

Hebrews 1:4-14 Better than the Angels

I want you to think with me this morning for a few minutes. A little test!

A) You are buying a car – Same price but you have the option to choose between a good model – or the Best model – Which do you choose! Good or Best!

B) How about you are moving into a new Neighborhood – again you have the choice between two homes two neighborhoods.

1) Same sq footage – same price same lay out – The first neighborhood is good – the 2nd is the Best – waiting list to get in – Which choose – good / Best

C) Picking a school – Same deal – Good school – Best school – **everything being equal.** – Which choose Good or Best!

I think in everyone of those situations most pp would say that is a no brainer – I am picking the best – and thanking God.

A) The pp of Israel grew up in a system of worship that was good on the one hand.

B) Full of important moments – traditions – rituals – people and practices.

1) The Problem though was this, it was completely insufficient in permanently changing their standing with God.

C) Completely insufficient in changing their eternal destiny.

1) In fact their whole system was put into place to reveal their need of a **permanent Savior – an all sufficient Savior.**

SO the whole layout of this book is to unwrap all the important aspects of OT Judaism – Say this was good – this had a place – Limited in it's power

A) Limited in it's effectiveness – This was good! – But what is available now is Better – It is the Best – **Totally sufficient to make you right with God.**

B) Present a Contrast between the ministry of the various pp and aspects of OT Judaism and the permanent work of Christ.

1) First the contrast is between Jesus and the Angels!

C) Doctrinal – little dry - Rich in truth – make application - **RD V. 1-14**

The Jewish pp had a special high regard for angelic being / ministry

A.) They counted it one of their great privileges that Angels were involved in the presentation of the law.

B) Moses carved the stones – God wrote on the stones – But according to Deuteronomy 33:2 Angels were involved in the presentation.

C) Stephen Acts 7:53 - *"You received law by direction of angels but did not keep it"*

1) Galatians 3:19 *"Law was appointed by angels"*

The Jewish pp however took angelic importance to extremes!

A) Because of the Talmudic writings and popular rabbinical interpretations and ideas, the Jewish people had **begun to embellish** the basic Old Testament teachings about angels.

Aa.) Their belief in importance angelic ministry - evolved into belief that **200 angels controlled movement stars!**

B.) A special angel known as **Calendar Angel** controlled never ending succession days, months, years!

C.) **Another mighty Angel** took care of seas; another frost, dew, rain, snow, thunder, lightning

1.) Others were wardens of hell, torturers of the damned

D.) Teaching that really had no basis biblically & denies sustaining power of God - *".....Word of His Power"*

They gave Angels more power and prominence than they actually had – we on the other hand tend to humanize Angels

A) Highway to heaven – How many of you ladies were in love with Michael Landon

B) Touched by and Angel –

1) Hollywood – **has also made a mockery** John T – Michael

Here is what the Bible tells us about the Ministry of Angels

#1 Angels continually worship and praise the God they serve. Job 38:7 /

Psalms 103:20 / Isaiah 6:1-3 / Revelation 4:8; 5:9-12

#2 Angels communicate God's message to man.

They assisted in bringing the law.

Angels revealed the future to Daniel and to the Apostle John.

Gabriel announced the birth of both John the Baptist and Jesus Matthew 1:19-24 Often messengers

#3 Angels minister to believers.

Psalms 34:7 / Psalm 91:11,12

Psalms 34:7

"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them."

Recorded event that happened in Africa in the 1950's "Mau Mau rebellion," the ruthless warriors of the Mau Mau tribe gathered to climb the hill up to the missionary school (RVA) to capture and kill the missionary children and teachers, and fulfill their vows by eating the brains of white men, who they considered their oppressors.

Word got out about this plan, but it was too late to evacuate the school or to get outside protection. Desperate phone calls were made and people around the world were called upon to pray for God's intervention. *The night went on, with teachers and children huddled at RVA, praying and fully expecting to be attacked, and likely killed, any moment.*

But nothing happened. The warriors never made it to the school, and no one was harmed.

