with his search.

God just isn't that hard to find!

p. 93

(The Seeking Heart by Fenelon)

You deceive yourself if you think you are growing spiritually because your curiosity has intellectually explored some spiritual idea. Humble yourself, and do not expect to receive from man that which God alone can give.

p. 38

(Holiness by J. C. Ryle)

'Man,' said a thoughtless, ungodly English traveller, to a North American Indian convert, 'Man, what is the reason that you make so much of Christ, and talk so much about Him? What has this Christ done for you, that you should make so much ado about Him?'

The converted Indian did not answer him in words. He gathered together some dry leaves and moss and made a ring with them on the ground. He picked up a live worm and put it in the middle of the ring. He struck a light and set the moss and leaves on fire. The flame soon rose, and the heat scorched the worm. It writhed in agony, and after trying in vain to escape on every side, curled itself up in the middle, as if about to die in despair. At that moment the Indian reached forth his hand, took up the worm gently and placed it on his bosom. 'Stranger,' he said to the Englishman, 'do you see

that worm? I was that perishing creature. I was dying in my sins, hopeless, helpless and on the brink of eternal fire. It was Jesus Christ who put forth the arm of His power. It was Jesus Christ who delivered me with the hand of His grace, and plucked me from everlasting burnings. It was Jesus Christ, who placed me, a poor sinful worm, near the heart of His love. Stranger, that is the reason why I talk of Jesus Christ, and make much of Him. I am not ashamed of it, because I love Him.'

p. 245

(The Life of God in the Soul of Man by Rev. Henry Scougal)

Oh! that the holy life of the blessed Jesus may be always in my thoughts, and before mine eyes, till I receive a deep sense and impression of those excellent graces that shined so eminently in him; and let me never cease my endeavors, till that new and divine nature prevail in my soul, and Christ be formed within me."

p. 60

(Broken in The Right Place by Alan E. Nelson)

Faith is rarely a matter of information or rationale, but one of surrender and obedience. When you realize God is sovereign, you can trust Him without always understanding Him.

p. 250

When I invited Jesus into my life, I thought he was going to put up some wallpaper and hang a few pictures. But he started knocking out walls and adding on rooms. I said, "I was expecting a nice cottage." But He said, "I'm making a palace in which to live."

--C. S. Lewis

p. 19

STUDY #1 - Hebrews 1:1-14

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: In former times God spoke by means of the prophets, and in these last days has spoken through His Son.

LESSON #2: Jesus Christ planned the program and created the worlds.

LESSON #3: Jesus Christ is God in human flesh as we have witnessed His glory, His nature, and His power.

LESSON #4: He is the One who holds all things together.

LESSON #5: By His death on Calvary's cross He has made purification of sins.

LESSON #6: There is no chair in the tabernacle because the priests under the old covenant never finished their work.

LESSON #7: In these verses we have seen Jesus Christ as the prophet, the priest, and the king.

LESSON #8: Jesus Christ is superior to the angels.

LESSON #9: Angels have a unique ministry of service for the sake of those who are about to be inheriting salvation.

LESSON #10: We need to be reminded that Satan is a

fallen angel, and he can be transformed as an angel of light.