

# Hebrews 1:4 – 14

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become  
2 as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent  
3 name than they.

4 <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did He ever say,  
5 **“You are My Son,**  
6 **Today I have begotten You”?** [Psalm 2:7]

7 And again,  
8 **“I will be a Father to Him**  
9 **And He shall be a Son to Me”?** [2 Samuel 7:14]

10 <sup>6</sup>And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says,  
11 **“And let all the angels of God worship Him.”** [Psalm 97:7]

12 <sup>7</sup>And of the angels He says,  
13 **“Who makes His angels winds,**  
14 **And His ministers a flame of fire.”** [Psalm 104:4]

15 <sup>8</sup>But of the Son *He says*,  
16 **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,**  
17 **And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.**  
18 <sup>9</sup>**“You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;**  
19 **[Psalm 45:6,7]**  
20 **Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You**  
21 **With the oil of gladness above Your companions.”**  
22 **[Psalm 45:7b; cf. Isaiah 61:1, 3, Luke 4:18]**

23 <sup>10</sup>And,  
24 **“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,**  
25 **And the heavens are the works of Your hands;**  
26 **[Psalm 102:25]**

27 <sup>11</sup>**They will perish, but You remain; [Psalm 102:26]**  
28 **And they all will become old like a garment, [Isaiah 51:6]**

29 <sup>12</sup>**And like a mantle You will roll them up;**  
30 **Like a garment they will also be changed.**  
31 **But You are the same,**  
32 **And Your years will not come to an end.”** [Psalm 102:26-27]

33 <sup>13</sup>But to which of the angels has He ever said,  
34 **“Sit at My right hand,**  
35 **Until I make Your enemies**  
36 **A footstool for Your feet”?** [Psalm 110:1]

37 <sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the  
38 sake of those who will inherit salvation?

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

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

What do you notice in this passage? Use circles, underlines, arrows, etc. to connect words or ideas. More questions on the back.

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

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

After observing the passage:

- How might the conjunctions (for, and, but) at the beginning of phrases help you see the structure of the passage?
- How might this passage be expanding on the “more excellent name” in v. 4?
- How does the writer use the passages from the Jewish Scriptures? How does he combine and interweave passages?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

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

- Why would the writer put so much emphasis on comparing the One who is “the exact representation of God’s nature” (v. 3) with angels?
- How much have you thought about angels in the last week (or year)? How does that affect the relevance of this passage to your life?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

**For additional thought and discussion:**

- What was the first-century Jewish view of angels?  
*cf. Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2.*
- What do you think of the writer's use of the Jewish Scriptures? Do the "mix and match" quotations seem odd to our 21<sup>st</sup> century methods? How do you think the first-century writer viewed Scripture?
- If you compare the Scriptures mentioned with a modern translation, do you see any differences? (The writer may have been using the Greek version of the Scriptures, the Septuagint, often abbreviated LXX.) Do those differences affect your interpretation of the passage?

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.

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