

## Jesus' Superiority to Angels

Hebrews 1:4-14

In the sermon for today we will look at the comparison that Paul makes between the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the angels.

He does this by showing what God has said in the past about the Son regarding different aspects about Him as a person, about what He has been involved in and about His position.

We should not be surprised that Paul does this by quoting many times verses from the Old Testament, or, as he would say, from the Scriptures. In doing so he follows the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, who did this also. We see that in the passages on the following pages.

Luke 24:27

- And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

This verse is part of the story about the 2 disciples going from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the evening of the first day after the Lord was risen from the death.

Our Lord joined them, but in such a way that at first they did not recognize Him. And after some initial conversation and questions He started to explain from the Scriptures all the things that spoke about Him.

Later that night He also appeared to the apostles and to them He also explained the things written about Him in the Scriptures, as we see in the verse on the next sheet.

Luke 24:44

- **Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the Prophets* and *the Psalms* concerning Me.”**

And just as the Lord Jesus Christ explained all these things from the Old Testament Scriptures, so does Paul in this letter to the Hebrews.

For the passage we will look at today I also made an overview of the quotes from the books in the Old Testament. I will not show all those verses during the sermon today, but I will attach a complete list of them to my sermon notes that will be put on the website of CBF.

Now let's go to the Scriptures for today.

## Hebrews 1:1-4

- God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

As verse 4 is the last part of a sentence that started in verse 1 I decided to read the first three verses also. As Victor already spoke about them last week, I will not do that, but I found it necessary to read them as an introduction to verse 4.

Where verse 3 says that Christ did sit down at the right hand of God, we see already a quote from the Old Testament from Psalm 110:1.

In verse 4 we see that Christ has inherited a more excellent name than the angels, while at the same time He had done something that none of the angels could do: He had purged our sins. That's why we can only be saved in His name as Peter also proclaims in Acts chapter 2.

But let's go to the next verses.

Hebrews 1:5-6

- **For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?**
- **But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”**

In these 2 verses we find 5 quotes from the Old Testament Scriptures: Psalm 2:7, 2 Samuel 7:14, 1 Chronicles 17:13, Deuteronomy 32:43 (Septuagint) and Psalm 97:7.

In verse 5 Paul makes it clear that, what the Father said to the Son, He never said to any of the angels. To the contrary, in verse 6 the angels are being told to worship the Son.

In the next verses we see a similar comparison.

Hebrews 1:7-8

- **And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.”**
- **But to the Son *He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.***

Verse 8, together with verse 9 is a quote from Psalm 45:6-7.

While Gods’ faithful angels are being used as servants and ministers, the Son is recognized as being both God and King. And both these things He is for eternity, just as the angels also will fulfil their role for eternity.

Again, we see here the superiority of Christ above the angels.

In verse 9 on the next page we another reason why Christ is exalted above the angels.

Hebrews 1:9

**•You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”**

As we read through the Gospels, we see that Christ always had compassion on those who recognized the fact that they were sinners and who recognized their need for Him.

But we also see that He could be very harsh towards those who depended on their own righteousness and looked down on others that they considered to be sinners, people not to socialize with.

In these attitudes in Christ towards different groups of people we see already a clear picture of the grace of God and the judgement of God. And in this verse we see how the Father reacts to that.

But let's go to the next verses.

Hebrews 1:10-12

- **And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.**
- **They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;**
- **Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.”**

What we see in these 3 verses is actually a quote from Psalm 102:25-27.

Also, these verses point back towards what Paul already said in verse 2 of this chapter.

At the same time, they also point forward to what the apostle John writes in Revelation 20:11 and 21:1 about the new heavens and the new earth.

Let’s go to the last 2 verses from the Scripture for today.

Hebrews 1:13-14

- **But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?**
- **Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

Verse 13 is again a quote from Psalm 110:1.

What we see here repeated is the role of the angels in the Kingdom of God.

And that is still important for us today.

As far as that is concerned, we need to keep in mind what Paul says in Hebrews 13:2:

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.

The apostle John also was visited by an angel that God used to instruct him about the things he wrote down in the book of Revelation. Let's look at a couple of verses from Revelation.

Revelation 22:8-9

- **Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.**
- **Then he said to me, “See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”**

The angel makes it clear to John that he should not worship him. And if we cannot worship even angels being used by God to help us and instruct us, how much less should we worship and/or pray to dead people, no matter how much of an example they may have been to us. It is in this area that the Roman Catholic church is making a very serious error.

Let's continue by looking at some Scriptures from the New Testament regarding the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Matthew 17:5

- **While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**

This verse is from the section in which Matthew describes the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus Christ while being on the mountain with Peter, James and John.

In this verse we find the words that God the Father spoke at that time regarding the Son.

It is good to realize that many times in the Bible the word hear means far more than just the actual hearing of spoken words. Very often it also relates to understanding those words and to obedience to those words.

We can see that clearly from the first verse on the next sheet.

Romans 10:17; 12:2

- **So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**
- **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

When we look at Romans 10:17 it becomes clear that the word hearing does not just refer to physical hearing, it clearly refers to spiritual hearing, taking in the true meaning of the Word of God.

From Romans 12:2 we learn what should be the result of this true hearing. This is completely in line with the teaching of James, the brother of the Lord Jesus Christ, as He reminds us that we need to be doers of the Word and not just hearers.

But let's look at some more Scriptures.

John 3:16-18

- **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- **“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**
- **“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Many people will know the first of these 3 verses by heart.

But the next 2 verses are very important for grasping the true and full meaning of that well-known verse.

Verse 17 clearly describes the purpose for which God sent His Son into the world.

And verse 18 gives a very serious warning for those who refuse to accept this truth.

Let's also look at some words from the letter to the Romans

Romans 10:8-11

- **But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**
- **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- **For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”**

The creed of the early disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ was a very simple one: Jesus is Lord.

Whether we confess that or not doesn't make any difference for who and what He is. He indeed is Lord.

But whether we do confess that or not makes a big difference for us. As far as that is concerned you can compare the result of not confessing Jesus as Lord with what John 3:18 tells us.

For there is given us no other name by which we must be saved than the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Shall we pray?

**Verse 3:**

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

**Verse 5:**

Psalm 2:7

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.

2 Samuel 7:14

"I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

1 Chronicles 17:13

"I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* who was before you.

**Verse 6:**

Deuteronomy 32:43 (Septuagint)

Rejoice, ye heavens, with him, and let all the angels of God worship him, rejoice ye gentiles, with his people, and let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him; for he will avenge the blood of his sons, and he will render vengeance, and recompense justice to his enemies, and will reward them that hate him; and the Lord shall purge the land of his people.

Psalm 97:7

Worship Him, all *you* gods.

**Verse 7:**

Psalm 104:4

Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.

**Verses 8-9:**

Psalm 45:6-7

Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.

**Verses 10-12:**

Psalm 102:25-27

Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands.

They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed.

But You *are* the same, And Your years will have no end.

**Verse 13:**

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."