

What Elohim Says About Yeshua

Yeshua Messiah: A Portrait of Elohim
Unit 1: *Messiah, the Image of Elohim*
Lessons 1–5

December 12 Lesson 2

DEVOTIONAL READING:
LUKE 1:46–55

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:
HEBREWS 1

PRINTED TEXT:
HEBREWS 1:1–9

Key Verse

Hebrews 1:1-2 TLV

- (1) At many times and in many ways, God spoke long ago to the fathers through the prophets.
- (2) In these last days He has spoken to us through a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things and through whom He created the universe.

Why Teach this Lesson?

Today's lesson is a clear portrait of the **Son of Elohim**. It is a portrait painted by the loving hand of **a Father** who wants the world to know what his Son **"looks like."** Elohim says, in effect,

- **"See my Son,**
- **learn from him,**
- **come and grow closer to him.**

As you do, you will prepare yourself to live eternally with him."

Introduction

The Self-Revealing Elohim

We should remember that we **know nothing** about Elohim except that which **he has chosen to reveal to us**.

Human knowledge about Elohim is **progressive**. This means that Elohim reveals himself **in stages**. There are examples of this in the scriptures

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where He used different circumstances to reveal different aspects of his character.

When Abraham was told to sacrifice his son Isaac, at the last minute yah provide a ram to be offered up instead. Thus, revealing himself as the Elohim who provides.

Genesis 22:14 TS2009

(14) And Abraham called the name of the place, 'Yahweh Jireh,' as it is said to this day, "On the mountain Yahweh provides."

When Hagar ran away from Sarah because of Sarah mistreatment, Yah's angel found her and instructed her to go back and submit to Sarah. Hagar call **yah El Ro'i**.

Genesis 16:13 TS2009

(13) And she called the Name of Yahweh who spoke to her, [El Ro'i] "You are the Ĕl who sees," for she said, "Even here have I seen after Him who sees me?"

["Have I really seen the One who sees me [and stayed alive]?"cbj

At the burning bush Elohim revealed to Moses that his name Yahweh. (Exodus 3).

It was the first time yah had revealed himself by the name Yahweh.

Exodus 6:3 CJB

(3) I appeared to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov as El Shaddai, although I did not make myself known to them by my name, Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (Yahweh)

El Shaddai all powerful; the breasted one. One who nourished, supplies, and satisfies.

And so, **throughout history** yah has revealed himself progressively in many ways to various people.

Historically the church has believed that the **First** Testament serves to prepare for Elohim's ultimate revelation in Yeshua. The New Testament is the testimony of this revelation in Messiah

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Today's Scripture text teaches us that **Elohim has revealed himself in his Son, Yeshua Messiah**. In other words, Elohim has told us **everything** about himself that **we need to know for our earthly existence**.

B. Lesson Background

The Ruach HaKodesh did not see fit to inform us of who the author of Hebrews is. Therefore, only Yah knows who the author is.

However, this letter is writing to a community of Jewish believers who were in danger of abandoning their faith in Yeshua in order to return to Judaism.

The believers were suffering tremendous because of their faith in yeshua and were on the verge of **abandoning the faith**.

Paul letter to the **Colossians** [our last lesson] were to a predominant gentile congregation on the verge of embracing false doctrine. However, Hebrew is written to only Jewish believers. **Not** because they were embracing false doctrine, but because they seem to be on the verge of returning to the old system of **obtaining righteousness**, through the **sacrificial system**

Therefore, the writer makes a strong case as to why they should remain **faithful to yeshua**. He shows that yeshua is **unique** in that he is the son of the almighty El with authority over everything.

Hebrews is a **uniquely** significant New Testament book, because it delves into explanations **about Yeshua** that are **not found** anywhere else in the Bible.

Hebrews has two primary functions overall.

1. **First**, Hebrews in particular shows that Yeshua is superior to the older sacrificial system.
2. **Second**, Hebrews shows that Yeshua and the **sacrificial system** are not in conflict with each other. **Rather** Yeshua is the fulfillment of that system. Everything that was done under the **old system** pointed to yeshua.

