

Week 2: FORMED Series

Worship the Enthroned Son

Hebrews 1:4-14

⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

*“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?
Or again,*

*“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?*

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

*“Let all God’s angels worship him.”
⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,*

*“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”*

⁸ But about the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.*

*⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”*

¹⁰ He also says,

*“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

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

*¹² You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.*

*But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”*

¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say,

*“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet”?*

¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

This text is full of Old Testament quotations, culminating in verse 13 which quotes Psalm 110 (also alluded to in verse 3 from last week) where 'the Lord' is depicted as Enthroned at the right hand of the Father (a position of Authority). The author is building a strong case for the supremacy of the Son above all creation (even the angels).

Some Structure:

Verses 4&5 – The Son's Unique Relationship to the Father

Verses 6&7 – The Inferior Position of the Angels

Verses 8-12 – The Eternal Reign of the Son

Verses 13-14 – The Son's Position and Authority (Listeners as Heirs to Salvation)

Summary (George Guthrie):¹

The preacher marshals these Old Testament quotations to provide a clear picture of the status of the angels relative to the Son. The Son sits at the preeminent position in the universe, with the angels in an inferior position as the servants who worship him. The Son has an eternal throne, from which the angels are sent out to minister.

Application:

David encouraged us in how we respond to Jesus' supremacy. He is the Enthroned Son worthy of all worship. The only appropriate response for us is worship. Worship is much more than just singing, it's our whole of life response. Romans 12 calls us to surrender our lives to God.

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Consider:

- This text clearly outlines that Jesus is the Sovereign King who reigns eternally. In a world of instability, uncertainty and unstable leaders, the implication is that Jesus' throne is unshakeable. How does this sit with you?
 - Does it raise questions or give comfort? Is this something that you 'know' (head information) and/or something that changes how you live (transformation)?

¹ George Guthrie, Hebrews, (Zondervan Academic, 2009), page 71.

- How do you worship Jesus? What does it look like in your day-to-day? Remember worship is much more than *just* music and singing, being generous etc. it's a whole of life response.
- The angels' are depicted as worshipping and serving the enthroned Son (v. 6-7). As heirs of salvation (v. 14), we are on the receiving end of that ministry. Does knowing that you are deeply cared for by God change the way you approach worship — do you [typically] worship out of duty or out of grateful response to who He is and what He has done?
- What's one area of your daily life (work, relationships, finances, habits) where you sense God calling you to greater surrender? Perhaps, Pause now to pray and Ask Him.

Formation Practice

We want to encourage you to do this simple exercise every day for the next 2 months. It can take 5 minutes or an hour, whatever you are able to achieve (and as you do it more and more, you'll likely find it easier to spend longer listening and reflecting).

Simple Daily Rhythm

1. Listen: Read a short passage from Hebrews
 - Free yourself from distractions (internal and external). You may find it helpful to play a worship song to focus your mind
 - Read slowly. Read the passage a few times.
 - [Lectio Divina](#) a one helpful method of reading and sitting with a passage.
2. Reflect: What is Jesus saying to me?
 - Pray and ask Jesus to speak to you. Sit in the quiet and listen. Is he asking you to do anything?
3. Respond: What will I do today?
 - Resolve to intentionally do something with what you have been given. There may be a practical step of obedience to take. Or you may be able to encourage someone else with what you have been given.