"INSIGHT INTO THE SCRIPTURES"

Discovery Series

By Don Krow

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Designed for
Verse by Verse
Biblical Study Discussion Groups

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DKM
10065 Sun Ridge Circle
Rogers, AR 72756 U.S.A.
www.delessons.org
www.krowtracts.com

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WHY IS THIS STUDY TOOL SO VALUABLE?

Recently I heard on a Christian radio station that a survey was given to people who believed that the Scriptures were God's infallible Word to man. They concluded that 65% of the people in the survey had never read the entire New Testament, much less the entire Bible.

The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, *"Until I come, devote yourself to the* ***public reading of Scripture****, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.* ***Watch your life and doctrine closely****. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers"* (1 Timothy 4:13-16, NIV).

The Greek word for "reading" in this passage is *anagnosis* and means reading, especially the public reading of Holy Scriptures. In 1 Timothy 4:13, it refers to the public reading of the Scriptures (including the letters of the apostles) appointed to be read in public in the New Testament worship service (Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27). The readers in the church whose duty it was to read, expound or give application to the passage were called *anagnomstai*, the public readers.

"The word for 'Scripture' in Greek is graphe. In the New Testament this term is used exclusively of Scripture and is used in such a way that ***quoting Scripture (or reading) is understood to be the same as quoting God*** *(See John 10:35; Romans 4:3; 9:17; Gal. 4:30)"* (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, p.544).

"The Scriptures were formally constituted into a canon (a rule of measure that established them as being the true Word of God). The reading of them was, along with prayer, the chief part of the service of worship from the time of Ezra onwards. Indeed, it seems that the reading out of the law (the Word of God) gave the motivation [and pattern] for the first meetings for worship (in the New Testament church), where the word of God was heard. The first Christians were Jews among Jews." (Dictionary of N.T. Theology, Vol.3. pgs. 485, 493).

It was always the **practice of God's people to have the Word of God read aloud** in the congregation. This is true whether it was the Old Testament or the New Testament (Ex. 24:7; Deut. 31:11; Josh. 8:35; 2 Kings 23:2; Neh. 8:7-8; Luke 4:16; Acts 15:21; Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27). In the book of Revelation it states, "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy (usually in the New Testament the epistles were read aloud) and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it" (that is, the blessing comes to those who obey and apply its words) (Rev. 1:3). There was also a warning that what was read was not to be added to or taken away from (Rev. 22:18-19).

To illustrate the point I am trying to make, I wrote a fictitious letter to my friend Jeff and his family.

Dear Jeff and family,

I thank God that your faith is being spoken of everywhere. You are an inspiration to all that meet you. I long to see you and be encouraged by your faith. You are the object of God's love called to be His very own.

I remember you in my prayers often especially regarding the information we have received that in December the local shopping mall will not be safe to attend. Our reliable source tells us to beware of that place. Take heed and tell others.

I am confident that you are doing well at this time and prospering in all that you do. Greet your wife and family for me. I pray to see you and your family very soon.

God bless you!
Don Krow

Later, I heard that Jeff was in the hospital. He had lost a leg when an explosion went off at the local mall and a friend with him was killed.

When I visited Jeff at the hospital I inquired, "Didn't you get my letter, it contained a warning about the mall?" "Yes," he replied, "But I was too busy listening to my favorite TV preacher to read all of it. The TV preacher had also received the letter and he didn't say anything about a warning." As important as the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher is (Eph. 4:11-12), to depend on them instead of the Scriptures for your guidance is like eating predigested food that has already been chewed and spit out for you to eat. There may be some nutrition in it but it could also contain some deadly germs (2 Peter 2:1-2). We need to learn to commit ourselves to the Scriptures **first,** they contain the more sure word of prophecy, even more dependable than an audible voice from heaven (2 Peter 1:17-19).

