

## “Earth, Wind and Fire: Christ’s Favor Rests On You”

Hebrews 1:6-7

The theme of our study in Hebrews is *From Shadow to Substance*, and the goal of this study is to explain how the types and shadows of the Old Testament point to the person and work of Christ. We are living in an age of ridicule and skepticism regarding who Jesus is. The writer of Hebrews is reminding the early Hebrew Christians that they ought not to fear any threats of man because:

### I. The resurrection of Jesus confirms His divine nature.

“*And when He [God] again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, ‘Let all the angels worship Him’*” (v. 6). The quotation “let all the angels worship him” comes from Ps. 97:7 where the psalmist speaks of the Lord’s power and dominion over all the earth. The phrase “again brings” contrasts the incarnation (v. 5) with the resurrection (v. 6). It is *because of* the resurrection and reign of the Messiah that “*all the gods*” (angels of God) worship Him.

#### A. The cross is the symbol of death; resurrection is the sign of Christianity.

Think about the following. God is the author of life, not death. The wages of sin lead to death, not the work of God. God’s power brings about resurrection and life. So, that which is decaying and dying in your life (relationships, emotions, etc.) is the direct result of not enjoying the pleasure and joy of knowing and loving the Author of life.

#### B. Had Jesus not been raised by God’s power, He would be *only man, not God*.

“*...concerning his Son, who was born of a descendant of David [Mary], and who was declared the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead*” (Rom. 1:3-4).

### II. The “firstborn” title of Jesus illustrates His divine power.

“*And when He again brings the firstborn into the world ...*” (v. 6). The word “firstborn” would bring immediate understanding to the Hebrew mind. Throughout the Old Testament it was revealed:

#### A. The firstborn had authority of all his family

We see this in brothers Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:7) and in Reuben and his brothers (Gen. 49:3).

So, too, Christ is “the firstborn” of the people of God—having complete authority over us.

#### B. The firstborn also had a double portion of the inheritance

We are called “co-heirs” with Christ (Rom. 8:17), but the kingdom is His, and we share in it.

#### C. The firstborn was the priest of the family

The Old Testament priest was the intermediary between God and man. Reuben forfeited this right of priesthood to Levi. Esau, the firstborn, sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

Jesus the Anointed One is our High Priest. Through Him we have a relationship with the Father.

### III. The throne of Jesus dispenses His divine favor.

If you have come to the conviction that Jesus by Himself “*has purged you of your sins*” (v. 3), and because of His divine nature is seated “*on high*” (v. 3) ruling over the earth with all power until every enemy has been made His footstool (v. 13), and that you can come boldly before His throne in your time of need, then there’s a promise for you in Hebrews 1 that you should take seriously.

“*God makes His angels winds and His ministers a flame of fire*” (v. 7). We will see that angels are “*ministering spirits sent out to render service for the sake of those who inherit salvation*” (v. 14).

In essence, you have an entire force of angelic beings that are being sent to aid you in time of need. God speaks and gives assistance directly, but His angels are like “wind” and “fire” on earth to you. Hebrews is teaching us about the nature of our “ministering spirits.” All divine power is with you.