

Jesus is better than the angels. As true as this statement is, the interjection of verse four, especially after the opening credits of the letter (vs. 1-3), seems a bit strange. We must remember this letter was written to Christians who were Jewish in ethnicity.

These Hebrews believers, were under the threat of persecution, being tempted to walk away from the Church of the living God and returning to the law and sacrifices of Judaism. The Holy Spirit inspired author later describes the “falling away” as “putting Christ to open shame”. The danger was real as it was serious.

The book of Hebrews contrasts the foolishness of returning to what could not bring salvation, with Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. The reason for the interjection of angels is their importance to O.T. faith and revelation. This important role has been ballooned, in error, because of false teaching concerning angels, which had crept into the O.T. teaching.

This happened during what is called the inter-testamental period. From Malachi to Christ, a time frame of over at least 450 years, was a time with no new revelation spoken from God. In Chapter 6 of Malachi, God gave to directions to look for (1) the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing; His miracles should have been seen (2) Elijah (John the Baptist) voice of one in wilderness.

During this time we see two prominent players in the debate. The Pharisee’s and the Sadducees were two fighting factions. Their chief subjects were... the resurrection of the dead, the need for adherence to the law and the existence of angels. The Pharisee’s became the dominant faction believing in all three, but in dealing with angels went overboard. Some, in error, suggested that God made the world through angels—some suggested the worship of angels was appropriate, which was blasphemy. Paul dealt with this heresy in Colossians 2:18.

It was during this time that the legend described in John 5, found expression. In itself the legend is tied to the Greek pagan cult of Asclepius. In the second century angel creation would gain traction again with Arias, which led to the error that Jesus

Christ was the arch angel Michael; a blasphemy against the deity of Christ, continuing today in the Jehovah's Witness heresy.

Yet because angels played an important role in revelation biblically and in the OT and N.T, Hebrews illustrates the distinction between Christ and the angels He created.

### **PROPOSITION**

Jesus is not simply better than the angels, He is superior above all religion, rule, or person in Creation for He is not only Creator, but Author and Finisher of our faith. Today we will explore the importance and limitations of the angels, the importance and Authority of Christ, and finally explore why the contrast begins where it does.

### **I. ANGELS ARE IMPORTANT BUT ANGELS ARE LIMITED**

#### **A) ANGELS EXIST AND ARE IMPORTANT**

- The presence of angels in the bible assumes they exist, and they do. The rhetorical question in verse 4 proves they do.
- Angels are very important to the Biblical faith as evidenced by **chapter 2:1-4**, as they acted as revealers of the Law of God, and to not obey their message brought severe punishment.
- Because of their importance to God and us we must be careful not to define or comprise them by what culture or paganism dictates, which is only a caricature and an error filled one at that.
- Angels are usually never gotten right, on one side they are either fat babies or feminine looking warriors, and on the other side they become god-like in stature. Today we are blessed for in this chapter we will get a pretty good view.
- MOVE Quickly

#### **B) THE WHAT OF ANGELS**

1. (vs. 4) **They Exist**
2. (vs. 6) **They Were Created With Purpose (vs. 2 and Colossians 1:15-18)** Outlines that Jesus created the angels and vs. 6 tells us the primary why of their creation... Worship... Worship Jesus... Isaiah 6 tells of a heavenly

worship scene, where the prophet saw the Lord, high and lifted up... this was Jesus who is the Lord, “Holy, Holy, and And Holy”. At His Birth heavenly host praising God, glory to God in the highest. Throughout the book of Revelation, worship of the Lamb of God. Angel’s purpose is to worship and serve Jesus the Christ, although for a time, for the purpose of redemption, He operated as weaker than them in His humanity **Psalm 8:4-8**.

3. (vs.7) **They are Powerful.** As to their immaterial constitution I will leave that for those who are wiser, but we gain a clue here (wind and fire). These two elements are powerful and elusive. And angels are much the same to us. One angel is recorded to have killed 185,000. Wind is necessary and invisible, can’t see it but know it’s there. Fire on the other hand enamors many. It is hypnotic and beautiful but gets to close and it can burn. It has the ability to reveal as a source of light, and power. Interestingly angels are revealers they are powerful.
4. (vs. 14) **They Have Function.** They function in ministering to those who inherit Salvation as their name has meaning (messengers). Daniel, Zacharias (father of John the Baptist) Joseph, Mary, Philip, Paul, and Jesus all encountered these servants. Revealing the everlasting gospel. They minister to us (Jesus in wilderness Gethsemane, Paul on ship, Peter in Prison. **THEY HAVE FREE WILL**, evidenced by the fall of Satan and 1/3.

## **II. THE IMPORTANCE AND AUTHORITY OF JESUS**

### ***A) SIMPLY THE BEST***

- Angels are great but lest look at verse 4 again. In Jesus incarnation, although the Word of God, in His physical appearance, he became a little lower than the angels; Hebrews 2:6-8. Even in His perfect humanity the angels were subject to Him, and because He completed His work, He has a more excellent name than they, what is it?

## ***B) WHY HE IS BETTER***

1. (vs. 5) **He is called Son.** This refers to **Psalm 2:7-9**; begotten. Word became the Son at appointed time. God called Him Son publically on more than one occasion. At His Baptism, “this is my Son in whom I am pleased”. At the transfiguration, “This is my beloved Son, hear Him”, the week of His death, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again”. Philippians gives us the blessing of knowing this the One with THE NAME above all names (**Philippians 2-6:10**). Jesus new His name... before Abraham was I Am, I exist, Isaiah clarified it, Emmanuel, “God with us”, and again in **Isaiah 9:6**... Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace, He has a more excellent name.
2. (vs. 6) **He is Worshipped by the Angels.** What can we say? Angels are powerful creatures. Slay 185, 000 in one day, appear in bodies, unlock prison doors, blind thousands of sexually perverted deviants in Sodom bent on rape, yet they bow to our King of kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus
3. (1:3, 2:8-14) **Only He is Mighty to Save!!!**
  - Jehovah’s Witness claim Jesus is a mere angel, but no angel can be perfect in human flesh. Angels have are finite and limited. Angels as seen can fall, Christ perfect God, perfect man, is the only one to whip the beat the devil. Only Jesus could accomplish the atonement for our sins, through miracle of virgin birth and sinless life to complete the law (**Galatians 4:3-4**).
  - God, not angels, became man and took our sin on His own body on the tree—He ascended and assumed His throne again to the adoration of the angels.

## **III. REASON FOR THE CONTRAST**

### ***A) REASON FOR CONTRAST IN 2:1-4***

- So we all can say Wow. But why bring all this theology to bear? Because Hebrews is a book of four warnings about not walking from Jesus when times get persecution tough. The first one is in **2:1-4** and the angles are part of the

warning. (**vs. 2**) Angels also are revealed as intermediaries in giving the law (**Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19**).

- Hebrews speaks thus, “If the words given by angels were weighty, so much so, that if not obeyed, there was a severe and right punishment (remember a whole generation millions died in wilderness). What will you do if you neglect the message of the Son, God’s chosen vessel at this appointed time?

***B) MILD WARNING BUT STIFF NONE THE LESS***

- (vs. 3) Escape what if we neglect so great a salvation? God’s judgment.
- So it’s incumbent we understand neglect. Its positive opposite would be to actively and diligently pursue Christ. To neglect would mean to not actively or diligently pursue Christ and not to take the warning seriously of falling away by turning back to the former life. In the case of the Jews that meant to even believe in Christ yet to not show it by going to sacrifice in Judaism.