

JD Van Hook

Interpretations Paper- Hebrews 1:5-14

Church Member Quotes

“Perhaps the difficulty is to understand that Satan was an angel, but has been crushed under the feet of the living God who sits at the right hand of the Father.”- Danelle Pate (Church member and my Aunt)

“Anyone who may think they should worship angels must come to accept God's plan that believers are especially designed to worship God and to be served by angels.”- Joyce Williams (Grandmother figure for me, Church Member, long time family friend)

“Might these verses add confidence to believers (those who inherit salvation) should they encounter angels? Most often believers are initially afraid when encountering an angel, to the point that most of them begin with, “do not be afraid.” Knowing that angels exist to “minister” and “serve” believers decreases a believer’s fear and increases confidence?”- Brent Van Hook (Church Pastor, Dad)

Diverse

“Jesus is not just some particularly exalted archangel, but is a different type of being.” “His Father in his incarnate state demonstrated that the title ‘Son’ is his by right, and cannot be claimed by any angel.” -Adeyemo, Tokunboh. *Africa Bible Commentary*. WordAlive Publishers, 2006.

“Angels are frequently called ‘sons of God’ in the Old Testament, but LXX practically always translates as ‘angels’ and no single angel is ever described as a son of God. Since the author and readers knew only the Greek Bible, ‘the proof holds good’” - Wilson, R. McL. (Robert McLachlan). *Hebrews*. W.B. Eerdmans, 1987.

Old

All from:

Heen, Erik M., et al. *Hebrews*. Edited by Erik M. Heen et al., InterVarsity Press, 2005.

“Scripture Forbids The Worship Of Creation” “One must maintain firmly that Christ was the Creator, not a creation, even if it is for our sake he united himself to created flesh endowed with a reasonable and intellectual soul, and thus is worshiped as God by all creation” -Fragments on the Epistle to the Hebrews 1:6 (Didymus the Blind)

“Shift the The Human” “So as human he shared in this honor, having as God the eternal Throne”
- Interpretation of Hebrews 1 (Theodoret of Cyr)

Summary of What I Learned:

In order to summarize the different quotes and messages that I found, I want to go one by one because I feel that each brings a different thought and perspective that I think is important to highlight because each deserves attention. Starting with Danelle Pate; I discovered a new perspective from her words because I had forgotten that the Devil was once an angel. I always interpreted this text not to diminish who angels were but just to remember and build confidence in who Jesus is. However, I do think now that maybe this can even have implications to Satan

because it is a reminder of confidence to believers that our enemy was once an angel and God with his Son have all authority over the angels such as the Devil. Secondly is the thought from Joyce Williams. I love this thought from her that it is a part of God's plan for us to worship him. As angels worship him and serve us we too must trust that God is above the angels to continue to worship Him. One more interpretation comes from my Dad when he talks about our knowledge about angels and even the scariness of what they can be gives us confidence that we are even above them.

Moving on to the diverse commentaries I saw new perspectives when reading their interpretations as well. Adeyemo Tokunboh brings a great thought from an African commentary that highlights that Jesus is not just an exalted angel but rather he does what only he could do and goes by a name that only he can have. The Son's difference is in the position and name that only God can give. Another diverse commentary comes from Robert McLachlan which brought a great reminder to me that angels are never in the New Testament referred to as the son or sons of God, as this is a used nickname for them in the past but does not play any implications on today. This name for angels is something that I knew but overlooked when it came to this scripture so it is good to clear up for sure.

Lastly, some of the older interpretations of this text led to great interpretations as well. Didymus the Blind had a great word about this that I thought. He said that even though Christ chose to take on flesh for us does not diminish who he is. We must remember that he too is God and therefore is not a creation but worthy of our worship because he is the creator. Lastly, from Theodoret of Cyr, the idea that Angels are not above Jesus but just because Jesus was a human does not mean that we share the same place as Jesus. The bible does not say to "Sit at my right hand" to us, only Jesus can take that place and we need to recognize that.

Word count summary: 483