

# Christ is Greater than the Angels

Sermon 3 in the Hebrews Series

## Hebrews 1:4-6

The writer quotes 7 passages from the OT in Chapter 1. His point is to prove from the OT that Christ is Superior to the Angels of Heaven.

1. v. 5a – Psalm 2:7
2. v. 5b – 2 Samuel 7:14
3. v. 6 – Deuteronomy 32:43 LXX
4. v. 7 – Psalm 104:4
5. v. 8 & 9 – Psalm 45:6, 7
6. v. 10-12 – Psalm 102:25-27
7. v. 13 – Psalm 110:1

## I. Thesis Statement for Hebrews 1:4-2:18 -- v. 4

Chapter 1 emphasizes the deity of Christ – in which it is evident he is superior or so much better than the angels.

Chapter 2 emphasizes the humanity of Christ in the incarnation – where he takes our nature upon himself – and appears to be lower than the angels for a time, although in reality he remained the Son of God, as the angels themselves acknowledge.

The Greek word translated “better” or “superior” is a comparative adjective and appears 13 times in the book of Hebrews.

Athanasius --“Both here and throughout the epistle the term better is ascribed to the Lord, thus distinguishing him as better and other than mere created beings; for the sacrifice of himself, the hope that we have in him, and the promises which are ours through him are all better, not only as a matter of degree but as being of a quite different order, since he who has made these things available to us is better than all created beings.”

## II. A Brief Overview of the Doctrine of Angels (Angelology)

Angels are mentioned over 100 times in the OT and more than 160 times in the NT. They too are created beings of a different type than ourselves. In our glorified state – we will be greater than angels and even “judge angels” 1 Cor. 6:3.

1. They exist in vast numbers. Heb. 12:22, Rev. 5:1
2. In many cases they are invisible. Num. 22:23; 2 Kings 6:17
3. Angels, when they are visible usually take the form of men.  
Gen. 18:2; 19:1, 2; Mark 16:5
4. Sometimes they shine with a glorious light (Matt 28:3, Luke 2:9)

5. In both Hebrew and Greek – the word means “messenger”.
6. Angels can wield tremendous power.
  - One angel killed all the first-born of Egypt,
  - Another killed thousands after David took a census of Israel.
  - The Lord could have called 10,000 angels to deliver Him from the crucifixion. In reality one could have done the job.

### **III. The Father/Son Relationship v. 5**

1. Psalm 2:7 -- Heb. 1:5a

Romans 1:1-4 – declared to be the Son of God

Acts 13:29-39 – Paul’s gospel sermon at Antioch Pisidia

Paul quotes Psalm 2:7 in verse 33 – and applies it to the resurrection and glorification of Christ.

2. ) 2 Sam 7:14 – Heb. 1:5b

The prophecy of 2 Sam 7:14 refers directly to Solomon.

The prophecy is also a Messianic promise – physically it can apply to David and Solomon – but spiritually it points to the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **IV. The Honor that Belongs to the Son v. 6**

1. As the “first-born” (Gk. *prototokos*) 6a

He is the Firstborn – in relation to the universe -- Col. 1:15

He is the Firstborn – in relation to other men -- Rom. 8:29

He is the Firstborn – in relation to His resurrection -- Col. 1:18

He is called the Firstborn – in relation to Mary -- Luke 2:7

2. He is to be worshipped by the Angels. 6b Duet. 32:43 LXX

The lesser must worship the greater.

Only God is to be worshipped.

#### **John Owen -- angels are commanded to worship Christ**

1. They are to worship by the authority of God’s Word
2. It is useful to have many testimonies of Scripture to confirm what God has said.
3. The angels and all creation have a great interest in God bringing Christ into the world
4. The command of God is the ground and reason for all worship.
5. It is the Church’s great security and honor that the Head of the Church is worshipped by all the angels in Heaven.
6. We are not to worship angels, but we join with our fellow created beings in worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ.