

"The Superiority of Jesus Christ over the Angels"

Hebrews 1:4-14

Part 4

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Hebrews we are again coming back to chapter 1:4-14. It is in these verses that the writer is explaining to the Hebrew Christians why it is that Jesus is so much better than the angels. Now we must remember that the Hebrews understood that the angels were the mediators of the Old Covenant therefore they were held in high esteem. The writer is using his words to help these believers move forward in their walk and to keep them from going back to the Old Covenant by showing them that the New Covenant is better because Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant. So in the section we are in the writer is explaining that Jesus is so much better than the angles who were the mediators of the Old Covenant.

In Hebrews 1:4-14 the writer gives several points to show us why Jesus is so much better than the angels.

- I. **He has a better name.**

Notice Hebrews 1:4-5

- II. **He receives the worship of angels.**

Notice Hebrews 1:6

- III. **His nature makes Him better than the angels.**

Notice Hebrews 1:7

The angels were created by Jesus Christ, they belong to Jesus and they are appointed by Jesus for specific ministries.

Notice Hebrews 1:8

Here is the contrast. God spoke of the angels in verse 7 as created beings. But when God the Father spoke of His Son He referred to Him as God. This is where we stopped last week and it was here that we considered the doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ.

Now as we continue to move through these verses I want to give you another outline under this point that will help us to grasp the Truth within the verses that will follow.

Hebrews 1:8-14 is all about the magnifying Jesus Christ. We will see in these verses 4 points of magnification.

I. The Glory of His Person

Notice Hebrews 1:8-9

Now we need to place these verses under the microscope in order to get some valuable details about the Person of Jesus Christ.

A. We can see His Sovereignty.

Notice Hebrews 1:8

His sovereignty is seen in the reference to His throne. In the Bible thrones speak of a position of power. The Throne which our Lord sits on is also the Throne of Power. He is all powerful and when we speak of His sovereignty we speak of the fact that He is in control of every situation that takes place in this world. Now I know that there are people who struggle with the thought that Jesus is in control of all

that takes place within our world. Those who struggle with this thought will often question why Jesus would allow certain things to happen such as suffering in this world. I will reply by reminding all of us that there are situations that we cannot understand and it is not for us to ask, "WHY", but instead we are to trust that God is working out His will. There are 2 thoughts that come into my mind when I think of the suffering and the heartache that is all throughout our world.

1. **The suffering is permitted in order to drive man to God.**

Genesis 3:17-19

*¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake;** in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

When God pronounced the curse He told Adam that it was for HIS SAKE. In other words man would not find contentment, comfort or satisfaction in this life because God would not permit it. This was not because God enjoyed seeing man suffer but because God had something much better. Therefore the sufferings of life are designed to drive us to the Lord.

2. **All suffering has come into the world because of sin.**

Before the entrance of sin into the world there was no suffering, pain, or heartache. Therefore it is all because of man's disobedience to God but it is still under the control of our Lord.

The suffering we see in our world today is all under the control of Jesus Christ. I need to also remind us that they are for the purpose of driving sinful man to God and at the same time they are part of the plan of God as this world moves toward the kingdom of the anti-christ.

B. We see His Dynasty.

Notice Hebrews 1:8

The dynasty of our Lord is seen in the statement that His Throne is forever and ever. Earthly thrones come and go. Nations rise and nations fall. Nothing of this world is forever but the Throne of Jesus Christ is forever and ever. We see this other Scriptures also.

Psalm 145:10-13

¹⁰ *All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee.*

¹¹ *They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;*

¹² *To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.*

¹³ **Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.**

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.* The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

We shall connect His **dynasty** with the next point for an application.

c. **We see His Integrity.**

Notice Hebrews 1:8 -9a

We see in this verse that Jesus Kingdom will last forever and ever and as the King He will rule in righteousness. The sceptre in the Bible speaks of authority and the sceptre here in Hebrews 1:8 speaks of Christ's authority. He will be the Authority in the Kingdom and because He is God He will rule in pure righteousness.

Application:

We live in a society today in which we are under leaders and rulers that are corrupt. People make all kinds of promises today when they are campaigning for certain positions. When they are elected they seem to forget their promises and the power entrusted to them brings corruption. The result is that many under their rule suffer and justice is often pushed aside to accommodate those who are a part of the circle of the individual elected.

That will not be the case in the Kingdom of our Lord. He will rule in pure righteousness.

Isaiah 65:17-23

¹⁷ *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

¹⁸ But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

¹⁹ And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

²⁰ There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹ And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

²² They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

D. We see His Anointing

Notice Hebrews 1:9

In the Old Testament when someone was placed into a spiritual leadership position they were anointed by other men. Moses anointed Aaron, Samuel anointed David and Elijah anointed Elisha. Each was anointed by another man for the ministry. But Jesus was anointed by God. There is no other higher anointing than to be anointed by God. But the verse gives us even more information.

He was anointed with the "oil of gladness". This anointing speaks of a triumph. This anointing therefore took place after His resurrection when He arose victorious over death and hell.

Notice Hebrews 1:9 again.

He was anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows or companions. This tells us that He accomplished that which no angel could ever accomplish for He has gained victory over death and the grave. This is why He is so much better than the angels.

All of this points to the glory of His Person.

II. The Glory of His Power

Notice Hebrews 1:10-12

We have already looked at the Truth that Jesus is the Creator of all things.

Colossians 1:14-17

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Notice Hebrews 1:10-12 again.

Everything thing that we own in this world and even this world itself will one day be gone. It will one day all pass away.

2 Peter 3:10-12

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall

melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹ *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

¹² *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

This is a Biblical description of global warming. Now there is a difference of opinion as to whether God will renovate this earth or destroy this earth and create a new earth. Let me show you some verses that speak of *the* new heaven and the new earth.

Isaiah 65:17

¹⁷ *For, behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth:** and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

Revelation 20:11

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face **the earth and the heaven fled away;** and there was found no place for them.*

Revelation 21:1

*And I saw a **new heaven and a new earth:** for the **first heaven and the first earth were passed away;** and there was no more sea.*

These verses seem to point to the complete destruction of this earth and the creation of a new earth. But let me show you another verse.

Notice Hebrews 1:12

Here we see that they will be folded up like a garment and they will be changed. The word "changed" here means "to change, to exchange one thing for another, to transform". Either way, whether destruction or renovation, nothing of this life is going to last.

But the end of verse 12 tells us that Jesus will stay the same. He never grows old nor does He ever change.

III. The Glory of His Position

Notice Hebrews 1:13-14

Jesus is seated at the RIGHT HAND (the position of power) of the Father. No angel has ever been given that position. They are all ministering spirits which means they are busy all the time and cannot sit down. Jesus sat down because His work was finished on the cross.

Conclusion:

There is so much more to be said here but time does not permit. But as we leave this section I remind you that Jesus is so much better than the angels and He is so much better than anything this old world has to offer. We are to use and to enjoy that which is in this world but we must hold everything with a loose grip for it will all one day be gone. Therefore we need to look to Jesus for the joy in life. There is more joy at His right hand than there is in all that this world has to offer.