

Ponderings in Hebrews

The following is a Messianic Study on

Hebrews 1

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Brit Chadashah (Sydney)

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Brit Chadashah (*the New Covenant*) is a Messianic Fellowship in Sydney. We meet together fortnightly for Bible studies from a Messianic Jewish Perspective. We are a unique fellowship made up of Jewish and Gentile people who are believers in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of Israel. Brit Chadashah is part of a worldwide Messianic Jewish movement of hundreds of fellowships.

Brit Chadashah is committed to building the Messianic Community of Jews and Gentiles who are a living testimony for Yeshua the Messiah. By donating to Brit Chadashah, you are partnering with us to do the work of “Reaching the Original Messengers”. The funds will be used in outreach to Jewish people as well as in educating Christians in effective ways to reach out.

If you don't know Yeshua as your Messiah, we encourage you to search out the Scriptures for yourself. God promised in the book of Jeremiah, “*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*” (Jeremiah 29:13)

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Celebrate Messiah has been sharing the love of Messiah with Jewish people in Australia since it was founded in 1995 by Lawrence and Louise Hirsch. Lawrence is a Jewish believer in Yeshua (Jesus) and the current Executive Director of Celebrate Messiah.
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Pondering Hebrews 1:1-4

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent Name than they.”

Introduction to Hebrews

We do not know who the writer to the Hebrews was, but we do know that he was steeped in the Tanach (the Older Testament), very much like Apollos who was “*mighty in the Scriptures*” (Acts 18:24-28). In this book we read a number of sermon notes, and looking at how often the author says we, it might well be that there was collaboration in compiling this into the one letter.

Refrain of Hebrews

The whole book of Hebrews is a refrain of the importance of what *God had said* because throughout this book we see quotation after quotation. In fact there are well over 30 direct quotations and almost 60 clear allusions to various passages in the Tanach (the Older Testament).

It is as if the writer said “*Then God said.... Then God said.... Then God said.... Then God said....*” Like the book of Revelation, it is a mysterious book if we do not read the Tanach. As a matter of fact these two books have hardly a verse where the Tanach is not quoted, or rephrased or hinted at in some way.

The writer of Hebrews wants to show how Yeshua is “*greater*” or “*better*” than the angels, greater than Moses, and greater than Aaron and the Levitical priesthood.

VERSE 1 “*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways*”

It is always God who is the giver of the revelation and He did this in many ways and forms. He spoke directly with Adam “*in the cool of the day*” (Genesis 3:8). He appeared to Abraham “*in the heat of the day*” (Genesis 18) and spoke face to face with Moses (Exodus 33:11). Later He spoke in visions and revealed His word to the prophets (Elijah to Malachi). For others it was the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who stirred them up to write histories, songs, poetry, psalms and proverbs. God has used many ways and diverse methods to reveal the Word.

VERSE 2a “*in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...*”

But in the end times there was a direct word spoken from the Son. We have ignored the words of the prophets (Daniel 9:6), and even ignored the Son when He came (Psalm 118:22-23; Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 13:57).

This Son is the Heir (Matthew 21:38-46). God sent His servants, the prophets, and we should not ignore them. In light of who He is, how much more should we listen to the Son?

VERSES 2b-4 *“His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent Name than they.”*

If ever you wanted a magnificent picture of Messiah look no further than these verses:

1. God appointed Him the heir of all things (Psalm 2:7-8 *“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: **He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.** ⁸‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.)*)
2. Through Him God made the world (העולמות) the worlds / universe or ages (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 8:6)
3. Yeshua is the Shechinah (the manifestation of the Divine presence), the radiance of God’s glory (John 1:14) and the exact representation of His nature (Colossians 1:15)
4. He sustains all things by His powerful word (Psalm 75:3 *“The earth and all who dwell in it melt; It is I who have firmly set its pillars. Selah.”*)
5. He has provided purification for sins (1 Peter 2:24) and is our redeemer. The wording is reminiscent of Leviticus 16 and indicates His priestly ministry and this is where the author of Hebrews will guide us in chapters 5-7
6. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Psalm 110:1 *The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”*)
7. He became as much superior to the angels as the Name He has inherited is superior to theirs (Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:9)

In these opening lines the author demonstrates that Yeshua, the Son of God, is indeed superior and has a better Name than the angels.

Friends let us read the Word daily and ponder His majestic presence together.

*Hope this illuminated your understanding
Blessings in Messiah Yeshua
Paul & Sue Cohen*