

# Hebrews 1:1 – 6

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.**

## **Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- What unusual terms do you notice?
- What words, phrases, or ideas get your attention?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

## **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- How do you sort out the pronouns (He, Him) for God and for the Son? Is there any ambiguity about which divine Person is meant by each of the pronouns?
- How do you understand the terms:
  - “many portions”
  - “many ways”
  - “these last days”
- Why does the writer start on the topic of angels?
- What insight (if any) does the context of the Old Testament references give you into what the writer was thinking?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

## **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- What are your thoughts, opinions, or experiences regarding angels?
- How does the idea of “better than the angels” affect your thinking about the Son (or anything else)?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets  
 2 in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has  
 3 spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all  
 4 things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And He is  
 5 the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His  
 6 nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.  
 7 When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the  
 8 right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much  
 9 better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent  
 10 name than they.  
 11 <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did He ever say,  
 12 “YOU ARE MY SON,  
 13 TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”? [Psalm 2:7]  
 14 And again,  
 15 “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM  
 16 AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”? [2 Samuel 7:14]  
 17 <sup>6</sup> And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He  
 18 says,  
 19 “AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.”  
 20 [Psalm 97:7]

**For additional thought and discussion:**

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.