

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEXT SUMMARY

This week we continue our series on the Trinity with "The Son Is God," taken from Hebrews 1:5-14. The writer of this letter to first-century Jewish believers wanted to help his readers understand the superiority of Christ to all of the persons and institutions of Judaism: angels, Moses, Aaron, the Temple sacrifices.

Our text, coming at the opening of the letter, compares the glory of angels with the glory given to the Son, Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION (observation):

- 1. In the span of twelve verses, the writer cites no fewer than seven Old Testament texts to show that the superiority of Christ over angels isn't a first century innovation but an ancient and consistent theme throughout Scripture. To get a good sense of the argument, read the chapter in its entirety and use the notes in the margins of your Bible to find the OT references and go back to read those passages.
- 2. The citation from Psalm 45 (v. 8-9) is especially significant: who is speaking to whom in that psalm?

DISCUSSION (interpretation):

- Verse 10 quotes from Psalm 102, where we see that the eternal Lord "laid the foundations of the earth" and will out-live the mountains and even the whole universe! And yet Jesus was born and lived in the first century. How can the writer say that the Son involved in creation and that he will outlive the cosmos?
- 2. The OT sometimes referred to angels as "sons of God," but they are not God's "sons" in the same sense as Christ is God's Son. In what *unique* sense is Jesus God's Son?

SO WHAT? (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. First century Judaism was fascinated with angels.

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 Our culture, too, likes to speculate on the nature and role of angels.
 - What are some of the ways angels are portrayed in American pop culture?
 - How is the portrayal like/unlike the biblical picture of angels?
 - What is the real spiritual danger of becoming preoccupied with angels as a primary focus of our spiritual life?
- 2. Although there is danger in elevating angels too much, there is even more danger in thinking too little of Christ. But again, our culture provides many false narratives of the person and work of Jesus. If you scan the religion bookshelves at Barnes and Noble, you'll get a glimpse of the many different "takes" on what Jesus means:
 - The fiery revolutionary who crusaded for justice against the elite oppressors
 - The charismatic mystic who was killed because he was a New Age man ahead of his time
 - The healer and teacher whose sole mission in life was to show us a better way to live

So if you had to put it into words for the ordinary man on the street to understand, how would you answer this question: What problem did Jesus come to solve and how did he solve it?

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