# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION



#### TEXT SUMMARY

Our Advent series concludes with our study of <u>Hebrews</u> <u>1:10-14</u>, where the writer cites two more texts from the Hebrew Scriptures to support his assertion that Christ is superior to the angels.

### INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. The two Hebrew Scripture texts cited both come from the psalms. Go back to read **Psalm 102** in its entirety: The words quoted in Hebrews come at the end of the psalm. What word-picture does the psalmist use to convey the idea that God is eternal, not temporal?
- 2. Go back to read **Psalm 110**:
  - Who is speaking to whom in v. 1? (Remember that "LORD" is the sacred covenant Name of the God of Israel, while "Lord" is a generic title used not only of God but also of a king or master or owner of a large estate.)
  - In our study of Mark's gospel, we'll see Jesus use the opening words of this psalm to stump his opponents. How does Jesus use this quotation from Psalm 110 to confound his opponents (Mark 13:35-37)?

### DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. How does the image of a man changing his shirt (**Psalm 102**) illustrate the eternal nature of God?
- 2. The text the writer uses from **Psalm 110** speaks of God making Christ's enemies his footstool. That isn't an expression we use today. What would be a culturally equivalent word picture we might use today to say the same thing?

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#### <u>SO WHAT</u>? (APPLICATION):

Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. **Psalm 102 is a psalm of lamentation.** Our culture doesn't give much space for lamentation (except in country western music). Even our funeral industry has turned from providing comfort to providing a means of celebration. But we must give space and depth for lamentation, not just in bereavement but in the sorrows and setbacks we experience in our daily lives.
  - What has the psalmist experienced that has brought him to such grief and distress?
  - How does the eternal nature of God meet the need of a suffering soul?
  - Have you ever been in a season of grief and found solace in knowing that God is eternal and unchanging? Is this a story you would be willing to share with others as an encouragement during their season of lamentation?

## 2. The reason Jesus chose Psalm 110 is that it had always been understood to be a messianic psalm.

- The psalm is filled with promises that God makes to the Son, that is, to Christ. (We already mentioned the promise to "make [the Son's] enemies his footstool," and there are other similar promises as well.) When and how will those promises be fulfilled?
- The writer of Hebrews uses this quotation to show once more the superiority of Christ over the angels. We can see why first century Jews would need to understand this distinction. Why does it matter to 21<sup>st</sup> century North Americans that Christ is superior to the angels?

