

Hebrews

Christ is Superior to Angels (Part 3)

Hebrews 1:7-14

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INTRODUCTION:

Were we to try to prove to Israel from the New Testament that Christ is a better mediator, they would say, "I don't accept the New Testament", right? And so, the writer says, "Let me prove it to you from your own testament. I want to show that Christ, the bearer of the new covenant, is better than the angels who were the mediators of the old covenant." For this to be true Christ must, then, be better than angels. And so, the writer sets out to do this, and he does it beautifully in verses 4 to 14, by using - guess what? ...the Old Testament which is trusted and very familiar to them. And thus, the argument is very powerful.

Now, in what ways was Jesus better than the angels?

The author of Hebrews proves the superiority of Christ over angels by using seven Old Testament passages to verify five different ways in which Christ is superior to angels. **His title is better, The angels worship Him, His nature is better, He is eternal with no beginning and no end, and His destiny is better.**

This morning we will continue by looking at His nature, His eternality, and His destiny as all being better than angels as found in verses 7-14.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 1:7-14 (NASB95)

⁷ And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But of the Son *He says*, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. ⁹ "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions."

¹⁰ And, "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands; ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a garment, ¹² And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end."

¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies A footstool for Your feet"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Prayer

The basis for this sermon was given in the beginning of verse 4.

Hebrews 1:4a NASB95)

⁴ having become as much better than the angels.

The writer than will use the remainder of verse 4 through the end of the chapter using the Old Testament to prove his point. So, who has become much better than the angels? Of course, it is Jesus Christ!

So in what ways is Christ better than angels? Last week we saw that He was better than angels because of His **title** as the Son of Man, and secondly because He is **worshipped by angels**. Now, we come to point three, and this is where left off last week.

BODY:

I. Greater Because of His Nature

Hebrews 1:7 (NASB95)

⁷ And of the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire."

In this verse the Holy Spirit through the writer of Hebrews shows us the basic difference in the **nature** of angels and of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Who are angels? They are beings created by Christ!

How do we know they are created? First of all, verse 7 refers to them as "His angels". The Old Testament confirms it.

Psalm 148:1-5 (NASB95)

148 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! ² Praise Him, all **His angels**; Praise Him, all His hosts! ³ Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! ⁴ Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! ⁵ Let **them** praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and **they were created**.

This is all of creation including angels. So if Christ created angels, then He is what? **(Pause)** Better than angels. He created angels thus He must be greater.

Then he says in verse 7 "Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire." And again, He is using the Old Testament to verify the superiority of Christ to angels. It is a quote from Psalm 104:4.

Psalm 104:4 (NASB95)

⁴ He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers.

You may ask, "Why would they be called winds?" Well, it refers to an invisible, powerful, rapid movement. Angels not only blow, or move, rapidly and invisibly and powerfully to carry out God's bidding, but they also are flames of fire.

Now, whenever you read about a flame of fire, it is usually in connection with divine judgment. And so, we see that angels are God's executioners. Angels administer judgment on the earth.

Remember Sodom and Gomorrah?

Genesis 19:12-16 (NASB95)

¹² Then the *two* men said to Lot, “Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring *them* out of the place; ¹³ for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” ¹⁴ Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, “Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city.” But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

¹⁵ When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.” ¹⁶ But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the Lord *was* upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.

You may remember, his wife was warned not to look back, and she did, and turned into a pillar of salt. So, angels appear there, in Genesis 19, as executioners, and they brought fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah.

We also know from the **New** Testament, that there are judgment angels.

Matthew 13:41-42 (NASB95)

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send forth His **angels**, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴² and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

But what about Christ? What is the difference between the nature of angels, and the nature of Christ?

Hebrews 1:8 (NASB95)

⁸ But of the Son *He says*, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

So God told the created angels that they were just ministers and servants: created beings. *But of the Son He says*, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever . There is a major difference between angels and the Son, because the **Son is the eternal God!**

Did you get that? The angels are servants but Jesus is God eternal.

People who are always going around saying, “Jesus was just a man,” and “Jesus was just one of many angels,” or “Jesus was one of many prophets of God”. But they are wrong! Jesus is God! That is what God is saying. This is the Father acknowledging the Son as God.

Jesus claimed many times in the New Testament that He was God.

