

Ponderings in Hebrews

The following is a Messianic Study on

Hebrews 1:5-9

5 Quotations (1-2)

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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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Hebrews 1:5-9 (Quotations 1-2)

Intro

As we read Hebrews 1 we immediately note the numerous citations from the Book of Psalms that the author uses to strengthen his teaching about the superiority of Messiah Yeshua. In this first chapter alone he includes five quotations from the book of Psalms and two from other books.

This would indicate that the recipients of the letter already knew the Tanach (the Old Testament) and the book of Psalms in particular from their own background and had been using it in their worship services, in other words the ancient fellowships were singing “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Secondly this would mean that they held to the inspiration of the Scriptures, the plethora of verses indicate that they relied on it for their faith.

Apart from the five passages from the Psalms he also quotes from the Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32), and he quotes from 2 Samuel 7:14 which is about the Davidic Covenant. So let us explore the passages in the verses.

Quotation 1: Psalm 2:7 in Hebrews 1:5

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did He ever say,

“YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”?

And again,

“I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?

Psalm 2, is a Psalm of King David

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? The writer links this verse to verse 1-4, in which he introduces the teaching of the Son’s superiority to angels. He does not intend to by-pass the significance of the first three verses, but in verse 4 he makes the point of comparing the Son with the angels and stating his superiority.

David in Psalm 2:7 asks, did God ever say to any of the angels, “You are my son; today I have become your Father”? The answer to this rhetorical question is no, even though angels are called sons of God (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7) it is always in the plural not singular. The status described in this verse has never been conferred on the angels, and no angel has ever been given the title *Son of God* anywhere in the Scriptures.

Today I have begotten You:

Psalm 2:7 is a prophetic statement of the Sonship emphasizing the positional dignity of the Son. He is the only *begotten* a phrase also seen in John’s Gospel and later in Hebrews 11:17¹. The phrase the “*only begotten*” does not emphasize birth or origin, it cannot mean “come into being” as some cults teach. The term “*only begotten*” was a legal term that stresses the rights of the firstborn, and this One has the rights of the firstborn.” The apostle Paul uses this in

¹ This phrase Only Begotten need to be seen from John’s Gospel John 1:14, 18, 3:16, 18.

Colossians 1:15 where Yeshua is the First born of creation, as such he is over creation in begotten as you and I are.

Since the author says Yeshua is greater than the angels, and later shows He is both human and God, what he might also then try to say is that the **Only Begotten** indicates the equality of *substance* and *essential nature* between the Father and Son; i.e. the Father and the Son share the same *being*.

Quotation 2: 2 Samuel 7:14 in Hebrews 1:5

Hebrews 1:5

For to which of the angels did He ever say,

“YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”?

And again,

“I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?

The second Old Testament passage he quotes, in verse 5, is 2 Samuel 7:14. This is part of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:14-16; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14) emphasizing His position as the recipient and fulfiller of the Davidic promises and the Davidic Covenant.

The key promise of the Davidic Covenant is that the God-Man² descendant of David is destined to rule over a saved and restored Israel from Jerusalem and from the Throne of David.

This can also be seen in **Isaiah 9:6–7** “*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*”⁷ *There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*” All these four titles in Isaiah are titles of God.

And in Jeremiah 23:5–6 “*Behold, the days are coming,*” declares the Lord, “*When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.*”⁶ “*In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’*” The full name of God Yahweh our righteousness is in this person, while Jewish and Old Testament names had one, two or even three letters of God’s name Nobody had all four letters, it would have been considered blasphemy.

Therefore, the author of Hebrews says Yeshua is the only begotten, and is the only one who can reign over Israel. No angel will have the privilege of ruling over Israel in the Messianic Kingdom. The allusions to 2 Samuel 7 in the Brit Chadashah (New Testament), see Luke 1:32–33; and in John 7:42 indicate that the passage was applied to the Messiah.

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

² Three Eternals: Eternal throne, Eternal Kingdom, Eternal House, this can only be fulfilled in an Eternal Person.