There is several ways that Jeff could have responded to my letter (just as there are several ways that we can respond to the Word of God). **1.** Jeff could have avoided reading it altogether and just relied on his favorite teacher, tapes, CD's and books to tell him what it says. In a sense these things have replaced the Word of God as the ultimate source in Jeff's life. (See Acts 17:11). **2.** Jeff could have read only the section or verses of my letter that he liked, not heeding to my entire letter, missing my warning altogether. **3.** Upon reading the whole letter, Jeff could have said, "Don did not mean December, he must have meant July because everyone shops in December for Christmas." This letter interferes with Jeff's doctrine so he is unable to receive the warning. He goes to the mall in December and encounters the explosion. Jeff changed the letter by bringing his own private interpretation to its meaning. His doctrine would not allow him to see the truth of the letter. **4.** Upon reading the whole letter, Jeff could have said, "Don could not have meant I can't go to the mall in December. It could not be about what I do whether I go to the mall or not. He is being legalistic, he is wrong." Jeff test the word. He goes to the mall December 7th and 10th and nothing happens. He

returns on December 15th and is met with an explosion. He friend dies and he is severely crippled. **5.** Jeff could read all of the letter, heed to what it says and prosper in his doing of the word (James 1:22; 2 Peter 1:4).

My suggestion is: Take the Scriptures as a whole, they were written as letters to be read as letters (Col.4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27; Rev. 1:3, 18-19). Take advantage of the last 100 years of scholarship by reading a whole letter from many translations. Remember that correct doctrine always leads to godliness (1 Tim. 6:3-4; Titus 1:1; 2:1). There is a tension in the Scripture that must not be disturbed. For example, no one is saved apart from the grace of God, without grace it leads to legalism, false grace leads to lasciviousness, and true grace teaches to deny ungodliness (Gal. 2:21; Jude 4, Titus 2:11-12). ***Without all the Scriptures we will be led to wrong conclusions, resulting in wrong doctrine***.

Without instructions, boundaries and warnings there is no protection from Satan's deception (Hebrews 3:13). If we were in a perfect world and didn't have what the Bible calls "the flesh" (drawn away by our own lust), then we would not need instructions, boundaries and warnings. But since we are in a fallen and imperfect world we must guard our hearts, and look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, so that we may lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us (Heb. 12:1-2; Rom. 8:13).

The goal of all Biblical study is a revelation of God the Father and His Son Jesus the Christ (Jn. 17:3; 5:39; Lk.24:27). The New Testament is a revelation of His Person. The New Testament reveals who He is and what He looks like. For example, Jesus is not a fornicator, adulterer, liar, thief, blasphemer, covetous person, etc. Instead of looking at the New Testament instruction as law to be obeyed, we must look at it as Christ to be expressed. To depend upon Christ to express Christ is the heart of New Testament teaching (Gal. 2:20; Rom.7:24-25; 8:2). The apostles revelation of Scripture led them to a life of faith, a life of dependence, that renounced one's own ability and turned to Christ and His ability. This is the life of grace, this is the life of faith.

May God's blessing be upon you as you seek not the black and white letter of His book, but His Spirit behind the letter of His book. The Word was God, and the Word is God, the revelation of His Person (Jn. 1:1).

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS
FOR RIGHTLY DIVIDING GOD'S WORD OF TRUTH

1.. Each book of the New Testament was given as a letter, to be read as a whole.
2. Consider each chapter & what it contains.
3. What is the unit of thought that each paragraph contains?
4. What is the unit of thought that each verse contains?
5. Consider the meaning of each individual word in its own context.

A. You must consider (first of all) that Hebrews was written as a letter (just as you would write a letter to your family or friends). You must consider it as a whole, as a unit, to be understood in its whole context of thought. There is 6,913 words that fit into a complete unit of context. The context is that which proceeds and/or follows any part of a discourse. The context often affects the meaning of a verse.

B. A few hundred years ago this letter was divided into chapters. Hebrews has thirteen chapters. I encourage you to back away and look at the unit of thought that each chapter contains. The New Living Translation, as well as many other translations further breaks these chapters down by supplying headings. Headings break the chapter into units of thought or subjects. For instance, the New Living Translation has the following headings in Hebrews chapter one: Jesus Christ Is God's Son (verses 1-3), Christ Is Greater Than the Angels (verses 4-14).

C. Within this last century the letter of Hebrews was also divided into paragraphs. Some translations divide the paragraphs differently. Before looking closely at each verse, consider the unit of thought that is found in each paragraph. The symbol ¶ shows you where each paragraph begins and ends.

D. Each individual word has a meaning within its own context. For example, the word "grace" may mean "the undeserved favor of God, the divine influence of God upon the heart, or the free liberality of giving, etc." The context (that which proceeds or follows any part of a discourse) determines which definition would be appropriate.