John 5:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Jesus, "the Son", has an eternal throne. A "scepter" is a rod or staff used by a sovereign as a symbol of royal authority. And His rule over the kingdom is righteous. Jesus Christ will rule for eternity. He is the righteous eternal kingdom God.

This is powerful evidence **from the mouth of God** as to the deity of Jesus. Then in verse 9, He shows how Jesus, even while He was on earth was completely righteous.

Hebrews 1:9a (NASB95)

9 "You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Not only is Jesus God, but as a man, He is also the Son of God. Jesus did not just **do** righteousness, He what? **He loved it.**

How many times in our Christian lives have we obeyed without joy? Jesus loved righteousness. That is true righteousness. Now, naturally, because Jesus Christ loved righteousness, He hated iniquity. If He loved God's right standards, He would hate the wrong standards. The two are inseparable. One cannot exist without the other. You cannot say, "I love righteousness, but I also like sin". But you know something? Most of us try to say that. When there is true love for God, there will be true love for righteousness, and there will be total hatred for sin. Jesus hated sin.

Then comes a direct a statement of His superiority to angels, in the remainder of verse 9.

Hebrews 1:9b (NASB95)

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions."

The word "**companions**" here simply means associates. The point that is being made is that Jesus Christ is greater than angels. Angels were only messengers of God. Christ was a messenger from God, but greater than they. He is the anointed.

Acts 10:38 (NASB95)

38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

The word in the Old Testament for the coming redeemer was the what word? **(Pause) Messiah.** Do you know what that means in Hebrew? **The anointed.** Thus the Greek word Christ, which is the same as Messiah, also means "the anointed".

Jesus was God's anointed. And notice that He was "**anointed with the oil of gladness**". "When did this happen?" I believe that what he is referring to is the coronation he received when He went to heaven after His resurrection. It was at that time that the Father exalted Him, and gave Him the name above every name. He has not brought all of His kingdom together yet, but someday soon, He will.

II. Greater Because of His Eternity

The forth point that he makes that Jesus is greater than angels is found in verse 10.

Hebrews 1:10 -12 (NASB95)

¹⁰ And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands; ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a garment, ¹² And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.”

This is His eternity. Here, the Holy Spirit quotes from Psalm 102.

Psalm 102:25-27 (NASB95)

²⁵ “Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ “Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷ “But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

We have already established that Jesus is the creator. Remember what John said...

John 1:1-3 (NASB95)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

All things including angels were created, so they all had a beginning. The angels had a beginning but they are eternal and will have no end. But Jesus is God and He has had **no beginning** and will have no end

The "they" in verse 11 are referring to the heavens and the earth - “**They will perish**”. Peter tells us how, remember that?

2 Peter 3:10 (NASB95)

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

They are going to perish, and the Lord is going to create a new heaven and a new earth.

Jesus is no creature. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And so, He contrasts the passing of the temporal with the eternal.

And thus He is superior to angels in title, in worship, in nature, in eternity, and finally in **destiny**. This is the seventh Old Testament quote. It climaxes the full superiority of Christ to angels.

III. Greater Because of His Destiny

Hebrews 1:13-14 (NASB95)

¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies A footstool for Your feet”?

The quote is from Psalm 110.

Psalm 110:1 (NASB95)

110 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

To which angel did God say, "I'm going to make your enemies your footstool?" To no angel. But do you know what the destiny of Jesus Christ is?

The destiny of Jesus Christ is that ultimately, everything in the universe will be subject to Him. Do you understand that? That at the name of the Jesus, every knee should bow, things above the earth, on the earth, and under the earth. Jesus Christ, in God's plan, is destined to be the ruler of the universe, and everything that inhabits it.

The destiny of Jesus Christ is an **eternal** reign. Notice in verse 13 the word "sit". At no time in scripture do you ever find an angel doing that. Why? Their work is never done. Fortunately, we Christians will be able to do that once in a while.

Hebrews 4:9 (NASB95)

⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

But no angel ever sat down. Jesus sits down because it is over; He reigns.

The destiny of angels is found in verse 14.

Hebrews 1:14 (NASB95)

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Jesus reigns, that is His destiny. The angels serve, and they will keep serving forever to those who are the heirs of salvation. That is us! Isn't that great? The angels are going to serve us forever.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ is superior to angels. You may ask, "So what?" Well, that is undoubtedly what the writer thought you would ask, so He wrote the first verse of chapter 2.

Hebrews 2:1-3a (NASB95)

² For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

He is Lord