Hebrews 1:1-4

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Hebrews 1:1–4*** (ESV)  
**1** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

1. In the ESV, Heb 1:2 begins with the word “**but**”. What is the original Greek here? How does this change the way we understand things in English?
2. In is sometimes taught that the contrastive word “**but**” in Heb 1:2 is implied because the author is contrasting the old message for Israel with the new message to the “church” in the “church age”. What is the Greek word normally used for “church” throughout the “New Testament” and what does it actually mean? The Septuagint (the ancient Greek translation of the “Old Testament”) first uses this word as a noun in Dt 9:10 and Dt 18:16. The same word is also used in Acts 7:38. How is translated in these passages, and to which group of people did this word refer? How might this change our view of the “church” and the “church age”?
3. What does Heb 1:2 tell us about how God created the world? What other Scriptures seem to teach this same thing? How does this challenge the way we normally think about Creation and the Messiah?
4. Heb 1:2 also speaks of Yeshua as being the “heir of all things”. What does this mean? How can he be the heir and also the creator?
5. From our Zechariah study, what was the significance of God's title, **YHWH Tsava’ot** ? Reading Heb 1:2, what phrase makes it seem like the writer may be trying to comfort God's people in a similar way? Why is the writer emphasizing the strength of God through Yeshua?
6. Consider the various phrases used to describe Yeshua in Heb 1:3a. What does this tell us about Yeshua? What is the Greek word that is translated as “universe”, and how does that word point us again to the name **YHWH Tsava’ot**?
7. Consider Heb 1:3b. How did Yeshua make “purification for sins”? Where is Yeshua now?
8. Heb 1:4 refers to Yeshua as “having become” superior to angels. Just based on what the author has said so far, how did Yeshua become superior to angels? (The rest of the chapter builds his case even more.)
9. There are sacrifices and offerings for things other than sin. Go to Leviticus and take a look at all of the other types of offerings. What are they, and what were their significance? How did each of the offerings foreshadow (or *point to*) Yeshua? You can browse through Leviticus 1-6.
10. Angels became a big part of worship in Yeshua's time. Rabbinic teachers would teach that angels would intercede in prayer and have a be a stronger connection to the Father.  Who are some major angels mentioned in the Scriptures? What were their roles? See Rev. 4:8, Rev. 14:6-11, Psa. 78:49 for just a few examples.
11. In Heb 1:4, what does it mean that “the name he inherited is more excellent” than that of the angels?