

Hebrews 1:6 – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith,
And let all the angels of God worship him.

The boldfaced line above is an addition to the end of Deuteronomy 32:43 in the Septuagint (LXX) and Codex (i.e., a book) Vaticanus B, which all scholars label as an LXX manuscript (MS). Supposedly the LXX is a Greek translation of the Old Testament prepared in Alexandria, Egypt c.285-250 BC by 72 Jewish scholars (six from each of the 12 tribes) at the request of Ptolemy II Philadelphus. On this sole basis, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews has repeatedly been accused of citing as Scripture a segment of a verse not found in the original Hebrew Bible.

However, the text of the Septuagint is neither definite nor incontrovertible with regard to this verse. Indeed, if we ask to actually *see* a BC LXX the oldest ever offered is column 5 of Origen’s (an apostate) six columned parallel c.245 AD Old Testament called the Hexapla. Moreover, the Deuteronomy 32:43 addition is not in the 1535 Coverdale Bible, Matthews 1537 Bible, the 1539 Great Bible, the 1560 Geneva, the 1568 Bishops, or the more recent 1611 King James Bible.

Codex Alexandrinus A, another so-called Septuagint uncial (an all block capital lettered MS with no spaces between words) reads: “And let all the angels of God give them (Him) strength”. This reading was adopted by Alfred Rahlfs in his highly acclaimed 1935 edition of the LXX. As the conservative Christian text critic Dr. Edward F. Hills (d. 1981) correctly perceived, if the text of Codex A is correct as Rahlfs believed then the scribe who wrote Vaticanus B must have *altered* Deu. 32:43 to *agree* with Heb. 1:6 and the author of Hebrews could not be quoting it.¹

Moreover, Hebrews 1:6 is not citing Deuteronomy 32:43 in the first place! It is from Psalm 97:7 (see below). Indeed, the Holy Spirit may also have had in mind Psalm 97:7 in combination with 148:2 and even possibly included Psalms 103:20 (Bless the LORD, ye his angels,) as well as Nehemiah 9:6c (the host of heaven worshipeth thee) in the Hebrews 1:6 passage.

Thus, it becomes evident that the scribe who was writing Vaticanus B (c. 350 AD) simply could not find any of these cross-references and added a portion of Hebrews 1:6 to the end of Deuteronomy 32:43 in order to provide the needed citation. Actually, as Vaticanus B is merely a slightly touched-up copy of Origen’s personal Greek translation in column 5 of his Hexapla, it is Origen (or possibly Eusebius) who failed to find the proper cross reference(s) and stands guilty of this modification – such is fraud!

Most modern Bibles erroneously state in the margin that Hebrews 1:6 is a reference to Deuteronomy 32:43 – that it has been taken from the LXX. In so doing, they assert the Hebrew text wrong: that it is not *the* infallible Word of God but rather, it only “contains” the Word of God. Shame!

LXX Deuteronomy 32:43	Textus Receptus – King James Bible Hebrews 1:6b
καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ	Καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ
and let all the angels of God worship him.	And let all the angels of God worship him.
Hebrew Psalms 97:7	Textus Receptus – King James Bible Hebrews 1:6b
הַשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ-לוֹ כָּל-אֱלֹהִים:	Καὶ προσκυνησάτωσαν αὐτῷ πάντες ἄγγελοι θεοῦ
worship him, all ye gods. (angels) = true translation	And let all the angels of God worship him.

¹ E.F. Hills, *The King James Version Defended*, 4th ed., (Des Moines, IO: Christian Research Press, 1984), pp. 94-95.