

## Long Ago and In Many Ways

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: What are some of the ways the world says you can "see" God?

Q: Are these "false" or "insufficient" or both? Discuss....

Q: How do Christians "see" and "know" God?

### **Transition.....**

The Book of "Hebrews" is written to the Jewish Christians and written for times of trials and persecutions. It is an argument for Jesus as the Son of God and central character, point, purpose of the Old Testament, the Covenant with Abraham and the fulfillment of and restoration of, Eden. He writer quotes the Old Testament 35 times! He especially focuses on the Psalms, but the quotes cover everything from Genesis to the Minor Prophets (i.e. the entire OT)! He quotes 11 different OT books in all! The "focus" of Hebrews is Jesus! So regardless of whether you are from Israel or not, you can still "see" and "know" Jesus!

### **Table Time....**

**READ: Hebrews 1:1-4** "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs."

Q: How did God "speak" in the past? How does He speak now?

Q: How does verse 2 "characterize" these "days"?

Q: According to verse 3, how does our text describe Jesus? AND, what does verse 3 say Jesus "does"? Why is THAT important?

Q: According to verse 4, "who" is Jesus superior too? "Why?"

**READ: Hebrews 1:5- 14** "5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." 8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." 10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." 13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation"

Q: Here the writer begins to do several interesting things. First, he makes a comparison between Jesus and the "angels". In verses 5-6, what does the OT say about Jesus (the Son)?

Q: According to verse 7, what are the angels supposed to do?

Q: According to verses 8-12, how does the OT depict Jesus?

Q: According to verse 14, what is the role of angels? HOW does this impact YOU?

### ***Big Group Debrief....***

Q: In chapter one, how does Hebrews "start"?

Q: Why is this important?

Q: Why is this important given the "audience"?

Q: What were the Israelites "looking for"?

Q: What happens when they reject Jesus as that?

Q: What implications does that have in terms of how we "see" and "understand" Israel today AND....what implications are there for Christians?