



P R O V I D E N C E
Presbyterian Church

Hebrews 1.1-4, 7-14

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs...

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.” (Psalm 104.4)

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.” (Psalm 45.6-7)

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.” (Psalm 102.25-27)

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”? (Psalm 110.1)

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

Discussion questions

1. Why was the writer of Hebrews concerned to establish that Jesus is superior to the angels?
2. From his quotation of various Psalms, how did he establish the supremacy of Jesus?
3. Read how the Bible describes the angel, Gabriel, in Daniel 10 (see the next page). How does Daniel react after seeing and hearing him? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is even greater than Gabriel?
4. Is there anything or anyone who can seriously challenge the authority and power of Jesus? How should that make you feel?

Daniel 10.1-11

¹ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

² At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. ³ I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. ⁴ On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, ⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. ⁶ His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

⁷ I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. ⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.