

Jesus Christ is Superior to the Angels

Hebrews 1:4-14

“being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

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

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

INTRODUCTION:

- **What Angels Are And Do**

- **They are Spirit beings that do not have flesh and bone**
- **They have the ability to appear in human form (Hebrews 13:2)**
- **They may also appear in other forms as well**
- **They have intelligence and emotion**
 - **They rejoice when sinner repent**
 - **They give instruction to men and women**
- **They do not marry or procreate (Matt. 22:28-30)**
- **They are not subject to death**
- **One third of them fell—and now exist as demonic spirit beings (Revelation 12:4)**
- **Angels were created before man**
- **Unfallen angels live in the heavenly realm (Jude 6; Mark 13:32)**
- **Angels are highly organized and are divided into ranks (Ephesians 6:10, 12)**
- **Angels can move and act with incredible speed**
- **Angels minister to God and do His bidding**
 - **They are both spectators and participants in His mighty works**

- **The Jewish View of Angels**
 - **Jewish embellishment of the Old Testament teaching about angels**
 - **Angels were esteemed very highly**
 - **They were exalted next to God**
 - **The angels surrounded the throne of God**
 - **They were the ones who were the instruments of bringing God’s word to men**
 - **They worked out God’s will in the universe**
 - **Many of the Jews believed that the angels acted as a council or senate with God—consulting Him every step of the way (Gen 1:26)**
 - **Some believe that a group of the angels rejected the creation of man and were thus annihilated immediately**
 - **Then when God gave the Law—others objected to it—so they attacked Moses to try to stop it**
 - **They believed that there are what are called “presence angels”**

- **They were angels that existed continually in the presence of God**
- **Angelic roles**
 - **200 angels controlled the movements of the stars**
 - **1 angel controlled the calendar, with the never ending succession of days, months, and years**
 - **A mighty angel took care of the seas**
 - **Some superintend the frost, dew, rain, snow, hail, thunder, and lightning**
 - **Some were wardens of hell and torturers of the damned**
 - **Some were recording angels—recording everything that men do**
 - **There was an angel of death**
 - **There were guardian angels, who watched over children, nations**
- **Jews believed the angels were responsible for the Old Covenant**
 - **This is the number one thing that set the angels on a high level in the minds of the Jews**

- **They were believed to be the mediators of the Old Covenant**

Acts 7:51-53—“*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: 53 who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it*”

Galatians 3:19—“*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.*”

- **Paul’s point in addressing the angels**
 - **Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant—not the angels**
 - **Paul wants to show that Christ is greater than the angels—thus the New Covenant is greater than the Old Covenant**

CIT: Why Is Jesus Christ Superior to the Angels?

I. He Is Superior to the Angels Because of His Title (vs. 4-5)—“*being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, THOU ART MY SON, THIS DAY HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE? And*

again, I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON?”

A. An Explanation of His Title

1. “A More Excellent Name”

a. The angels have a high title over men

Psalm 8:4-5—“*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,*”

b. But Jesus was given a more excellent name than they—even as a man

i. “*being made*” or “*by inheritance obtained*”

- These phrases are important to interpreting the text correctly
- People who don’t want to believe that Jesus is deity—use these passages to show that Jesus was “made” or “obtained” this position of honor—as though He did not have a position of honor before
- As we already learned about Jesus in the previous text

that He was before all things
and created all things

- He is the beginning
 - The middle
 - And the end of all things
- We also learned that he is seated at the right hand of God—in an exalted position
 - So this text is not a proof that says Jesus at one point wasn't but was made later—He always was

ii. Jesus' Sonship

- At Jesus' birth he was given the title "Son"
- Before His incarnation—He was not called the Son of God—He was called the Word of God

John 1:1-3—“*In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*”

- The “Word” was made greater than the angels—

though His position was lower than the angels—being a man—because He was called **the “Son of God”**

2. Paul's Rhetorical Question

Vs. 5—“*For unto which of the angels said he at any time, THOU ART MY SON, THIS DAY HAVE I BEGOTTEN THEE? And again, I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON?*”

- a. No angel has ever been given such a title—as “Son of God”
- b. No angel has been in such a relationship with God—to be called His son—and He their Father

3. Why Son?

- a. The title “Son” was given to show the relationship that Jesus had with God
- b. It was given so that we may understand the connection He had with God
- c. It was given also that we may understand the connection we may have with God—through Jesus Christ

B. His Sonship Through the Virgin Birth

1. Jesus' Sonship is an incarnation title

- a. The angel Gabriel said to Mary about the Christ who would be born...

