

“Jesus is Better” – 4 Meditations from the Book of Hebrews

Meditation 2: Christ is the Greater than the Angels - Hebrews 1:5-14

Introduction

How big is your view of Jesus? Often times throughout the day our focus is in ourselves, “What am I going to eat for lunch, how attractive is my Instagram or FB account, how am I going to spend my time or my money.” Luther said, the essence of sin is being curved in on oneself.

1. Here God gives us the **remedy** for our self-centered condition. He holds out before us the Christ who is infinitely exalted over all things. The preacher of Hebrews focuses our eyes on the greatness of Christ to **encourage** us in our pilgrim journey as we see our Savior is all powerful, unchangeable, righteous, & above all things.

Our text shows the majesty of Christ by comparing him with the angels who are also amazing creatures of God.

The Greatness of the Angels (v.7, 14)

Notice a couple of things about angels from Heb. 1:

1. They are amazing **creations** of God v.7 - They have an evanescent nature given by God, meaning they are able to **vanish** or **go out of sight** quickly – “*his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire.*” They can suddenly appear before someone like a flash of lightning – think of how the angel Gabriel suddenly came to Mary in Lk.1
2. They are also **ministers** or **servants** of God v.7 –They bring God’s **revelation** to people – **2:2** “*the Word spoken through angels proved steadfast.*”
 - a. They were the ones who mediated God’s law to the people in the giving of the 10 commandments. They also brought revelation in the NT. In **Lk.** They appeared to the **shepherds** saying, “*Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which will be for all the people.*”
 - i. Angels helped the apostles when in prison and set them free. **Acts 5:18 Acts 15:17-19.** They also **ministered to Jesus** when he was in the **wilderness** in **Matt. 4:11** – amazing! And beloved the same angels that served Christ & his people in the scriptures are sent by him to help **us!**
3. **V. 14** “*sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.*” HOW do angels serve God’s people today?
 - a. The provide **protection** – “*the angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them*” (**Ps. 34:7**)
 - i. Again, in the scriptures the angels brought deliverance in earthly trials – **2 kings 6:15-17.** Elisha prays that his servants’ eyes would be opened to see God’s protection. The servant sees those with him are greater than those against him! We live in a day of scientific advancement which is blessing in many ways. But we can lose the ability to believe in those things that are not material. One of those things are angels. Angels are all around us!

- b. They worship with us - **Heb.12** – when we come to corporate worship Hebrews says, “*you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels...*”
- c. APPL: We can’t say exactly how God will use his angels in our lives, but we are told here that they **are** with us in our earthly pilgrimage. They are part of the means God uses to preserve all of those who will inherit salvation. Who knows how God will choose to use his angels to help us?

The Greater Greatness of Christ (v. 5-14)

Have you ever got into a theological debate and you just keep piling on scripture after scripture during your argument? Not always the most loving thing to do. *But Hebrews does a similar thing here, but in a pastoral way. He gives us seven quotations from the OT that show the superiority of Christ. How is Jesus greater than the angels?

1. His **Relationship to God** is Greater than the Angels (v.5-6). In verse 4 we are told that he inherited a more excellent **name** than the angels. What is that name? God’s SON!
 - a. How did Jesus inherit that name? He has eternally been the son of God, co-eternal with the Father. But this verse is speaking about the Son receiving his name in a different way.
 - b. “You are my Son, *today I have begotten you.*” This is a quote from **Psalm 2**. This Psalm looked forward to the Messiah who would rule in a **royal position** as king. The language of begotten is not speaking of Christ’s origin, but of his “resurrection” from the dead and “ascension” into heaven. Consider...
 - i. **Acts 13:33** Paul preached at Antioch these words, “*we declare to you glad tidings – that promises which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in the has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm, “you are my son, today I have begotten you.”*”
 - ii. After Jesus *lived* and *died* as God’s obedience Son, the Father **rewarded** him and bestowed on him the name that was above all names. He raised his son from the dead and *declared* to the world that this is indeed his Royal-Messianic Son. Jesus was always the eternal and beloved son of the Father, but he became the son in a new way. He now rules as the God-Man, enthroned over all creation with his Father.
 - c. APPL: The amazing reality this is that when we trust in Christ, **we** bear **his** name and take on a new identity as royal sons and daughters of God. Jesus’ relationship to God is greater than he angels. But second...
2. His **Position** is greater than the angels (v.6). - He is on the throne, & the angels are before the throne worshipping Christ.
 - a. This word, “**firstborn**” highlights his **exalted position** and the special privileges he enjoys. In the Hebrew culture, the firstborn son was in a position of **favor** in his house - he received a double portion of the inheritance and other privileges as firstborn.
 - b. As the firstborn Son, Jesus is **worshipped** by the angels. This shows his greatness. He receives worship, not only from people on earth, but from the angels in heaven.
 - i. At his **birth** in the gospel of Lk the angels said, “*Glory to God in the highest*”. They worshipped Christ in his exaltation in Rev.5, “*Worthy is the lamb who was slain!*”

- c. The angels are incredible and majestic creatures of God. They are **so** glorious that humans can be *tempted* to worship them – think of John in **Rev. 19** – he fell down before an angel. But the angel lifted him up and said, “don’t do that, worship God alone.” Worship is for God alone, so why are the angels worshipping Christ? Why do Christians worship Christ? The angels worship Jesus, and we do as well, because he is Almighty God.

3. His *Being* is Greater than the Angels (v.8-10)

- a. The angels are amazing creations of God. But Jesus is God’s Divine Son who is the LORD. v.8, “BUT of the Son he says, your throne, O GOD, is forever and ever.” This is a quote from **Psalm 45:6-7**.
- b. As the LORD, he will *not change* and *his kingdom will have no end!* **Read v. 11-12** – This verse looks **forward** to the final day when the world will be shaken, along with all the kingdoms of this earth. They will all perish (Canada, the US, the Middle East), only Christ’s kingdom will *remain*. God will roll up this world like a garment, fold it up and put it away.
 - i. Even now the world around us is changing and we see **ourselves** changing - growing old, and one day we too will die. **But** if we belong to Christ, although we may die, we too will *remain forever*. He gives to his people everlasting life.

Conclusion

1. The Preacher to the Hebrews gives us a BIG view of Jesus, that we might cling to him. He is the **all-powerful** king who guards his people in their journey. Although we can’t see him now with the physical eye, we can know from God’s Word Jesus Christ IS Lord. Right now, he is on the throne, at the right hand of his Father. Being worshipped by the angels of heaven.
 - a. The question is, will we acknowledge and confess him as our Lord? Will we bow the knee to King Jesus along with the angels of heaven? May he reign supreme in your heart as you trust in him.