

Hebrews 1:4-14

“Jesus is Better— Better than the Angels”

Sermon Outline:

Recap: the first 3 verses serve as an introduction and states the thesis of the letter. Jews contemplating returning to Judaism. The question ultimately is this: *What has God revealed to man? And How did He did so?*

Introduction: It's important to start with the person of Christ before getting to the work of Christ. When we understand who He is, we can better appreciate what He has done. That is exactly what the writer of Hebrews is doing. Being inspired by the Holy Spirit, Hebrews could be seen as the Holy Spirit's commentary on the OT.

We saw last week, Jesus the better/final word. He is the eternal Son. Heir, creator, and sustainer of all things. He is the superior revealer of God because He is the radiance of His glory and the exact imprint of His nature. He is also the One who has made purification for sins. And now seated at the right hand of majesty on high.

Why angels?

- Second temple literature indicates there was an increasing focus on angels. During the time of no prophets, in-between the testaments, Jews began to fascinate with angels. This is when the idea of “guardian angels” was developed. So the author could be recalibrating his readers views of angels to be nothing more than they are. Servants of God.
- There could be a temptation to compromise to save face. Compromise to denounce the deity of Jesus, but not fully only calling him a man. But confessing him to be an angel and not God could help them keep their lives.
- Angels were believed to be the mediators of the law (Acts 7 and Galatians 3)
- Acts 7:53— “*you who received the law as delivered by the angels and did not keep it*”
- Galatians 3:19— “*put in place through the angels by an intermediary*” (middle man)
- Hebrews 2 supports this in verses 1 and 2
- Whatever the reason may be, we have a beautiful picture of who Jesus, the Son, is, was, and will always be. Notice the comparisons that he will make. 13 times in the book
- Jesus has a better name, a better honor, a better rank, a better nature, and a better role.

What is an angel?

- angel means messenger
- Are they cute little beings with wings and a halo?
- Often times they're invisible, requiring spiritual eyes be opened to see them (OT examples)
- Sometimes they take on human form as we see in the gospels and other places
- Shined with a glorious light as we see in the birth of Christ
- Winged creatures, powerful
- Isaiah 6:2— “Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- Revelation 4:6b-8— And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within
- Every encounter in the Scriptures the angels first words are, “Fear not”

7 OT references in 10 verses

1. A Better Name (4-5)

- a person's name revealed his nature/rank/dignity
- Jesus = Son
 - **Psalm 2:7**
 - Mark 1:11
- "today I have begotten you"
 - Romans 1:4
 - Acts 13:32-33"
 - His name was declared in His resurrection and exaltation
- "I will be to him a father and he shall be my son"
 - **2 Samuel 7:14**
 - Luke 1:32
- "inherited" — imperfect tense
- Fulfillment of Davidic promise

2. A Better Honor (6)

- **Deuteronomy 32:43**
 - This is seen in telling the angels to worship Yahweh.
 - Luke 2:10-14
 - Revelation 5:11-12
 - Eternity past, at the incarnation, eternity future

3. A Better Rank (7-9)

- the angels are servants, the Son is sovereign
- **Psalm 104:4**
- **Psalm 45:6-7**
 - A throne that never ends. A rod there never stops governing with righteousness
 - Beyond all others
- angels may take on many forms and are brilliant and mesmerizing but they are still just servants.. The Son is eternally sovereignly enthroned.

4. A Better Nature (10-12)

- **Psalm 102:25-27**
- A man may outlive a few coats, but Christ will see/outlive the universes yet remains eternal an unchanging
- Their world may have been falling apart but their Christ was and is unchanging

5. A Better Role (13-14)

- Christ rules- Angels serve
- Psalm 110:1
- Defeated kings would kiss their conquerers feet
- Psalm 2:12
- Joshua 10:24

Whatever you think is the most powerful force on earth, Christ is supreme.

- His cosmic, prophetic, priestly superiority is ours in this world.

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you in the Scripture and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus has a “better name” and is the Son, while angels are servants. Why is it so important that we rightly understand who Jesus is before we consider what Jesus has done for us? How does Jesus’ identity as the eternal Son change the way we view Him?
3. The angels worship Jesus, while the angels themselves are servants of God. What does this passage teach us about the supremacy and deity of Christ? How should knowing that Jesus is worthy of the worship of heaven affect our worship of Him personally?
4. Hebrews 1:10–12 emphasizes that creation changes and passes away, but Jesus remains the same. What are some things in your life that feel unstable or are changing right now? How does the unchanging nature of Christ give you confidence and hope in the midst of change?
5. Hebrews 1:13–14 contrasts Christ’s position as the reigning King with the angels’ role as servants who minister to God’s people. Since Christ is supreme over every power and authority, what area of your life do you need to surrender more fully to His rule? What would that look like practically this week?