No one knew the rest of the story until sometime later, when a **Mau Mau warrior was in jail, and on trial.** At his trial, the leader of Mau Maus, who led that attack, was asked, "On this particular night did you intend to kill the inhabitants [of the missionary school]?"

"Yes," he replied. "Why didn't you?"

His answer? "We were on our way to attack and kill them, but as we came closer, suddenly between us and the school there were many men dressed in white, holding flaming swords." He said he and his warriors were all terrified, and fled down the hill, never to return.

Similar stories have been told by missionaries in China and other parts of Africa.

DENISE –ROBBERY!

Angels have dramatically delivered believers from prison / from enemies.

#4 Angels have been and will be agents of God's Judgment

A)Sodom and Gomorrah. During the tribulation in the book of Revelation

B)Angels are incredible and powerful beings – but as amazing as they are their significance dwindles in comparison to Christ.

JESUS IS SUPERIOR – 5 WAYS mentioned here – pulls from 7 O.T. Messianic passages 6 of them are from the Book of Psalms.

A) J. V. Magee called Psalms the **The H-I-M** book because Psalms have more to say about Christ than they have to say about any other person.

B) So the Lord pulls from the Psalms to built His case of the Superiority of the Son over the Angels -

1st He has a SUPERIOR IN NAME Psalm 2:7 - *⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?*

Now There are two basic events in relation to which Jesus Christ is called the Son-

A)His virgin birth and His resurrection.

B) He was not called son until He was born into this world through thru the virgin birth.

- 1) So The Sonship of Christ is connected with His incarnation **He was begotten into time –**
- 2) His becoming a Man

D)Prior His incarnation He was eternal God with God.

1)The term **Son** has only to do with Jesus Christ in His Humanity.

It is God’s way of helping us understand the essential relationship between the first and second Persons of the Trinity.

A)Sonship is an analogy to help us understand Christ’s essential relationship and willing submission to the Father for the sake of our redemption.

B)The Bible nowhere speaks of the eternal sonship of Christ.

1)When **His eternity** is spoken of in Hebrews 1:8, God says to the Son, **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.”**

C) So When talking about Christ’s eternity, the title “God” is used; it only when talking about His incarnation is He called “Son.”

That brings up a question. Did not Christ always have a better name?

A)Why does it say, V.4 **He has inherited a more excellent name than they?**

B)Did He not always have **a more excellent name?**

1)Yes, but He obtained another one. He was always God, but He became **Son**.

C)He did not always have the title of Son. That was a title given to him upon His birth.

D)The quotation in verse 5 from 2 Samuel 7:14 (**I will be a Father to Him, and He shall be a Son to Me**) emphasizes the future—

1)Those words were were originally written hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth

Remember when Gabriel was telling Mary –she wild give birth to the Messiah - In describing one of the predictions of this birth Luke says, *‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God’*” (Luke 1:35).

Baptism *“My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased*
Transfiguration this is my Son listen to Him!

D)He *became* the Son for our sake—setting aside what was rightfully His, humbling Himself, and emptying **Himself to Purchase our redemption.**

But the title of Son is also connected to His resurrection:

A) Term "begotten" *means to bring forth!*

B At the resurrection He was brought forth and His glory was revealed in power over the grave!

C) We could say His sonship came to full bloom at His resurrection.

1) He is the Son not only because He was virgin-born into humanity, but also because He was begotten again from the dead.

B) Paul in Acts 10:30-33 says that Psalm 2:7 was fulfilled in the Resurrection

C) This deep truth Paul makes crystal clear in the book of Romans:

*"Concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord."
(Romans 1:3-4)*

D) Here we see first aspect - **Superiority in Name - He is the Son!**

2nd Superior Position *Psalm 97:7 v.6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."*

The Term first born is one that most of cult groups try to claim as a proof text to say Jesus was created.

A) Word "first born" is **Prototokos** in Greek. It is a word that has nothing to do with an event in time! i.e., a birth

B) It refers **rather to position**: The first son to be born was not always the "first-born."

