

Hebrews 1:4-14 (Rev. Dustin Largent) **Jesus is Greater Than Angels**

- Hebrews is about OT symbols, shadows, rituals and sacrifices that all point to Jesus in the OT and how we don't need them anymore because now we have the real thing they were pointing to. Jews are still stuck on these. (Hebrews 8:7) ⁷ *For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. (Hebrews 8:13) ¹³ By calling this covenant "new", he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.*
- That's why we don't need all the symbols and signs and rituals like many churches still do. We don't need them anymore. We have Jesus.
- Now there's only two symbolic things we should be doing.
- Lord's Supper and Baptism.

PRAYER

4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

- Today we're gonna look into angels a bit. Angelology.
- What do we know from Scripture?
- **Countless numbers/Possibly all created at one time prior to creation of earth. Not increasing population.**
- **Can travel in all heavenly realms and on earth. Earth, Sky 1st heaven, Outer space 2nd heaven, God's dwelling place (3rd heaven)** *"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)*
- **They don't reproduce. We never see any female angels in scripture** (Matt. 22:28-30) ²⁸ *Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"²⁹ Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰ At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.*
- **Sons of God and daughters of man** (Genesis 6:2-4) *When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim² were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. (Jude 6) 6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—*
- **They can take on human form. (test people, protect people)** (Heb. 13:2) ² *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*
- **Guardian Angels? Coupling this Psalm with our Lord's warning** *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. (Mt 18:10)*

- Jewish superstition - each person had his own guardian angel who could assume that person's form. – Sketchy Theologically
- **People don't turn into angels.**
- **Our struggles are against angels.** (Eph. 6:12) ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
- **Various roles – Rulers, Authorities, Powers, Guardian Cherib** (Ezekiel)
- **They all minister to God. God tells them what to do and they do it.**

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- **Jewish view of angels over time went a bit sideways. Remember prophetic silence.**
 - This letter is to people with these **additional beliefs about angels.**
 - Great info from **John McArthur on this topic. He says,**
 1. They believed angels were the mediators between men and God
 2. Believed angels were the instruments to bring God's word and God's will in the universe and to men.
 3. Believed Angels were God's senate. God didn't do anything without asking them. "Let us make man" was directed to angels
 4. Some Jews believed that some angels objected to the creation of man and were annihilated at that time for their objection.
 5. They believed there was a calendar angel who controlled the succession of days and months and years.
 6. They believed there was an angel of death.
 7. Jews believe angels were the highest beings in the universe and that they mediated between God and the lesser being, man.
 - (Acts 5:51-53) ⁵¹ *"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."*
 - 8. The Hebrews believed that the law (old covenant) was given to them through angels.

(Galatians 3:19) *It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. 2 Mediators – Angels then Moses*

- What does this mean? Why is this important?
- **If the old covenant came to them via a mediator (angels), we can know the new covenant to be greater than the old covenant because Jesus is the new mediator and He is Greater than angels.**
- **The author will use the Old Testament mediated by angels to prove that Jesus is Greater than the angels and the new covenant he brought is Greater leaving the old covenant obsolete.**

Quotes, many from Septuagint. Greek translation – 70 translators. Paul used Hebrew OT so Paul is very likely not author.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

JESUS IS > ANGELS BECAUSE HE IS GOD’S ONLY SON.

- Sons are greater than messengers and servants.
- Quotes from 2 Samuel 7:14 and Psalm 2:7.

¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son
(2 Samuel 7:12-14a)

- Angels referred to as sons of God in Genesis 6 but only corporately never as an individual angel. Job 1:6 the sons of god present themselves before God and Satan comes too. They were created by God, not God themselves.

From their own old testament. Since Jesus is greater than angels because He is God’s son and the angels aren’t, the new covenant delivered by Jesus must be greater than the old covenant delivered by angels.

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.” – Quotes from Deut. 32:43 in Septuagint where it says let God’s angels worship him. Not in our translations from the Hebrew. 2nd quote Psalm 104:4

- “Makes” Jesus created angels so he is greater than they are.
- “His” – Who’s angels are they? Belong to Jesus
- Angels worship Jesus. Angels are Jesus’ servants.

JESUS IS > THAN ANGELS BECAUSE THEY WORSHIP JESUS & SERVE HIM.

From their own old testament. Since Jesus is worshipped and served by angles, He is greater than angels and therefore the new covenant delivered by Jesus must be greater than the old covenant delivered by angels.

⁸ But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” –Ps 45:6-7

- Jesus didn’t just do righteousness, He loved it? Do you love righteousness?

JESUS IS > THAN ANGELS BECAUSE GOD CALLS JESUS GOD BUT NOT ANGELS.

From their own old testament. Since God calls Jesus God but doesn’t refer to angels this way, Jesus is greater than angels and the new covenant brought by him is Greater than the old covenant brought by angels. Old is obsolete.

¹⁰ He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.” –From Ps. 102:25-27

- More from the Old Testament that Jesus is God. He “laid the foundations of the earth” 2nd member of trinity. Creator.
 - Vs. 11 – He is eternal – has and will always exist.
 - Vs. 12 – He is unchanging
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¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? ¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? – Ps. 110:1

JESUS IS > ANGELSE BECAUSE UNLIKE ANGELS, JESUS’ WORK IS COMPLETE

From their own old testament. Since Jesus’ is at the right hand of the Father having completed His work and currently governing on the throne as Son and angels continue to be ministering spirits whose work is incomplete and who serve rather than govern (not only God but people), Jesus is greater than angels and the new covenant deliver by Jesus must be greater than the old covenant delivered by angels.

CLOSING

- So you look at OT symbols, shadows, rituals and sacrifices. For you here, you look at morality and keeping commandments.
- Some of you have adopted rituals that you cherish.
- In this church certain prayers, certain liturgy, symbolic candles lit and certain times, certain objects on the altar or a particular Bible.
- Particular rules or laws the church has put in place that make you more right with God than others.
- In the Old Testament all the rituals and sacrifices and priests, that was and old covenant (shadows according to Hebrews 10:1) to point us to Jesus.
- **Its all obsolete now. Don’t engage in rituals that only point to Jesus.**
- **We have Jesus now. Skip the ritual, skip the sign, skip the statue, skip the saint, skip the angel. We have Jesus Now!**