*Disclaimer: These are my teaching notes. They are not comprehensive notes about the*

*teaching at hand, they are a guide for the teacher during the teaching. But you may find*

*some benefit in them.*

* God has a name, in the OT
	+ YHWH - Jehovah
	+ Without dispute, when you hear “YHWH” it is always talking about God
		- The omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, and only God.
* What if the Bible called Jesus “YHWH”?
	+ What if the NT authors were willing to straight up identify Jesus as YHWH?
		- Many modern groups deny the full deity of Christ
			* Mormonism, JWs, Muslims, Buddhists, Unitarians
		- Maybe they want to devalue Jesus
		- Maybe they want to get away from the OT
			* Y as evil.
				+ Marcion
* **The Bible SHOULD be exciting to you.**
	+ **If not, I have a solution.**
		- **It’s called “serious Bible study”**
* Welcome to the Hebrews series, a verse by verse Bible study through the book of Hebrews.
	+ This is part 5 (Heb 1:6-2:1)
		- Two Bible studies
			* First the main point
				+ Then the goldmine

Read Heb 1:6-2:1 – see what you notice. Gather your questions.

* I’m going to teach it twice.

We jump into the middle of a passage all about the nature of Jesus.

 Better than prophets – better than angels

 As if, looking for a STRONGER comparison, Hebrews grabs angels

**6And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”**

* Worship belongs to God alone
	+ Angelic worship in the OT is for God alone
		- In Rev, John is told NOT to worship angels
* Yet, ALL the angels worship Jesus
	+ Implication – Jesus is God
* Why “brings firstborn into the world”
	+ Because Jesus already existed.
	+ “firstborn” isn’t “first created”
		- Jn 1 – Heb 1 – Jesus is creator.
* Now things get intense.
	+ Angels as servants, Jesus plainly called God.

**7Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”**

**8But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.**

**9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”**

* What are the angels here?
	+ This is a ranking issue
		- “ministers”
		- “winds”
		- “a flame of fire”
	+ Created – contingent - lower
* What about the Son
	+ Jesus is straight up called God!
	+ Of the Son he say, “Your throne, O God”
		- Deity
			* And, vs 9 “therefore God, your God…”
				+ Trinitarian
	+ Jesus is the same God, but a different person.
		- There’s a relationship within God.
* An eternal throne
	+ Jesus is not merely a servant, He is Lord of ALL.
		- He comes to serve, in care and humility but he’s an undercover boss.
			* He’s never just an employee.
			* He is always Lord.
* Vs 9 – the proven righteousness of the Son
	+ Glorious by nature and by merit.
		- Wow

**10And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;**

**11they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,**

**12like 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.”**

* This is about YWHW
	+ “LORD” = YHWH (Ps 102:5-7)
	+ And it’s addressed as describing Jesus!
		- Vs 8 “of the Son he says”
		- And in vs 10 “and”
		- People can argue, but it is clear.
* Not only YHWH
	+ Creator (vs 10)
		- Jesus is creator
			* When we say “through” is isn’t to diminish His role as creator.
	+ Eternality
		- Unchangability (vs 11-12)
* There can be no debate.
	+ Jesus is God, the same eternal, creator, YHWH of the OT.
		- Marcionism
			* OT God bad
				+ Some progs
				+ India – Shibu Peediakal

**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”?**

* Ps 110:1
	+ The most commonly quoted OT passage in the NT
	+ BUT, that’s not what Hebrews 1:13 focuses on.
		- It’s already affirmed Jesus is YHWH, so it doesn’t need to do it again a verse later.
		- The focus here is different.
			* It’s on Christ as the future judge of all humanity.
				+ As opposed to angels

***“Do you not know that we shall judge angels?” 1 Cor 6:3a***

* + - The eschatological Lord!
			* This is how Jesus taught too
				+ “when the Son of man comes”

**14Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

* Don’t overestimate or emphasize angels
	+ “worship of angels” warned against
		- Col 2:18 – twice in Rev
* The parable of the tenants
	+ To see the contrast we should look at Jesus’ parable of the landowner.
		- ***Matthew 21:33–41 (ESV) 33“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.***
			* The OT uses this analogy of a man planting a vineyard and taking care of it to relate to God planting and helping Israel.
				+ Isaiah 5:1-2 (1-7)
				+ Jesus focuses on the tenants…

The leaders in Israel; priests, kings, etc.

