

Family Devotional Guide
For the Week of January 22, 2012

Wow! Look at Jesus (Hebrews 1.4)

Monday: Hebrews 1.4-13 bears a very simple message: Jesus is superior! The text has no practical advice or application – it simply tells us how superior Jesus is to the prophets (vs 1- 3) and angels. What does one do with a text like this? How about worship? How about praise? How about asking the Holy Spirit to give you a sense of awe and wonderment at the superiority of Christ?

Tuesday: Verse 4 says that Jesus is “better than the angels.” In Sunday’s message it was brought out that the angels are mentioned 13 times in the book of Hebrews, in twelve different verses. Eleven of those times and 11 of those verses are in chapters 1 and 2. Yet, the text is not about angels. It is about Jesus. Discuss how easy it is to get distracted by things that are good, interesting, even important, but are of lesser value than your knowledge of Jesus.

Wednesday: The “better name,” obtained by Jesus by inheritance is more than a designation, it means “an everything.” The name of Jesus means, “the everything of Jesus.” What fills your mind and heart when you hear the name of Jesus? Are you motivated to worship, serve, and share your faith when you think of the name of Jesus? Why or why not?

Thursday: In Sunday’s message it was mentioned that in the name of Jesus four things take place. One is the remission of sins. Give your testimony of when you called upon the name of the Lord and received the remission (forgiveness) of sins.

Friday: In the text Jesus is given three better names: Son (vs 5); First begotten (vs 6); and Lord (vs 10). Discuss the significance of each of these names and what they tell us of Jesus’ superiority.

Saturday: Prepare for worship tomorrow by praying for a restful night. Read Hebrews 1.1-14 and ask God to give you a sense of worship as we once again consider our Lord’s superiority.

Further thoughts on the Book of Hebrews . . .

The English word, “better” is found in 13 times in the book in 12 verses. It is always the same Greek word, krite²-tohn, meaning more useful, serviceable, advantageous or excellent. It is derived from the noun, kratos, which means force, strength, power, or dominion.

One commentator outlined the usage of the word, “better,” in Hebrews in this manner:

- We have a better Savior (Hebrews 3.1 – 8.5)
- We have a better Security (Hebrews 8.6-13)
- We have a better Sanctuary (Hebrews 9.1-12)
- We have a better Sacrifice (Hebrews 9.13 – 10.39).

With the basic meaning of the word indicating force, dominion, power and etc, superiority is understood. The implications of Jesus’ superiority are superior in and of themselves. Notice in Hebrews 2.1-3, the language of comparison. “If the word spoken by angels” (the Law) was steadfast and every transgression and disobedience receive a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation.” The text teaches that while sin under the law was serious and had its severe judgment, to neglect your relationship with Jesus (“so great a salvation”) has greater consequences.

Jesus is better. He has a greater force a greater dominion, and a greater impact because of who He is. This is why Hebrews chapter 1 is so very important. If one will grasp who Jesus really is, he/she will be driven to a better commitment to and knowledge of our Lord.