

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 23, 2013

Christ is Superior to the Prophets
Hebrews 1:3

How did the author of the Book of Hebrews see Christ as superior?

The author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4).

The author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets, because he believed that Christ, being God's Son, was the culmination of divine revelation (Hebrews 1:1-2a).

The author of Hebrews continued to drive home the magnitude of Christ's superiority to the Old Testament prophets by providing a sevenfold description of Christ (Hebrews 1:2b-4).

The author of Hebrews described Christ as God's appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2b).

The author of Hebrews described God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the one through whom God made the world (Hebrews 1:2c).

The author of Hebrews described God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the radiance of His Father's glory and the exact representation of His nature (Hebrews 1:3).

The author of Hebrews described God's Son as the One who upholds all things by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3b).

The author of Hebrews described Christ as having made purification of sins (Hebrews 1:3).

The author of Hebrews described Christ as having sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).

The author of Hebrews described Christ "as having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they" (Hebrews 1:4).

Hebrews 1:4 is a transitional verse which most commentators believe is an example of what is called "trail-head linkage" where such a word as "angels" at the end of one paragraph serves as an introduction to the theme of the next paragraph.

Based on Hebrews 1:1-3 the phrase “having become as much better than the angels” must be understood in the context of Christ’s incarnation and subsequent exaltation to His former glory, when He “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

When the author spoke of Christ “as having become much better than the angels,” he was emphasizing Christ’s movement from a position of less honor during His incarnation to a place of greater honor in His exaltation.

Christ, as a result of His exaltation, was entitled to this place of highest honor at God’s right hand, because He inherited a more excellent name than they.

Based on the immediate context, the “more excellent name” that entitled Christ after His incarnation to return to His former place of honor at the right hand of God was the name “Son” (Hebrews 1:2, 5-14).

Christ inherited His name “Son” in accordance with His Father’s eternal decree (Ephesians 1:3-5).

May we by God’s grace understand that not only has Christ inherited a more excellent name than the angels, but that we also in Christ have inherited a more excellent name.