USING VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY

By Don Krow

Although I personally adhere to the Western Text family of the Greek manuscripts, which is the foundation for the King James Version, New King James Version, Young's Literal Translation, Tyndale's Bible, etc., why not use a full set of tools for our Biblical studies? A Greek word may require several or even several dozen English words to render it adequately. The Greek scholar A.T. Robertson points out one reason for this: *"Language was originally pictographic… Words have never gotten wholly away from the picture stage…There is no single Greek word that has an EXACT equivalent in a single English word" [A Beginner's Reader-Grammar for N.T. Greek].*

No translation can ever hope to reproduce completely all the shades of meaning found in the Greek New Testament. As Kenneth Wuest points out: *"In a translation which keeps to a minimum of words, that is, where one English word for instance is the translation of one Greek word, it is impossible for the translator to bring out all the shades of meaning in the Greek word" [Untranslatable Riches from the Greek N.T.].*

This is why I have sought in the letter of Hebrews to use the various translations and paraphrases to help build and see a complete picture of that which the author was trying to portray in his letter. The primary reason for a translation in the first place is to help readers understand God's Word. I have used the Authorized King James Version as a foundational translation while using the various translations and paraphrases as a kind of commentary on the passage. By reading various translations I believe a person will acquire a fuller understanding of the thought and content of the original Greek. **Why not take advantage of hundreds of the most gifted scholars of the past one hundred years communicating the same message in different words?**

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Introduction to the Book

By Don W. Krow

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK: The intended readers of this book who seem to be Jewish Christians are in danger of **apostasy**. "**Apostasy**" is the renunciation or abandonment of a former loyalty to Christ. This condition was based upon several things: **(1)** A turning back from Christ to Judaism (Hebrews 6:11). **(2)** A neglect or drifting away from the gospel (Hebrews 2:3). **(3)** Unbelief and sin (Hebrews 3:12-14). **(4)** The neglect of meeting together to encourage one another in the faith (Hebrews 10:25). **(5)** Diver (all kinds of) strange doctrines (Heb.13:9). **(6)** Neglect of the very first principles of the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 5:12). **(7)** Neglect of taking seriously the very words of the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 2:1-3).

AUTHOR AND DATE OF WRITING: The book does not name its author. Among those who are thought to have written it are: The Apostle Paul, Apollos, Barnabas, Luke, Timothy, Silas or Philip. We do not know but it has a distinctly Pauline cast. It was written prior to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Probably around A.D. 68.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Hebrews is the fifty-eighth book of the Bible. It contains thirteen chapters, three hundred and three verses, and six thousand nine hundred and thirteen words.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREATING A GROUP DISCUSSION: After you have read these instructions, continue to the next page where you will find instructions for reading the entire book and each chapter.

As you continue to proceed you will come to a section where you will find verses from several translations. In your group read aloud all the translations as you would a paragraph. Read also the "additional information" provided. The "additional information" is not meant to be an interpretation of the scripture, but rather to help you understand more clearly the meaning of words or phrases that you may be unfamiliar with. Remember when reading the verses to consider the context. The context is that which proceeds and/or follows any part of a discourse. The context often affects the meaning of a verse. As a group discuss the insights you see from the verses.

After you have read and discussed an entire chapter, which may require several separate sessions, the leader of your group should go to the section that is called "Questions and Answers." The leader should read the questions to the group and ask them to answer each question according to that which is stated in the Scriptures. This should reinforce what you have already seen and discussed in your group discussions.

This biblical discussion program is designed to make the scriptures themselves the final authority of one's life. God bless you as you seek Him in the pages of the scripture. *Don Krow*

HEBREWS

As a Student, Read the entire Letter of Hebrews several times before you come together as a group. Read each chapter in various translations (at least four translations if possible). What were the thoughts and ideas that the writer or apostle was trying to express? Take a notebook and summarize your thoughts of the book. What is the book saying as a whole? Share these thoughts with your group.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

In Your Group Read Hebrews chapter one (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version **(below). As A Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.**

THE LETTER OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 1 King James Version

HEB 1:1 ¶ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **[2]** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **[3]** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

