



CHRIST IS GOD THE SON

Please note that
this teaching text has
not been proofed.

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

CHRIST IS BETTER THAN ANGELS

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

There has been much discussion as to who wrote the letter addressed to the Hebrews (another name for the Jewish people). Perhaps the name of the author was purposely hidden so the Holy Spirit could reveal the Son alone as the final message and messenger of God. (See Hebrews 1:2.)

We are not told the location of the church (or churches) addressed in the letter. We do know, however, that the readers were Jewish people who had turned to the Lord Jesus. Probably, as in churches today, there were some who said they were Christians but were not genuinely born again. However, most of them would have been true believers ("holy brethren," 3:1) who suffered for their faith in Christ (10:32b). Alas, these Jewish Christians were having problems. As Christians, they could no longer worship at the majestic temple. Like many

Christians in that day, they were afraid of being persecuted. So, instead of advancing with purpose in their spiritual lives, they were floundering uncertainly.

So the Spirit of God directed this letter to them. They were warned not to come short, not to be slothful, not to sin willfully and not to draw back. Watch for these warnings as you study.

In this series we have five volumes on the book of Hebrews:

1. Christ is God the Son
2. Eternal Salvation
3. The Priesthood of Christ
4. The New Covenant
5. Living by Faith

Scripture to be studied: Hebrews 1:4-14; Psalm 2:7; 45:6-7; 102:25-27; 104:4; 110:1

The aim of the lesson: To show that Christ is greater than angels.

What your students should know: Although angels are the messengers of God, Christ is God the Son.

What your students should feel: A desire to give Christ the highest place.

What your students should do: Worship the One whom angels worship: Christ the Son of God.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Christ has a better name than angels (Hebrews 1:4-5).
2. Christ is worshiped by angels (Hebrews 1:6).
3. Christ will rule over all of God's kingdom (Hebrews 1:7-9, 13-14).
4. Christ created everything (Hebrews 1:10-12).

The verse to be memorized:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever.
(Hebrews 13:8)

THE LESSON

The Bible has a great deal to say about angels. It records many things which they did. For example, they announced the birth of the Lord Jesus. What else did they do? Who sent them? Why did angels appear? (Encourage class discussion, please.)

God created many thousands of angels. (See Psalm 68:17; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11.) They do His work in the heavens and can carry His messages to people on earth. Although they are spirit beings, on occasion they are able to look like men. (See Genesis 19:1, 5; Numbers 22:22-31; Judges 6:11, 22; 13:3, 6.) They have tremendous power and strength (2 Kings 19:35; Matthew 28:2). Yet they tenderly watch over the children of God. (See Psalm 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14.) The Epistle to the Hebrews which we shall be studying, has much to say about angels, as we shall see in today's lesson.

We are not told what the Jewish Christians said when they received the letter addressed to them. However, we believe that in at least one family, it may have been like this:

Because of his position in the church, Benaiah had been allowed to take home the letter written to the Hebrews. Each night he sat close to the little oil light studying every sentence