* + - ***34When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.***
		- ***35And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.***
		- ***36Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.***
			* Prophets, messengers of God
		- ***37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’***
			* Escalation
		- ***38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’***
		- ***39And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.***
		- ***40When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”***
		- ***41They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”***
			* “other tenants” the apostles
		- When the Son shows up, the stakes are even higher.
			* We come back to that in Hebrews 2
* Jesus on the cross
	+ God bearing our sin
		- A source of confidence
		- Of peace – God loves you
		- Of fear – God is just
	+ Jesus- the ultimatum.
* The compare/contrast assignment
	+ Jesus vs prophets, Moses, Aaron, priests
	+ Jesus’ covenant vs the Mosaic covenant
	+ And today, Jesus vs Angels.
* NOW let’s go deeper!
	+ OT connections.

THE OT PASSAGES – complicated, challenging, rewarding.

***Hebrews 1:6 (ESV) 6And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”***

* + When do we see Jesus worshipped by angels?
		- 1st coming – some argue Jesus isn’t worshipped by angels at that time.
			* Lk 2:13-14 - maybe
		- 2nd coming – he definitely is then
			* Rev 5:11
			* Two options for “again”
				+ “he says again”

“again” isn’t a reference to a time period but just sets up yet another quote.

Four other times Hebrews does that.

(1:5; 2:13; 4:5; 10:30)

* + - * + “when he brings again the firstborn into the world”
		- Maybe “when he brings” isn’t really a specific time at all
			* F.F. Bruce - *“The moment intended by the conjunction “when” is probably neither the incarnation nor the second advent of Christ: it is not so much a question of his being brought into the world as of his being introduced to it as the Son of God”*[[1]](#footnote-1)
	+ “brings his firstborn into the world”
		- Implies preexistence
			* Is Hebrews teaching that?
				+ Duh, “through whom he created the world” (Heb 1:2)

Logically – Jesus existed before he was brought into the world which he participated in creating.

As John 1 shows, if it was created, it isn’t Jesus.

* + There’s a big of debate about what verse Hebrews 1:6 is quoting.
		- Actually, hardest OT reference in the book.
			* Schreiner said it is “one of the most disputed verses in Hebrews”
		- What is being quoted?
			* Deut 32:43 LXX
				+ Fits exactly
				+ Two challenges

1- Hard to make a case that it’s original.

2- Hard to see HOW it is about the Messiah

* + - * Ps 97:7
				+ Fits close enough

It’s the same in the Greek except for “you angels” vs “the angels”

2nd person (Hebrews) 3rd person (LXX)

We don’t expect exact quotes all the time.

* + - * + “worship him all you gods”

Hebrew (elohim) The LXX has “angeloi” (angels)

Elohim can be used of any spiritual being

This would be the NT affirming the “gods” there are angels.

Whichever passage is being referenced, this is the case.

* + - * + Ps 97 is easier to see as messianic.

Rashi and Kimhi said it was. (Ps 93-99)

* + - * If Hebrews is quoting Ps 97:7
				+ It’s clearly about YWHW
				+ And monotheistic

God contrasted with all others

Alone worthy of worship.

It’s fitting for the NT to use a monotheistic text to affirm Jesus’ divinity

Why?

To avoid polytheism, or tri-theism

* + - * + Jesus is THIS God.

Further, it fits well with the second coming.

* + - * + Ps 97:1-12
			* Yet, commentaries seem to favor Deut 32 (esp more recent ones)
		- The LXX of Deut 32:43 fits
			* It has “let all the angels of God worship him”
				+ But the Masoretic does not.
			* **IMG - LXX comparison**
			* LXX
				+ Deuteronomy 32:43 (Brenton LXX En) 43Rejoice, ye heavens, with him, and **let all the angels of God worship** him; rejoice ye Gentiles, with his people, and let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him, for he will avenge the blood of his sons, and he will render vengeance, and recompense justice to his enemies, and will reward them that hate him; and the Lord shall purge the land of his people.
			* Masoretic -NKJV
				+ Deuteronomy 32:43 (NKJV) 43“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people.”
			* ESV includes it
				+ Deuteronomy 32:43 (ESV) 43“Rejoice with him, O heavens; **bow down to him, all gods**, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people’s land.”