¶ **[4]** Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. **[5]** For unto which of the angels said he at any time, **THOU ART MY SON, THIS DAY HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE? (PSA. 2:7)** And again, **I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON? (2 SAM.7:14)** **[6]** And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, **AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM. (DUET. 32:43)** **[7]** And of the angels he saith, **WHO MAKETH HIS ANGELS SPIRITS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE. (PSA. 104:4)** **[8]** But unto the Son he saith, **THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER: A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF THY KINGDOM. [9] THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATED INIQUITY; THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS. (PSA. 45:6-7)** **[10]** And, **THOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING HAST LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH; AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THINE HANDS: [11] THEY SHALL PERISH; BUT THOU REMAINEST; AND THEY ALL SHALL WAX OLD AS DOTH A GARMENT; [12] AND AS A VESTURE SHALT THOU FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY SHALL BE CHANGED: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL. (PSA. 102:25-27**) **[13]** But to which of the angels said he at any time, **SIT ON MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL? (PSA. 110:1)** **[14]** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the "Additional Information" in each box provided.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 1-2

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, [2] Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (King James Version)

[1] God, who at sundry times [various times] and in divers manners [different ways] spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets [God's prophets spoke God's message to our ancestors], **[2]** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son [God in these last days has spoken to us by His Son], whom He hath appointed heir of all things [He has been appointed by God to receive all things], by whom He made the worlds [the universe, its ages and everything in it]; **(DKMV)**

[1] When in former times God spoke to our forefathers, he spoke in fragmentary and varied fashion through the prophets. **[2]** But in this the final age he has spoken to us in the Son whom he has made heir to the whole universe, and through whom he created all orders of existence: **(New English Bible)**

[1] Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers through the prophets [in visions, dreams, and even face to face], telling them little by little about his plans. **[2]** But now in these days he has spoken to us through his Son to whom he has given everything, and through whom he made the world and everything there is. **(Living Bible)**

Additional Information: The phrase "**sundry times**" is Strong's number 4181 in the Greek and is ***polumeros*** {polumerw`" } and means "**in many portions, that is, variously**."

The phrase "**divers manners**" is ***polutropos*** and means "**in many ways, that is, variously** as to method and form" (Strong's Lexicon).

The word "**spake or spoken**" is in the aorist tense and means a complete whole or one time action, that is, God has spoken to us as a whole, completely in the person of His Son (in contrast to the many portions and many ways of the Old Testament prophets).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 3-4

Hebrews 1:[3] Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; [4] Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they (King James Version)

[3] The brightness of God's heavenly beauty shines from His face, and He gives us a perfect picture of God, which He really is. He holds the whole universe in its place by His powerful word. And after He had washed away our sins, He sat down at God's right hand in heaven. **[4]** and so the Son turned out to be a much greater person than the angels, and for this same reason His Father gave Him a much greater name than theirs. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

3 The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly. He sustains the universe by the mighty power of his command. After he died to cleanse us from the stain of sin, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God of heaven. **4** This shows that God's Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is far greater than their names. **(New Living Translation)**

3God's Son shines out with God's glory, and all that God's Son is and does marks him as God. He regulates the universe by the mighty power of his command. He is the one who died to cleanse us and clear our record of all sin, and then sat down in highest honor beside the great God of heaven. **4**Thus he became far greater than the angels, as proved by the fact that his name "Son of God," which was passed on to him from his Father, is far greater than the names and titles of the angels. **(The Living Bible)**

Additional Information: The phrase "**express image**" is the Greek word *charakter* and means "a graver, that is, by implication engraving, the figure stamped, an exact copy or representation" (Strong's Lexicon).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 5-6

Hebrews 1: [5] For unto which of the angels said he at any time, THOU ART MY SON, THIS DAY HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE? (PSA. 2:7) **And again,** I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON? (2 SAM. 7:14) **[6] And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith,** AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM (DUET. 32:43) **(King James Version)**

[5] God did not say to any of His angels, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." (Psalm 2:7) And He did not say to any angel, "I will be a Father to him. He will Be a son to Me." (2 Samuel 7:14) **[6]** But when God brought His first-born Son, Jesus, into the world, He said, "Let all the angels of God worship Him." **(The New Life Testament)** **Additional Information:** Verses 5-6 uses words that are often overlooked by Christians, that is "begotten, first begotten or only begotten" (John 3:16). "Begotten" means "to father, or procreate (to beget offspring). What I create is the work of my own hands, what I beget is

something of me that is like me. What was begotten of God was God, in fact He said, "Let all the angels of God worship Him (verse 6).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 7-8

Hebrews 1:[7] And of the angels he saith, WHO MAKETH HIS ANGELS SPIRITS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE. (PSA. 104:4) **[8] But unto the Son he saith,** THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER: A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF THY KINGDOM. (PSA. 45:6) **(King James Version)**

[7] God calls his angels "messengers swift as the wind, and servants made of flaming fire." [8] But to his Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal power is expressed in righteousness. **(New Living Translation)**.