1) Esau, for instance, was older than Jacob, but Jacob was the first-born.

Solomon – first born – 10th son born to David.

Genesis 49:3 gives a good description of first-born: *"Reuben, you are my first-born; my might and the beginning of my strength, pre-eminent in dignity and preeminent in power."*

C) Might, strength, dignity, and power—these describe the meaning of first-born it is a **right-to-rule word, an authority word.**

1) And Jesus Christ is the supreme First-born, He has supreme right-to-rule Son. - **He is SUPERIOR IN HIS POSITION**

V.6b "Let all the angels of God worship Him.

A) Note that God's Angels are worshipping Jesus /Worship of Jesus is Primary activity of Angels in Heaven –

B) Worship is the Activity of heaven/ What about w/ us ?

Old Turkish Proverb that says – “As the Music is so are the People of that Country.”

- A) So I ask you – what is Your music like? **Are You singing the Blues** cause all You can see is the Problems in Your Life ?
1) Or Are you **singing Praise to the Lord** for WHO HE IS & all that He has done for You
- B) Are You singing about **Your Heavenly CITIZENSHIP** because not focusing on the temporal but the eternal
- C) Tell my kids **Grumbling & Complaining / moaning & Groaning** is the Language of Hell – (all they are going to be doing)
- D) **Praise / thanksgiving Blessing & Gratitude** is the Language of heaven – When we see the Lord
1) Which Music fills your House/ your heart ?????

3rd He is Superior in Honor & Vocation V. 7,8a -

- A) Angels serve v,7 Quote Psalm 104:4
- B) **If we could see heavenly realm – amazed!**
1) 2 Kings 6: Syria - Gehazi; Elisha / Chariots of fire!
- C) **2 Kings 19:35 185,000 in one swoop**

Billy Graham calls Angels God’s SECRET AGENTS – they carry out God’s will where ever and what ever He would call them to do!

- A) Angels announced the birth of Christ – ministered to Jesus after the temptation in the wilderness
- B) And they were present at the tomb upon his Res!
1) Witnesses and messengers at His ascension.

C) So Angels serve V.14 - work for Him as ministering spirits to aid those who will inherit salvation but Jesus reigns :

V.8 "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

D) V.8-9 We are told 3 things about the Character of His Rule

Eternal Rule v. 8 – Your throne oh God is Forever

A) Christ sovereignty is seen in reference to throne!

B) Earthly thrones are symbols of power, but always pass with time.

1) Kings come and go - kingdoms rise and fall

C) His throne is forever !!!!! He is a King eternal - His dominion is an everlasting dominion! Christ Dynasty will never end

Now this is also a great proof text for the Deity of Christ "Your throne, O God."

A) This is God the Father calling the Son - God!

B) Cult groups deny deity of Jesus – JW's Michael – Mormons Lucifer's brother

1) Others a Prophet – take them here Hebrews 1: God is calling Jesus God! The Forever King!

A Righteous Rule *scepter of righteousness - scepter of your kingdom* Psalm 45:6-7

A) These verses are a quotation from which is one of the great messianic psalms.

B) **Psalm 45 tells us that there is One coming in the line of David who will rule in righteousness.**

1) David is so thrilled about this prospect that he says, ". . . *My tongue is the pen of a ready writer*" (Ps. 45:1).

C) What about us – Excited about Righteousness

Jesus is a righteous King! Right on! His motives, character, His actions - only right!

A) He only does that which is right – **YOUR LIFE** / He brings your way - what is right

B) Most of earthly kings - own affairs at forefront - expand their own kingdom - people's interest not first / broken campaign promises

C) This verse reveals both Jesus' actions and His motives. He not only acted in righteousness, **He loves righteousness. / Do we ?**

D) Because Jesus loves righteousness – He hates lawlessness!

1) So too If we love God's right standards, we will hate wrong standards.