I. Yeshua: Elohim's Self-Expression (Hebrews 1:1-3)

Hebrews does not begin with any preliminary material. Instead, it plunges immediately into its **main topic**: which is a **doctrinal presentation** of the **nature** and **role** of Yeshua in relationship to **previous** revelations of Elohim

A. Revelation Before Jesus (v. 1)

Hebrews 1:1 TS2009

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(1) Elohim, having of old spoken in many portions and many ways to the fathers by the prophets,

Elohim spoke in many and varied ways, **directly and indirectly**, in dreams and stories, history and prophecy, poems and proverbs, **to the Fathers** of the **Jewish people through the prophets** from **Moses to Malachi**, and, before Moses, to Avraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

B. Revelation in and through Yeshua (v. 2)

Hebrews 1:2 TS2009

(2) has in these last days spoken to us by **the Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all, through whom also He made the ages [the universe].

Hebrews 1:3 TS2009

(3) who being the brightness of the esteem and the exact representation of His substance, and sustaining all by the word of His power, having made a cleansing of our sins through Himself, **sat down at the right hand** of the Greatness on high, [[Psa 110:1](#)

According to **Jewish tradition Malachi** was the last of the **First testament** prophets. For the next **four centuries**, there is no know record of prophetic messages to Israel. It was similar to what took place in the prophets Samuel's days.

1 Samuel 3:1 TLV

(1) In those days the word of Adonai [Yahweh] was rare—there were **no visions breaking through**.

Those years are called "the silence years".

"But in these last days". **Not** the last days of the world, but in the last dispensation of the scriptures. The days in which **we are now living**.

1 Corinthians 10:11 CJB

(11) These things happened to them as prefigurative historical events, and they were written down as a warning to us **who are living in the** acharit-hayamim [**last days**].

Elohim has spoken again, **not to Fathers of Israel who are all dead**, but **to us** in the **1st century C.E. through his Son** (literally, **"a son"**). Or **"the Son"**, whom He has appointed heir of all".

This implies that, **the Son** is **better** than "the Prophets".

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A major purpose of the author is to show that Yeshua and **everything** connected with him are **better** than what was available previously.

He uses this word, "**better**," **twelve** times in Hebrews to compare the Messiah and **his era** with what there was before. It appears **first** in Heb1:4, and **last** at 12:24, as the author summarizes this comparison of old and new (Heb12:18-24).

In **Heb 1:2-3** there are **seven** features of the **Son** which demonstrate his **superiority**:

(1) "WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL".

Yah **has given** the **Son ownership of everything** (compare [Col 1:15](#)).." *"Ask of me, and I will give you nations as an inheritance and the ends of the earth as your possession"* ([Psa 2:8](#));

(2) "THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE AGES [THE UNIVERSE]".

Elohim **created the universe through the Son**. We see this also at **John 1:3, Col 1:16**.

John 1:3 TLV

(3) All things were made through Him, and apart from Him nothing was made that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16 TLV

(16) For by Him all things were created—in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen, whether thrones or angelic powers or rulers or authorities. All was created through Him and for Him.

(3) **THIS SON IS THE RADIANCE OF**, LITERALLY, "**THE GLORY**," or the *Sh'khinah*. which the [Encyclopedia Judaica](#) article on it (Volume 14, pp. 1349-1351) **defines as** "the Divine Presence, the numinous immanence of God in the world,... a revelation of the **holy** in the midst of the **profane**"

(4) THE VERY EXPRESSION OF ELOHIM'S ESSENCE

The Greek word "**charactêr**" ("**very expression**"), used **only here** in the **New Testament**, is more clearer description than "*eikon*" ("**image**," [2Co 4:4](#), [Col 1:15](#))

Elohim's essence is manifested in the Messiah. Yeshua said, "**whoever has seen me has seen the father.**" ([Joh 14:9](#)).

Moses, saw the "**likeness, representation**" or a "**picture**" of Yahweh. **Which is different from character, and engravement or precise**

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reproduction in every respect.

(5) "UPHOLDING ALL THAT EXISTS BY HIS POWERFUL WORD"

Yeshua not only *is* the Word (Joh 1:1), but he *has* (says) a powerful word which "holds everything together" (Col 1:17), which upholds (or: "bears up under,") all that exists.

(6) THROUGH HIMSELF, MADE PURIFICATION FOR SINS

The writer turns from the Messiah's cosmic functions to his functions in relation to humanity: through himself, he made purification for sins, which, no one else and nothing else could do.

(7) he sat down at the right hand of majesty on High.

Finally, after that, he sat down at the right hand of Yahweh.

In the Hebrew of Psa 110:1, it is Elohim speaking: "YHVH said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand.'" "The right hand of Elohim" is not a place but refers to the Messiah's exalted status and to his intimate involvement with Elohim as high Priest interceding for those who trust in him (Heb 7:25-26).

Elohim is referred to as the, "majesty on High".