[7] Here is something else God says about the angels. "God makes his angels to be like winds. He makes those who serve him to be like flashes of lightning. " (Psalm 104:4) **[8]** But here is what he says about the Son. "You are God. Your throne will last for ever and ever. Your kingdom will be ruled by what is right." (Psalm 45:6) **(New International Reader's Version)**.

[7] And when God speaks about the angels, He says, "He makes His angels winds. He makes His servants burning flames." **[8]** But when He speaks about His Son, He says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and doing the right thing will be the mark of Your royal authority. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**.

Additional Information: The Greek word for "**ministers**" (verse 7) is *leitourgos*, litoorg-os', and means "a public servant, that is, a functionary in the Temple or Gospel,or a worshipper (of God) or benefactor (of man). (Strong's Lexicon). The Dictionary defines a "**minister**" as "a person serving as an agent for another by carrying out specified orders or functions. One who attends to the wants and needs of others. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language.*

(Verse 7) The word **scep·ter** (sèp¹ter) *noun* is **1.** A staff held by a sovereign as an emblem of authority. **2.** Ruling power or authority; sovereignty. *verb*, *transitive* **scep·tered**, **scep·ter·ing**, **scep·ters** To invest with royal authority. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language.*

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSE 9

Hebrews 1: [9] THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATED INIQUITY; THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS. (PSALM 45:7) **(King James Version)**

Additional Information: The Messiah, God's Son (Jesus), loves what is right and hates what is wrong. The Greek word for "**iniquity**" is 458, *anomia*, an-om-ee'-ah and means ***a violation of law, that which is wicked or unrighteous*** (Strong's Lexicon).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 10-12

Hebrews 1:[10] And, THOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING HAST LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH; AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THINE HANDS: (PSA. 102:25) **[11]** THEY SHALL PERISH; BUT THOU REMAINEST; AND THEY ALL SHALL WAX OLD AS DOTH A GARMENT; **[12]** AND AS A VESTURE SHALT THOU FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY SHALL BE CHANGED: (PSA. 102:26) BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL. (PSA. 102:27) **(King James Version)**

[10] God also says, "O Lord, in the beginning you made the earth. And your hands made the sky. **[11]** These things will disappear, but you will stay. All things will become old like clothes. **[12]** You will fold them like a coat. And they will be changed like clothes. But you never change. And your life will never end." (Psa. 102:25-27) **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1

VERSES 13-14

Hebrews 1: [13] But to which of the angels said he at any time, SIT ON MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL? (PSA. 110:1) **[14] Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (King James Version).**

13 God never said to any of the angels, "Sit at my right side until I make your enemies into a footstool for you!" **14** Angels are merely spirits sent to serve people who are going to be saved. **(Contemporary English Version)**.

13And did God ever say to an angel, as he does to his Son, "Sit here beside me in honor until I crush all your enemies beneath your feet"? **14**No, for the angels are only spirit-messengers sent out to help and care for those who are to receive his salvation. **(Living Bible)**.

[13] God never said to any angel, "Sit at My side, until I make those who hate You a place to rest Your feet." (Psa. 110:1) **[14]** Are not all the angels spirits who work for God? They are sent out to help those who are to be saved from the punishment of sin. **(The New Life Testament)**.

Additional Information: (Verse 13) A "**footstool**" means "something under the feet, that is, a foot-rest" (Strong's Lexicon).

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SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING TRANSLATIONS AND THEIR TRANSLATORS

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Hebrews Chapter 1)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s)**. **Turn to Hebrews Chapter 1**.

1. **Read Hebrews 1:1**. The book of Hebrews starts with whom? a. God. b. the Devil. c. mankind.

2. **Read Hebrews 1:1**. God did something in the past relating to the Jewish forefathers. What did He do? a. showed them how to make money. b. spoke to them by the prophets. c. helped them write down their family tree.

3. **Read Hebrews 1:1**. How often did God speak to the Jewish people? a. never. b. many times and in many ways (the prophets gave a little information about God each time). c. seldom.