NLT “let all of God’s angels worship him”

* + - * + The ESV includes it, also the NRSV, REB

Why?

Eclecticism

“A Qumran manuscript of Deuteronomy found in Cave 4 supports the reading in Hebrews”[[2]](#footnote-2)

Perhaps this is why newer commentaries tend to see Deut 32 here.

Or authority of NT inspiration

* + - If Deut 32:43
			* This means it belongs–
				+ Why? Because Hebrews is clearly quoting it as Scripture.
			* How is this about the Son?
				+ Option 1 – it is

Most don’t try to explain this.

The HS knows his own words

* + - * + Option 2 – it’s not

It’s about YHWH

How then can we say they are worshipping the Son?

Hebrews will immediately show that Jesus is YHWH

Undercover boss-

“you better hope I don’t fire you”

Puts a question in your mind and answers it amazingly

OT quotes – not always why you think

* + - * + Point?

Jesus is worshipped by the angels, as God, not just as another valid object of worship

Against Arianism (modern JWs)

Deut 32:39 no God beside me

Yet Hebrews is clearly indicating Jesus is God.

* + - OR, Maybe it’s both
			* Compound quotations do happen
	+ The point in Hebrews 1:6?
		- Jesus is God – who alone is worshipped.
* The next pair of quotations contrasts roles
	+ **Hebrews 1:7–8 (ESV) 7Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” 8But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.**
	+ Angels are
		- 1 winds
		- 2 ministers
		- 3 flames of fire
		- Lesser being who serve a greater purpose.
	+ The Son is
		- 1 enthroned
		- 2 God
		- 3 eternally exalted/ruling (“your kingdom”)
		- The ultimate being, who is the purpose
		- Angels are, by nature, servants sent out.
			* The SON is, by nature, ruling eternally as sovereign Lord.
	+ The quote in Heb 1:7
		- ***Psalm 104:4 (ESV) 4he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.***
			* Ps 104:3 says God “rides on the wings of the wind”
			* Ps 104:4 says God “makes his messengers winds”
				+ They are subordinate, servants in nature not just function.
			* Perhaps both blessing and burning
				+ Winds and fire

***Psalm 104:35 (ESV) 35Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!***

* + - * + Angels are to be heeded!

There’s a danger (as with Jesus)

* + - * In Ps 104 angels are contrasted with God as creator, sustainer, and ruler.
				+ Heb 1 has already given Jesus those very qualities.
	+ The quote in Heb 1:8
		- “of the Son he says,”
		- ***Psalm 45:6–7 (ESV) 6Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; 7you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;***
		- Psalm 45, the big picture
			* “a love song”
			* About the king, God’s chosen, who comes to rule over all
			* Jesus and the Church
				+ Schreiner “The author argues typologically. Jesus as the greatest king in the Davidic line literally fulfills the words of the psalm.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
				+ Read Ps 45 in full.
		- “Your throne, O God… …Therefore God, your God, has anointed you” (Ps 45:6-7)
			* Alternately – “God is your throne”
				+ “it is dismissed by F. F. Bruce as “quite unconvincing” and by Nigel Turner as a “grotesque interpretation.”[[4]](#footnote-4)
				+ Most commentors and translations have it as “Your throne, O God”
			* Trinitarian
				+ God, your God.

Fits with the high and nuanced Christology of Heb 1

* + - * It’s like one of those OT riddles, that becomes clear in Christ
				+ Pr 30:1-4
			* Sometimes the NT just comes out and says it.
				+ ***John 1:1 (ESV) 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***
				+ ***John 20:28 (ESV) 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”***
				+ ***Romans 9:5 (ESV) To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.***
				+ ***Titus 2:13 (ESV) 13waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,***
				+ ***2 Peter 1:1 (ESV) 1Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:***
		- But there’s MORE in this quotation of Ps 45
			* Jesus is naturally enthroned as creator but also has earned it through righteousness.
				+ ***Psalm 45:6–7 (ESV) 6Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; 7you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;***
				+ Twice enthroned

A theme in the NT as well as the OT.

Picked up in detail in Heb 2.