B) **These two convictions are inseparable.** One cannot exist without the other. You cannot truthfully say, "*I love righteousness, but I also like sin.*"

1) When there is true love for God, there will be total love for righteousness and total hatred for sin.

A JOYFUL RULE –Psalm 45:7 Anointed with oil of Gladness

A) God the father says to God the Son "Because You've loved righteousness and hated iniquity," "**You are anointed with the oil of gladness above all others.**"

B) **Do you know that gladness is directly proportional to holiness?**

1) Happiness and holiness go hand in hand. That is why crowds flocked to Jesus.

2) Wasn't He the Man of Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3)? Yes

C) **His heart broke over the affects that sin had on humanity**

1) But there was also a gladness and joy about Him unlike that of any other human being in history.

Jesus was immensely attractive to the crowds because holiness and happiness are directly proportional.

A) Some people never get this - They think holiness is drudgery. They think if they're righteous they won't be happy,

B) that they'll just have to endure the pain of Christianity. Nothing is further from the truth.

C) To the extent you choose to be holy is the extent to which you will be happy.

1) Conversely, to the extent you compromise holiness is the extent to which you diminish happiness. It's that simple.

2) Guilt and condemnation follow.

Reign of Christ – Eternal / Righteous / Joyful

A) Not Oppressive / not some cosmic kill Joy / doesn't desire to make your life a bummer

C) Jesus wants to give ABUNDANT LIFE - Bless us

1) Worst day w/ Jesus is better than the Best day w/out Him !!

4th He is Superior in His Existence V.10-12 – 3 Reasons

1st Creator – Author laid foundations - heavens are His work! V.2 He made the worlds

V.3 Sustainer Upholds all things by the word of His power

2nd Finisher – End v.11-12 - They will perish He will remain unchanged – v.11 heavens = sky & atmosphere /

A.) The whole material universe is like some vast clock -slowly running down

B.) Our sun is burning out! Everything is going to dissolve –

1) He remains – New heaven – New earth! D) He is therefore superior to angels in title, in worship, in nature; in existence, and finally destiny!

5th Superior Destiny v.13,

A) No angel has ever been promised a place at God's right hand. Only the Son will sit here.

B) The destiny of Jesus Christ is that ultimately everything in the universe will be subject to Him.

“...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
(Philippians 2:10).

C) Jesus Christ, in God's plan, is destined to be the ruler of the universe and everything that inhabits it.

In this brief 14 verse chapter we see the glory and deity of Christ established by Divine names: He is called Son, Lord, and God!

A.)By **Divine Works**: He creates, sustains, governs, redeems, and purges sin

B.) By **Divine Worth**: He is to be worshipped by angels and all the other creatures in the universe

C.) By **Divine Attributes**: He is all knowing; all powerful; unchanging and eternal

1) In all these ways the superiority Christ is proclaimed

So the writer is saying to these Jewish believers – I know you value the Angels but Jesus is far better.

A)So what are we to do with this info – application for us living in NC SD 2011 ?

B)The first thing that this teaches us is that God wants the best for us!

The Best is wrapped up in a relationship with Jesus.

A)Not ritual not religion – Some of you are here today – ritual / religious experience.

B)If that is all this is to you – Insufficient – Your standing with God is not changed a bit because you were in Church – MEANS NOTHING.

1)What is sufficient is the blood of Jesus – covers sin

C)That is what is needed – relationship. –

If we have that relationship - We must ask ourselves – do we desire God’ best or are we quick to simple settle for that which is good

#2 He is greater than Satan – they are not on the same level – Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.

We are not fighting for victory but from a place of victory.

#3 God has not chosen Angels to share the message of redemption – he has chosen us. Should excite us

A)Our generation – Final – make it count.

#4 Angels can’t save me – Only Jesus can save us and set us free

Communion today – Embrace the cross - In doing so we are saying – You alone are Savior

Also saying: My victory is in You – walk this week in the reality of that victory – not giving into temptation.

Finally – Confess today: Elements – Jesus I want to partner with you in this work of redemption – Be your mouth piece and messenger.