Long before Yeshua's time it became customary in Judaism not to use the personal name of Elohim, YHVH, and the practice remains to this day.

Moreover, in Greek both "YHVH" and "Lord" would normally be rendered by the word "kurios"; by using a more elaborate expression than "kurios" the author makes it clear that he is speaking of YHVH and not an earthly lord.

II. Yeshua: Superior to Created Beings (Hebrews 1:4–9)

The Bible portrays angels as a class of beings with supernatural powers. They serve at the pleasure of Elohim. We even know the names of a couple of them: Gabriel (Luke 1:19) and Michael (Revelation 12:7). However, the Bible doesn't provide a lot of information about them.

David Sterns in his Jewish new testament commentary, *said "Jewish angelology had become very complex during the six centuries before Yeshua."*

Consequently, the writer points out that Yeshua is above them all."

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A. Name Above Angels' (vv. 4, 5)

Hebrews 1:4 TS2009

(4) having become so much better than the messengers [**Angels**], as He has inherited a more **excellent Name than them.**

We treat names **casually** in the modern world. We use nicknames, shortened names, informal names, and other variations. In the biblical world, however, names were **highly significant.** They were **chosen carefully** and usually had **a clear meaning.** For example, Pharaoh's daughter named her adopted baby "**Moses**" (meaning *drawn*) because she "drew" him out of the water (Exodus 2:10).

The **superior name** in mind here is **not** "Yeshua" or "Messiah" but "**Son,**" as will be explained in the following verses.

Hebrews 1:5 TS2009

(5) For to which of the **messengers** [Angels] did He ever say, "**You are My Son, today I have brought You forth**"? Psa. 2:7 And again, "**I shall be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son**"?

[2Sa 7:14 See also 2Ch 17:13.]

Collectively, angels are called "**sons of Elohim**" at **Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7** and probably at **Gen 6:2**; but to **no angel** did Elohim say, "**You are my son,**" as he did to Yeshua at **his immersion.**

B. Worthy of Worship (v. 6)

Hebrews 1:6 TS2009

(6) And when He again brings the **first-born** into the world, He says, "**Let all the messengers of Elohim do reverence to Him.**" Psa. 97:7.

The source of this quotation is the Greek (Septuagint) version. In that version heavenly beings are commanded to **worship Yahweh.** But here they are commanded to **worship the Son.** This is another of the New Testament's **indirect** ways of **identifying Yeshua with Elohim.** Needless to say, if **angels worship the Son,** the **Son is "better than angels."**

C. Rules in Heaven (vv. 7–9)

Hebrews 1:7 TS2009

(7) And of the messengers indeed He says, "... **who is making His messengers spirits and His servants a flame of fire.**" Psa 104:4.

This quotation is made from Psa. 104:4.

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This passage is to show that the **angels serve Elohim** in a **ministerial capacity** - **as the winds do**; while the **Son is Lord of all**. The one serves him **passively, as being wholly under his control**; the other acts as a **Sovereign**, as **Lord over all**, and is addressed and regarded as **the equal** with Elohim.

Hebrews 1:8-9 TS2009

(8) But to the Son *He says*, “**Your throne, O Elohim, is forever and ever, a sceptre of straightness is the sceptre of Your reign.**

(9) “**You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Because of this, Elohim, Your Elohim, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.**” [Psa 45:6-7](#).

The claims about Yeshua Messiah in this beautiful text **still serve** today as **guideposts** in our quest to **know him more fully**.

- He is the **unique Son of Elohim**,
- the **ultimate revelation of Elohim** the **Father**,
- the **co-creator** and **sustainer of our world**.

Conclusion

Though there are some things about Elohim that remain **hidden** to us.

We can **learn much** about Him from studying the **First Testament**, but even more by **looking at Yeshua**. The life of **Yeshua** shows us that Elohim is loving and compassionate. He is pure and holy and righteous **consistently**, without any deviation at any time

Elohim loved us enough to send his **only Son** to redeem the world as an offering for **human sin** (see John 3:16, 17; Romans 5:8).

Elohim’s self-revelation in **Yeshua** is the sure foundation of all Christian faith and hope. This stands as a great assurance and comfort to all believers.

Prayer

Holy Father, thank you for sending *your Son to help us understand you better. Because of his death, we need never doubt your love for us. He has revealed your heart to us, and we rejoice in that revelation. We pray in his name, the name that is above any angel’s, Amen*

Thought to Remember

Yeshua is Elohim’s ultimate revelation and is far superior to the angels.