* + - “anointed you… beyond your companions”
			* Jesus is the Messiah – the anointed one.
				+ Ps 45 is clearly a messianic text, and one that affirms the deity of the Messiah.
			* “beyond your companions”
				+ A contrast with angels and other humans?
				+ Either way, it’s about Christ being above others, rightly, and fits with the point in Heb 1.
* Then Hebrews gets even more bold
	+ ***Hebrews 1:10–12 (ESV) 10And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12like 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.”***
		- This is under the heading of “to the Son he says” (vs 8)
			* Jesus as creator
				+ Hebrews already affirmed everything was created THROUGH the Son.

But here it simply affirms him as creator in a way that is equal to God

Not merely a tool

* + - * Jesus as eternal
				+ Psalm 102 has it’s author despairing over how everything is temporary

It’s jarring to think about even creation fading and wearing out.

* + - * + ***Revelation 22:13 (ESV) 13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”***

Hebrews affirms this again in chapter 13

***Hebrews 13:8 (ESV) 8Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

* + - * Jesus as YHWH
				+ But that isn’t in Ps 102:25!

Why then?

* + - * + Two reasons

1 – LXX

2 – not to miss the point.

Ps 102:25-27

Vs 12 “YHWH”

See also vss 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22

The NWT doesn’t translate it as Jehovah (against their pattern)

* + - * + Jesus is eternal YHWH

You can’t escape it!

* + - * + Other NT texts that indicate Jesus is YHWH

6 passages

**IMG Jesus YHWH 6 passages**

Rom 10:13; 14:11; 1 Cor 1:31; 2:16; 10:22; 2 Cor 10:17

* + - * Let’s not miss the importance of the Christology here
				+ What’s true of YHWH can simply be said of Jesus.

We don’t need it to be messianic for it to be about Jesus.

* Last one –
	+ ***Hebrews 1:13 (ESV) 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”?***
		- Ps 110:1
			* A LOT more will be said of this later.
		- How Jesus used it (in Mt, Mk, and Lk)
			* Mt 22:41-46
		- How Hebrews is using it
			* Jesus is the coming king.
				+ You better listen.

Ps 2:7 “kiss the Son”

* Angelology
	+ ***Heb 1:14 (ESV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?***
		- We are temporarily below them.
			* Due to being “in Christ” we are eventually above angels.
				+ “judge angels”
* They were helpers along the way… Jesus is Lord.
	+ Creator, God, sacrifice, salvation, coming judge.
* Hebrews shows Jesus is an ultimatum.

**Heb 2:1**

**Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**

* This is the point of application.
	+ Because of WHO Jesus is you must head the message, the gospel.
* “lest we drift away”
	+ Set aside once-saved-always-saved vs lose-salvation for a moment.
		- There’s some kind of danger of drifting.
	+ Hebrews would have been read by a community of people
		- Either they could lose salvation
			* In which case this warning is deeply needed and scary
		- OR, they might dwell in the visible church but remain unsaved.
			* “I know that” vs “I heed that”
	+ The writer(s) of Hebrews is included in the danger
	+ “we drift away” - παραρυῶμεν
		- “to disbelieve gradually or slowly, conceived of as being carried along due to a water current”
			* I think of playing in the ocean as a kid.
				+ How far I could drift.
		- “it’s a slow fade” “people never crumble in a day”
		- How are you really?
			* Numbness
			* Go back to the beginning.
1. Bruce, F. F. (1990). [*The Epistle to the Hebrews*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nicnt79heb?ref=Bible.Heb1.6&off=3267&ctx=+honor+the+Father.%E2%80%9D%0a~The+moment+intended+) (Rev. ed., pp. 57–58). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Schreiner, T. R. (2021). [*Hebrews*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ebtc79heb?ref=Bible.Heb1.6&off=1137&ctx=nce+to+angels%2c+but+a~+Qumran+manuscript+o) (T. D. Alexander, T. R. Schreiner, & A. J. Köstenberger, Eds.; p. 66). Lexham Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Schreiner, T. R. (2021). [*Hebrews*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ebtc79heb?ref=Bible.Heb1.8&off=2164&ctx=s+instructive+here.+~The+author+argues+ty) (T. D. Alexander, T. R. Schreiner, & A. J. Köstenberger, Eds.; pp. 71–72). Lexham Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hughes, P. E. (1977). [*A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nicnt79heb2?ref=Bible.Heb1.8&off=3138&ctx=d+as+an+alternative+~it+is+dismissed+by+F) (p. 64). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)