

HEBREWS—HANDOUT 5

1:5-14

les mots crochets (cf. Handout 3)

“String of Pearls” (yet more concatenation)

5a —

5b —

6a —

7 —

8-9 —

10-12—

13 —

___ expressions on the nature of the Son (1:2b-4)

___ expressions from the OT LXX on the _____ of the ___ to the _____

Inclusio

5a

13a

Symmetrical rhetorical questions. Answering _____

Why?

Comments on Angels

We believe that He created not only the visible world, i.e., the heaven and the earth and all that is in them, but also the invisible spirits, of which some, i.e., those who, trusting in the grace of the Creator, have remained in their sinless condition, are the blessed angels of God, i.e., His messengers for the sustaining of the elect. Those of the other orders, i.e., the devils, since they have fallen from grace through their own wickedness and are without hope of regaining salvation, are sentenced to eternal damnation, in which they will remain (2 Peter 2:4). For that reason, we detest the error of the Sadducees, who deny the existence of any subsistent spirits (Luke 8:29–30; Matt. 25:41; Acts 23:8). Likewise the Manicheans, who assert that the devils arise from themselves and are evil by nature, not through the corruption of nature (“Confession of Tarcal [1562] and Torda [1563]”, in J. T. Dennison, *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation*, 2:655).

Among all the creatures, the angels and men are most excellent. Touching angels, the Holy Scripture says, “Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire” (Ps. 104:4). Also, “Are they not ministering spirits sent forth to minister for their sakes, which shall be the heirs of salvation?” (Heb. 1:14). And the Lord Jesus Himself testifies of the devil, saying, “He hath been a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father thereof” (John 8:44). We teach, therefore, that some angels persisted in obedience and were appointed unto the faithful service of God and men; and that others fell of their own accord and ran headlong into destruction, and so became enemies to all good, and to all the faithful (“Second Helvetic Confession [1566]”, in J. T. Dennison, *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation*, 2:820-21).