

Hebrews: Introduction and 1:1-14
January 3, 2024

I. Introduction

II. Author

- A. KJV says Paul (1611)
- B. A close associate: Barnabas, Apollos
- C. Well educated in
 - 1. The Greek language
 - 2. Greek rhetorical devices
 - 3. Judaism

III. Date (60-95 AD)

- A. Second generation (2:3)
- B. Timothy is still active (13:23)
- C. Cited in Letter of 1 Clement (95 AD)

IV. Audience

- A. “Hebrews” is an early scribal addition
- B. Jewish background—heavy use of LXX
- C. Experienced persecution (10:33-34)
- D. Some are lax in church attendance (10:25)

V. Location: possibly Rome (13:24)

VI. Genre

- A. Sermon that ends like a letter
- B. “Word of exhortation” (13:22)

VII. Style

- A. Most sophisticated Greek of New Testament
- B. Extensive use of imagery: education, agriculture, seafaring, athletics

VIII. Read 1:1-4

- A. How does God speak to us today? (1-2)
- B. What does it mean to be living in “these last days”? (2)
- C. What do we learn about Jesus here? (2-4)

IX. Read 1:5-14

- A. Why the extensive use of the LXX?
- B. What are royal/enthronement psalms? (Read Ps. 2:1-7)
- C. Why are most quotations royal/enthronement psalms?
- D. What are the quotations of 1:5-14 illustrating?
- E. What are the angels doing for us? (14)

X. Lessons

XI. Prayer

Hebrews 1:1-14

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." ¹³And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

¹⁴Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Psalms 2:1-7

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, ³"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us." ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."

⁷I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you."