

Family Devotional Guide
For the Week of January 29, 2012

This is Jesus! (Hebrews 1:4-14)

Monday: Hebrews 1:1-14, emphasizes the superiority of Christ. If one asks, “What do I do with the teaching of this text?” He will find the answer in worship. This chapter motivates us to worship Jesus. Discuss how Jesus is worthy of worship based on who He is (1:1-3a) and what He has done (1:3b).

Tuesday: Continue to talk about worship; and Christ’s worthiness of worship. Have you ever been guilty of entering into a worship service with the idea that you are there to “get something out of it?” Discuss how worship only takes place when our only agenda is that God is the only one who gets something out of it.

Wednesday: Hebrews 1:5a is a quote from Psalm 2. In the message we highlighted the context of this Psalm. Discuss how our nation seeks to “break” the “bands” of God’s Law and mocks God. Don’t stop on the negative: Read Psalm 2:10-12 and discuss how God will bless righteousness and there is hope in the Lord if our nation would repent. Where does this repentance need to start?

Thursday: Hebrews 1:10-12 is a quote from Psalm 102:25-27. Discuss how everything in this world will change, but our God does not change. This is called the doctrine of the immutability of God. How does this doctrine encourage you? What does it mean for those who do not know Christ?

Friday: Hebrews 1:13, 14 teach that each individual is either an enemy of Christ or an heir of Christ. Contrast the two. What are the differences here and now? What will be the difference in eternity?

Saturday: Tomorrow the message will be from Hebrews 2:1-4. All that we have been talking about in chapter 1 comes to this point. Read the text for tomorrow’s message and ask God to give you understanding as we consider the first “warning passage” in the book of Hebrews.

Further thoughts on the Book of Hebrews . . .

Throughout the New Testament one will find quotes from the Old Testament Scriptures. Hebrews contains its fair share. When one compares the quotes he/she might find slight differences. This is because our Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew language, while some of the Old Testament quotations in our New Testament are quoted from the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament.) Hebrews 1:6 quotes from the Greek text of Deuteronomy 42:33.

Almost from the time Alexander the Great founded Alexandria, Egypt in 331 BC, there was a Jewish element in its Greek-speaking population. This population grew in the generations that followed. Through Hellenization (the process of imposing the Greek culture and language upon a people) the Jews of Alexandria gave up using the language of their ancestors and spoke Greek only. Thus, there was great danger of being cut off from the use of their Hebrew Bible and rituals of the synagogue.

At first the Scriptures were read in Hebrew and someone was appointed to give an oral translation in Greek. But as time went on a written Greek version was provided, so that the Scriptures could be read directly. The translation was made available around 250 BC.

A legend eventually developed concerning how it was the work of seventy (or rather seventy-two) elders of Israel who were brought to Alexandria for the purpose of translating the Hebrew Scriptures in Greek. It is because of this legend that the name Septuagint (meaning “seventy” from Latin) was attached to the translation.

The legend originated in a document called, *“The Letter of Aristeas*, which tells how the elders of Israel completed the translation of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) in seventy-two days. Their translations were completely the same because of regular consultation and comparison.

The story was later embellished to relay how the entire Old Testament was translated by the elders who were isolated from one another in separate cells for the whole period of time. At the end they emerged from their cells with seventy-two identical Greek texts of the Old Testament. Each one was word for word the same.

In reality, it was only the Pentateuch that was originally translated by the Jews and they worked together. Christian scholars extended the translation to include the rest of the Old Testament over time.

True? Not true? Most conservative scholars doubt the legend. But all Bible-believing Christians see the Septuagint as one more stone in the foundation of the truth that God preserves His Word; gives forth His Word; and holds every person accountable to it.