

JESUS *is Better* THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Week Two: Jesus is Superior to Angels

Introduction

Jesus is superior in his person, position, and power. As a result, we must pay attention to him so that we do not drift away.

Digging Deeper

As you read the Bible, you notice a few things about angels that may surprise you. They are never described as cute or cuddly, nor are they ever depicted as chubby little cupids with tiny wings. Angels are always bringing a message from God – they are powerful, no-nonsense creatures who live only to serve. When human beings in the Bible encounter angels, you know what they do? They cower. One angel could, if given permission, destroy entire armies.

You can understand, then, why we might be tempted to think a lot of angels. They must be pretty important, right? Maybe they are God's chosen rulers of the universe. But the author of Hebrews warns us against making too much of angels in these verses, as he delineates all the ways that Jesus is better than the angels.

Let's note a few:

- 1 None of the angels are ever called God's Son. Jesus, however, is explicitly referred to often in Scripture as the first and true Son of God, one which angels worship.
- 2 Angels are powerful, yes, but they are also servants. They obey orders. The Son, though, gives orders. He has the throne, the scepter, the authority; the angels do what he says.
- 3 The angels are created beings. The Son, though, is the eternal God, creator of all things. He never grows old, never wearies, and never fails.

Verse 14 sums up the difference: The angels are spirits, servants to minister to those who will inherit salvation (that's us). The Son bought our salvation with his blood and therefore earned the place of honor, commanding the angels as the Son of God. Let's remember that our relationship with God is not through angels, but through Jesus; He alone is our hope and our Lord.

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 1:4

1. What does it mean that Jesus *became* better than the angels? v.4

Answer: Jesus was made perfect (in the sense of complete rather than moral) through suffering which is something no angel had ever done.

2. Discuss how Jesus is better than angels.
 - a) He has the title “Son”
Exp. Angels may be called “sons of God” collectively but no individual is ever called “Son”.
 - b) A more excellent name
Exp. His name is more a reflection of his character than a mere title.

3. Discuss how the scriptures prove Jesus is better than angels
 - a) Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14
Exp. Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of these verses.
 - b) Deuteronomy 32:43 (Septuagint version) and Psalm 104:4
Exp. “Firstborn” here means the person in the position of highest honor. David was given the title and it is clear that he was not the firstborn in his family in the sense of natural birth. Jesus is superior to angels since it is angels that worship him as their God.
 - c) Psalm 45:6-7; 102:25-27
Exp. Jesus is superior because the Father himself calls Jesus God and Lord (Yahweh). The son has attributes that God alone has. Find in verses 1-13 the attributes of creator, self-existent, sovereign, immutable (unchanging).
 - d) Psalm 110:1
Exp. Jesus is superior because he has finished his work of redemption while the angels continue to minister.

Group Application Questions

1. Angels were created to worship and serve God. So were you, though perhaps in a different way. Are you doing what you were created to do?
2. In a world that is so transient, isn't it comforting to know that Jesus never changes?

Prayer

Exodus 34:6

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”

Take time to consider the last question. The fact that Jesus never changes should bring us to a place that we are in awe of his faithfulness. Share with the group how you've experienced God's faithfulness and take time to thank him for those times.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church