Luke 1:32—“*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest*”

Luke 1:35—“*The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*”

2. Paul’s Quote—From 2 Samuel 7:14—vs. 5

“*And again, I WILL BE TO HIM A FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE TO ME A SON?*”

- a. It emphasizes a future relationship that was not in the past
- b. Christ did not always exist as the “Son of God”—but was made the “Son of God” in His incarnation

C. His Sonship Through His Resurrection

1. Jesus was declared to be the Son of God at His birth—but was also declared to be the Son of God at His resurrection

Romans 1:3-4—“*concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead*”

- a. The resurrection was second time Jesus was born from above

Acts 13:33—“*God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*”

- b. The resurrection was Jesus’ second time to be begotten from God—given life from God
- c. And again, God was declaring with great power that Jesus is indeed the “Son of God”

2. Jesus has a more excellent name than the angels—Son of God

II. He Is Superior to the Angels Because of His Worship (vs. 6)—“*And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM.*”

A. Worship of the Son

1. Even though Jesus was made lower than the angels (in His incarnation) He is to be worshipped by them

- a. Of course they worshipped Him before His incarnation

- i.** He was worshipped as their God
- ii.** He was worshipped as their Creator

b. Paul references Psalm 97:7

Psalm 97:7—“*Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: **worship him, all ye gods***”

- i.** The “him” of that passage is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ
- ii.** The “gods” mentioned here are the angels—those greater than men

2. When was this to Happen?

“*And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world*”

- a.** This is his incarnation (when He is declared to be the Son of God)
- b.** The angels surrounded His birth
 - i.** The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple—to announce the coming of Messiah’s forerunner—John the Baptist
 - ii.** Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the soon-coming birth of Christ

- iii.** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to convince him that Mary was indeed pregnant with the Son of God (conceived by the Holy Ghost)
- iv.** Angels appeared to the shepherds—who were watching their sheep at night—and announced the birth of Christ—and worshipped Him
- v.** An angel appeared to Joseph again in a dream to warn him of Herod who desired to kill Jesus
- vi.** An angel appeared to Joseph, the third time in a dream, to instruct him to return back to their land

- c.** Their attendance and involvement around His birth—overwhelmingly declared that He was greater than the angels
- d.** When he was brought into the world—he was worshipped by the angels

- i.** It was forbidden for the angels to worship anyone or anything beside God
- ii.** God alone was to be worshipped
- iii.** God declared that when His Son was brought into the world—

he was to be worshipped by the angels

B. God's Firstbegotten

1. This is another title like that of "Son"
2. Its significance
 - a. It was a term that declared His importance to the Father
 - b. He was supreme

NOTE: Just because Jesus was humbled in His incarnation didn't mean that He lost His supremacy. He was worshipped then and will continue to be worshipped for all eternity—particularly by angels.

Philippians 2:5-11—*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven [angels], and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

III. He Is Superior to the Angels Because of His Nature (vs. 7-9)—*“And of the angels he saith, WHO MAKETH HIS ANGELS SPIRITS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE. But unto the Son he saith, THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER: A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF THY KINGDOM. 9 THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATED INIQUITY; THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS.”*

NOTE: In this passage we are given a distinction between the two. Who are the angels and who is Christ? God answers those questions.

A. What God Says of the Angels

1. *“And of the angels he saith, WHO MAKETH HIS ANGELS SPIRITS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE”*

NOTE: Paul quotes from **Psalm 104:4** to show God's answer to the question, “Who are the angels?”

- a. The angels are God's angels
 - i. *“WHO MAKETH HIS ANGELS SPIRITS”* or *“AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE”*
- b. They are God's servants and ministers
 - i. They were made by Him
 - ii. They were made for Him
 - iii. They were made to do His will

- Rushing about as wind and fire
- Ministering to His purposes

c. They are Christ's angels

- i. They were created by Him and for Him

Colossians 1:16—“*for by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him*”

B. The God Says of Christ—“*But unto the Son he saith, THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOR EVER AND EVER*”

NOTE: Paul now quotes from Psalm 45:6-7 again to prove that the Scriptures point to Who Jesus really is.

1. The Father's Claim of Jesus' Deity

- a. God claims that Jesus, His Son, is God

- i. He claimed that He has a throne that will last forever and ever
- ii. That means that he is in fact the eternal God who rules over all things

NOTE: This is the clearest, most powerful, emphatic, and irrefutable proof of the deity of Christ in the Bible. And the One who gave its testimony is God Himself.

b. The Son of God is God the Son

- i. No angel could ever compare to Him
- ii. They are all His and He rules over them—forever and ever

2. Jesus' Claim to Deity

- a. Jesus continually claimed equality with God throughout His earthly ministry
- b. The Jews sought the more to kill Him because of His claims

John 5:18—“*Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, **making himself equal with God.***”

John 10:30-33—“***I and my Father are one.** 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, **Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?** 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, **being a man, makest thyself God.**”*

NOTE: The rest of the quote goes on to describe the character of His authority.

C. Lover of Righteousness—“*A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE SCEPTRE OF THY KINGDOM. 9 THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATED INIQUITY; THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS.*”

1. His Kingdom is the Kingdom of Righteousness

- a. Everything is done in righteousness (what is right and good)
- b. This describes the characteristic of God

I John 1:5—“*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*”

2. It is a Kingdom of Righteousness Because He is Righteous—“*THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HATED INIQUITY*”

- a. He loves righteousness—because He is righteous
- b. Because He loves righteousness—he hates iniquity

NOTE: You can't truly love righteousness and love sin at the same time. You will love one over the other.

3. The Father has anointed Him King—“*THEREFORE GOD, EVEN THY GOD, HATH ANOINTED THEE WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE THY FELLOWS.*”

- a. After Christ's earthly ministry was completed—He was exalted back to the right hand of the Father—where He was anointed King
- b. This anointing set Him above His fellows—the angels

Daniel 7:13-14—“*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed*”

Revelation 5:11-14—“*And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*”

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

NOTE: Christ is greater than the angels because He is their God who will rule over them forever.

IV. He Is Superior to the Angels Because of His Existence (vs. 10-12)—“AND, THOU, LORD, IN THE

BEGINNING HAST LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH; AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THINE HANDS: 11 THEY SHALL PERISH; BUT THOU REMAINEST; AND THEY ALL SHALL WAX OLD AS DOTH A GARMENT; 12 AND AS A VESTURE SHALT THOU FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY SHALL BE CHANGED: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL.”

A. Jesus Existed in the Beginning

1. Jesus laid the Foundations of the Creation in six days

- a. Heavens and the Earth and Light
- b. Divided the Sea and Sky
- c. The Earth to Bloom
- d. The Sun, Moon and the Stars
- e. The Fish and Birds
- f. Animals and Man

2. When He was finished laying the Worlds—
He declared it to be good

3. He rested on the 7th day

4. All these things will one day be destroyed

2 Peter 3:10—“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

- a. They were not made to last forever
- b. They will soon pass away
- c. The Psalmist (Psalm 102) described Creation like the garment of God being taken off and thrown away—because it is worn out

B. Jesus Will Exist in the End—“THEY SHALL PERISH; BUT THOU REMAINEST; AND THEY ALL SHALL WAX OLD AS DOTH A GARMENT; 12 AND AS A VESTURE SHALT THOU FOLD THEM UP, AND THEY SHALL BE CHANGED: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL.”

1. Jesus, who existed in the beginning, before they were created, will exist after they are destroyed

a. Jesus will outlast all things

i. He was before the angels—and if the angels ever have an end—He will continue to go on after them

NOTE: This really is a rebuke to the Jews who are holding on to the fading garment of Judaism. It will pass away—yet Jesus Christ will go on till the end of all things.

Revelation 1:8, 17-18—“*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty... Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*”

IV. He Is Superior to the Angels Because of His Destiny (vs. 13-14)—“*But to which of the angels said he at any time, SIT ON MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*”

A. Jesus’ Destiny (Psalm 110:1)

1. Sit at the Right Hand of God

- a. He has all power given to Him from the Father
- b. He rules to have everything subjected to His authority

NOTE: All creation will be placed in subjection to Him. Whether that means willingly or unwillingly. Through the means of salvation or the means of judgment all things will be put under his feet.

Philippians 2:9-11--“*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the*

earth; 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

B. The Angel’s Destiny—“*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*”

1. They are servants at best

- a. They are set up to serve Him
- b. They are to serve His people
 - i. All those who shall be heirs of salvation
 - Protecting
 - Encouraging
 - Aiding

CONCLUSION:

- † **The angels were the mediators of the Old Covenant**
- † **Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant**
- † **Since Christ is greater than the angels—than the Covenant he established is greater**
- † **What we have learned throughout this chapter of Jesus**
 - **His divine names—Son, Lord, God**
 - **His divine works—creates, sustains, governs, redeems, and purges from sin**

- **His divine worth—he is worshipped by the angels and all of creation**
- **His divine attributes—omniscient, omnipotent, unchanging, and eternal**

† **Jesus Christ is supreme**

Hebrews 2:1—*“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*