4. **Read Hebrews 1:2**. In this final age (last days), how has God spoken to us? a. in a vision. b. through a dream. c. by His Son.

Additional Information: The word "spake or spoken" is in the aorist tense and means a complete whole or one time action, that is, God has spoken to us as a whole, completely in the person of His Son (in contrast to the many portions and many ways of the Old Testament prophets).

5. **Read Hebrews 1:2**. God created the worlds, its universe, the ages and everything in it by means of: a. some dust. b. an accident. c. His Son.

6. **Read Hebrews 1:3**. God's Son shines out with God's glory, for He is: a. the express image of God's Person. b. the precise reproduction of God in every respect (Thayer's Lexicon). c. none of the above.

7. **Read Hebrews 1:3**. God's Son upholds all things by the word of his power, this means: a. He holds everything together by what He says (The Message Bible). b. He by His own mighty word holds the universe together (Contemporary English Version). c. none of the above.

8. **Read Hebrews 1:3**. Jesus when He had by himself purged our sins, or cleansed us from our sins, He: a. He sat down on the right side of God, because redemption was finished, it was done. b. took a vacation. c. went into retirement.

9. **Read Hebrews 1:4**. God's Son is far greater than: a. Abraham. b. Moses. c. the angels.

10. **Read Hebrews 1:4**. Jesus has obtained a more excellent and greater name than: a. mankind. b. angels. c. none of the above.

11. **Read Hebrews 1:5-6**. What are the angels commanded to do by God? a. speak well of Jesus. b. help Jesus if he ask. c. worship Him (the Son of God, Jesus the Christ).

12. **Read Hebrews 1:7-8**. We continue the contrast between God's angels and His Son. Angels are: a. spirits. b. ministers. c. big creatures with long wings.

13. **Read Hebrews 1:8**. We continue the contrast between angels and God's Son. His Son is referred to as: a. a bearded man. b. a Jewish carpenter. c. God.

14. **Read Hebrews 1:8**. Verse 8 tells us that God's Son has a throne, He is a King. His Kingdom is forever and ever. He rules in his Kingdom by a scepter of righteousness. To come under His rule is to come under that which is: a. sin. b. right and just. c. evil.

15. **Read Hebrews 1:9**. God has anointed Jesus with the oil of gladness because He: a. loves to attend church. b. likes to teach the Bible. c. loves righteousness and hates iniquity.

16. **Read Hebrews 1:10-12**. When this present creation wears out like an old garment, and is exchanged for a new one (See Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13), God and His Son will: a. be getting older by the minute. b. will be getting close to retirement. c. remain unchanged.

17. **Read Hebrews 1:13**. To which angel did God say, "Sit on my right hand, until I make your enemies a place to rest your feet?" a. Michael. b. Gabriel. c. He never said that to any angel.

18. **Read Hebrews 1:14**. Angels are: a. long winged creatures. b. counter parts to superman. c. servants of God, that is, spirit-messengers.

19. **Read Hebrews 1:14**. Angels are sent to help: a. anyone in need. b. the good old boys. c. those who shall be heirs of salvation.

Instructions for Group Leader: You may want to summarize the chapter (for the group) by reading aloud the following.

Putting the Chapter in Context: Hebrews Chapter 1.

(Verses 1-2) Christ is superior to the angels and to the Old Testament prophets. In times past God spoke through the prophets. In these last days God has spoken by His Son.

(Verse 3) Christ is the exact representation of God's Person. He is the creator of the universe. He is the one who made purification for man's sins. It was a perfect work and afterwards Jesus sat down at the right had of God in a place of honor.

(Verses 5-6) God never said to any angel, "You are my only begotten Son, I am your Father." In fact angels worship the Son. Angels are spirits, but Jesus is God.

(Verses 8-9) Jesus has an everlasting Kingdom. He rules with a scepter of righteousness. He loves righteousness and hates iniquity (or lawlessness). The Father also loves righteousness and anointed the Son with the oil of gladness above all others.

(Verses 10-12) The heaven and earth are the works of God's hands. They will get old and perish (or change), but God and His Son are the same and will never change or come to an end.

(Verse 13) God never said to an angel, "Sit on my right side and I will make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

(Verse 14). Angels are spirits who render service on behalf of the heirs of salvation. Jesus is salvation (His name means, "Jehovah is Salvation") God's provision for mankind.