

# Who's in Charge?

December 7, 2014

Background Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-9

Print Passage: Hebrews 1:1-9

## Reflect



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 (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).

Jennifer was known among other tenth graders as a *brownnoser* (one who gains favor from another). The rumor was that Jennifer was often late for practice. The rule is that to be tardy to marching band practice equals running four laps around the football field—but it never seemed as though Jennifer ever had to do laps for her tardiness.

Ahkilah had endured enough of this. She was tired of Jennifer coming to practice late and not having to suffer like everyone else. Ahkilah decided to mention her frustration to the band director, Mr. Walker.

"Mr. Walker, I don't understand the special treatment that Jennifer receives. She's late to practice every day and yet she never does laps," Ahkilah said.

"Why do you need to know about Jennifer's situation, Ahkilah? Who put you in charge?" asked Mr. Walker.

"I don't mean to question you, Mr. Walker...it just does not seem fair. If a rule is supposed to be for everyone, then everyone should have to follow the rule," suggested Ahkilah.

"Jennifer has my permission to be tardy. I hope that satisfies your concern," replied Mr. Walker.

At the end of practice, Mr. Walker addressed everyone: "I gave Jennifer permission to be late for practice so she could visit her mother in the hospital. Our practice ends late in the evenings, so to keep Jennifer safe as she walks home alone, I allow her to be a little late for practice. Does anybody have a problem with my decision?" Mr. Walker inquired.

How do you think Ahkilah felt about the rule being broken after Mr. Walker's explanation?







## INSPECT

### Hebrews 1:1-9

**1** In the past God spoke to our forefathers 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 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. **5** For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? **6** And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." **7** In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." **8** But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness 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."

## Intersect

The first chapter in the book of Hebrews discusses the historical background of how God spoke to the people before Christ came to Earth. In the past, there were forefathers whom God used as messengers. The book of Hebrews is thought to have been written between 60 and 95 AD—after Christ's crucifixion.

The early Christians probably had questions about their religion. In verse 1, we see the need for prophets or high priests. Then, Jesus came and God used Jesus' life on Earth to teach mankind about the New Covenant and what Christianity would be all about. Jesus was later identified as the High Priest (see Hebrews 4). The first few verses of Hebrews 1 refer to Old Testament Scriptures.

The forefathers referenced in verse 1 were the people of Israel or the children of Abraham. Verse 2 mentions the Son as well as His existence in the very beginning. The writer of the book of Hebrews showed that Jesus is superior to the angels in order to demonstrate God's control and how God chose Jesus to save humanity.

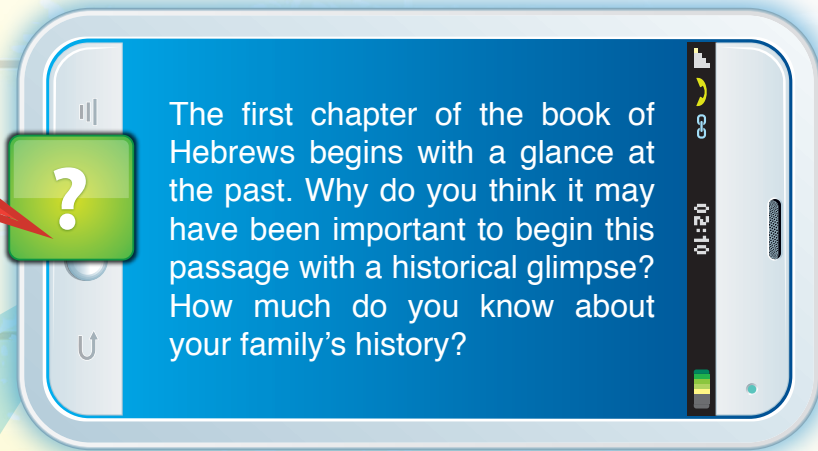
In this lesson passage, Jesus is described as a priest, a prophet, and a king. These three roles were significantly different in ancient Israel, but each one functioned to uphold the important religious and spiritual health of the community. Priests instituted and maintained the rituals of the church. The prophets kept the people—including the priests and kings—in proper alignment with God's will by delivering messages to each group as deemed necessary by God. The kings served as divinely appointed rulers of the nation state. Jesus is superior to any angel because Jesus embodies all three roles as priest, prophet, and king.

### Inside Out

Reread verse 5 of today's Scripture passage. Why do you think the writer of the book of Hebrews asked a question in this verse? Verses 1-4 are definitive; they discuss the awe of God's plan and Jesus' role in purification for mankind. What is the purpose or significance of this question?



**There's an  
App for That!**



# CONNECT

Your parents want to be proud of you. They would love to be able to talk about the great things that you will accomplish. Before you were born, your parents did not know what type of person you would become: would you do well in school, or would you perhaps be an athlete or a writer? So now, it is up to you to turn positive possibilities into actuality. Your goal is to make your parents proud. What do you need to do in order to accomplish this?



## Stepping Out!

How much do you know about your family tree? What if there was someone on a branch of your family tree whose career is the exact one you are hoping to pursue? If you could interview that person, what would you ask? What changes have happened over time in your chosen career field?



## There's No Time to Waste!

Every day counts! Think about spending time with a senior member of your family. Ask him or her about some of the things that he or she has watched change over time. Ask his or her opinion about the change. What things, do you think, benefit the current generation today that were not available generations ago?



In verse 9 of today's lesson Scripture, the "oil of joy" or "oil of gladness" is mentioned. You can find this text mentioned in Psalm 45:7 also. This is one of the instances where the Old Testament is confirmed through the New Testament. In searching the Internet, can you find another example of this?