

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "JESUS, THE ETERNAL RULER"

For individual study or group discussion

As we continue our studies in the book of Hebrews, we've noted how the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ is central to its message. In order to understand Hebrews, one needs a broad understanding and awareness of messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. At the outset of chapter 1, Hebrews asserts that Jesus is better than the angels, because he is the exact representation of the Father (vv. 1-3a), the royal Son (vv. 3b-5), and the King of angels (vv. 6-9). Hebrews 1 concludes with declaring **Jesus the eternal ruler** because *he is the Creator who is greater than his creation (v. 10), the eternal One who is greater than all the impermanent (vv. 11-12), and the enemy defeater, who is greater than the angels he sends to serve his redeemed people (vv. 13-14).*

#### **Jesus is the Creator, greater than his creation (v. 10).**

Verse 10 begins with a quotation from Psalm 102:25-27. The significance of the reference to David's psalm directs the reader to unequivocally connect the OT text to Jesus Christ.

- Read Psalm 102:25. Based on your reading of Hebrews chapter 1, who then is speaking in Psalm 102? And to whom is he speaking?
- Colossians 1:15-19 speaks of *"the firstborn of all creation...by whom all things were created"* (cf. Hebrews 1:6). How does Paul's description of Jesus in Colossians relate to Psalm 102:25? Discuss the parallels.

#### **Jesus is the eternal One, greater than all that is impermanent (vv. 11-12).**

The Son is unchanging and eternal (v. 11), although the universe and all of creation constantly changes. *"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8). In Psalm 110, David longed for his descendant who would establish an everlasting kingdom. The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 102:25-27 in order to affirm the immutability of the Messiah, that his Kingdom would be forever, even as earthly kingdoms perish.

- The *Hallelujah Chorus* of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* repeats the refrain found in Revelation 11:15, *"...and he shall reign forever and ever."* Read Daniel 2:44 and 7:14. How were these prophecies fulfilled during Gabriel's announcement to Mary (Luke 1:30-33)? How do these passages further underscore what Hebrews is affirming about the supremacy of Jesus?
- Read Isaiah 45:8, 11-12. What did God create? How do the verses in Isaiah 45 echo Psalm 102:25-27 and point to Jesus as the Messiah in Hebrews 1:10-12?

#### **Jesus is the enemy defeater, greater than the angels he sends to serve his redeemed people (vv. 13-14).**

The writer of Hebrews closes the first chapter with another assertion that Jesus Christ is greater than the angels, this time quoting from the messianic Psalm 110:1. And just so the subservient role of angels is crystal clear to the readers of the letter, the writer asks the question, *"Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"* (v. 14). God gives orders and the angels do his bidding, whether as messengers (cf. Luke 1:11-17, 26-33) or as ministers (cf. Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43). They function for his glory and the good of his people.

- Read Matthew 4:11; 26:53; Luke 22:43; and Acts 5:17-20. Who do the angels serve in these passages? Read Genesis 19:15 and 2 Kings 6:17-20. Who do the angels defend in these passages?
- The word "ministering" in verse 14 comes from a Greek word "leitourgiká," which indicates the divinely-authorized service angels render to God's people at his behest. Refer to Psalm 91:11, Judges 6:12, Acts 12:7-9, and Luke 22:43. Describe the type of aid the angels performed.

DATE: December 18, 2022

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: Advent 2022

PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:10-14

## Family Dinner Table

### What Child is This?

*What Child is This?* was written in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix, an Englishman who experienced a spiritual renewal amid a long bout of illness and depression, during which time he authored over forty hymns. The lyrics for *What Child is This?* originated from a poem he wrote, called *"The Manger Throne."* With each verse, the carol progresses from asking about the divinity of the lowly child to concluding that he is the King of kings and worthy of our praise. Puritan theologian Jonathan Edwards describes the paradox: "infinite highness and infinite condescension."<sup>1</sup> Edwards continues, *"He is sovereign Lord of all. He rules over the whole universe, and doth whatsoever pleaseth Him. His knowledge is without bound. His wisdom is perfect, and what none can circumvent. His power is infinite, and none can resist Him. His riches are immense and inexhaustible. His majesty is infinitely awful. And yet He is one of infinite condescension. None are so low or inferior, but Christ's condescension is sufficient to take a gracious notice of them. He condescends not only to the angels, humbling Himself to behold the things that are done in heaven, but He also condescends to such poor creatures as men; and that not only so as to take notice of princes and great men, but of those that are of meanest rank and degree, 'the poor of the world,' James 2:5."*<sup>2</sup>

- What have our studies in Isaiah, Luke, and Hebrews taught you about Jesus? Based on your discussion, how would you answer, *What Child is This?*

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

**Shepherd's Arm Rescue Mission,**  
*supported partner ministry*  
**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**  
**Christ Church Central in Leeds,**  
*UK, world missions partner*

<sup>1-2</sup>Edwards, Jonathan. *The Excellency of Christ: The Works of Jonathan Edwards, vol.1.* Carlisle, PA. Banner of Truth, 1998. 680-81