

# Mid-Week Devotions

The ancient world did not have printing presses such as we do in the modern world, but it had equivalents, particularly for making coins. The emperor would employ an engraver who carved the royal portrait, and suitable words or abbreviations, on a stamp, or die, made of hard metal. The engraver used the stamp to make a coin, so that the coin gave the exact impression, indeed expression, of what was on the stamp. The writer of Hebrews begins the letter with this idea. It is as though the exact imprint of the Father's very nature and glory has been precisely reproduced in the soft metal of the Son's human nature.

## STUDY

Read Hebrews 1.

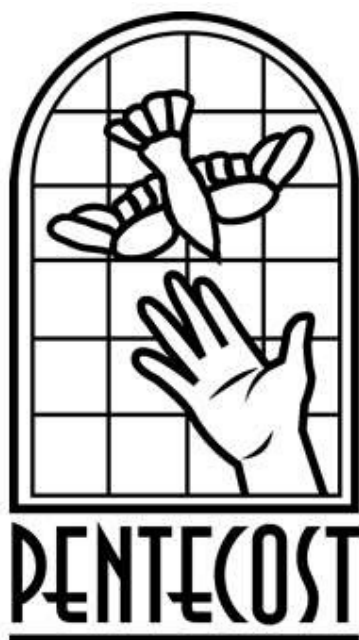
1. This chapter is a grand and formal opening to this letter to the Hebrews. What do we learn in particular about Jesus in verses 1-4?
2. How does the writer invite us in verses 1-4 to look at the whole sweep of biblical history and see it coming to a climax in Jesus?
3. In verse 5, two Old Testament passages are quoted: Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14. These two passages were frequently used by the early Christians when they were struggling to say what had to be said about Jesus. How do these quotes further explain who Jesus is?
4. When you think of the condition of the world today, where do you long to see the reign of Jesus?
5. As mentioned in the introduction, many of the Jewish believers in the early church had family members who had not accepted that Jesus was the Messiah, and they regarded the Jewish believers as dangerously misguided and disloyal. Great pressure was exerted on the Jewish believers to turn back to the law, which according to Jewish tradition had been given to Moses by angels on Mount Sinai. In what ways do verses 5-14 help establish Jesus' superiority over the law?

Wright, N. T.. Hebrews (N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides) . InterVarsity Press.

Word Jumble

Acts 2:1-21

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."



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Puzzle Clues

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible.

(Clues are from the NIV)

1. A sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_ came from heaven. (Acts 2:2)
  2. They saw what seemed to be tongues of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:3)
  3. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:4)
  4. They began to \_\_\_\_\_ in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)
  5. Peter stood up and spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ of people. (Acts 2:14)
- FINAL ANSWER: All of these events took place on the day of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:1)