



Lesson 8

Title: Christ is Superior to the Angels (Part 1)

Scripture: Hebrews 1:4-9

Not for Lazy Disciples (See Hebrews 6:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:15)

Jesus the Christ Is Superior Over the Angels

To Whom Is Hebrews Written

- To **saints** who are being *strongly* tempted to abandon their faith in Christ.
- To **us** for our **learning**. (Romans 15:4)

Who Is this Christ? (vv. 1-3)

The Superiority of Christ

- The Holy Spirit **moved** (2 Peter 1:21) the writer of Hebrews to show the saints the **superiority** of Christianity (Christ) to Judaism.
- We can also say that the Holy Spirit **moved** the writer of Hebrews to show **us** the superiority of Christianity (Christ) to **any** other religion or worldview.
- Christianity is the **only** worldview that is TRUE! **ALL** others are FALSE!
- Christianity **opposes** all other worldviews! We must **contend** for the faith delivered to **us**!
- The word **better** is used by the Holy Spirit throughout this letter.

The Holy Spirit and Hebrews

- The Holy Spirit uses **seven** OT passages to prove that Christ is superior to angels. (vv. 4-14)

- The superficial reading of these passages will lead one to believe that these passage **do not** pertain to Christ but to others. **BUT** we compare Scripture with Scripture. See John 5:39, 46; Luke 24:25, 27, 44.
- The way the Holy Spirit quotes these OT passages **will** surprise many of us!!!

Christ Superior to Angels (Hebrews 1:4)

- (v. 4) “having become” – NOT the verb “to make” nor “to create”!
- **BUT** was there ever a time with Christ WAS NOT better than angels??
 - Context is IMPORTANT!! Verse 4 is intimately connected to verse 3. Verse 3 reveals to us the Mediatorship of Jesus Christ – the exalted “man”. So, as exalted MAN (not God) Christ has “**become**” superior to angels. (See Hebrews 2:9)

A More Excellent Name (Hebrews 1:4-5a; Psalm 2:7)

- Jesus Christ is given the “title” or “name” – **SON**. “Son” is an incarnation (Christ coming in the flesh) title or name.
- The Sonship of the Second Person of the Trinity (Godhead) was anticipated in the Old Testament – see Prov 30:4; Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:12-14)
- Christ **inherited** this name because of His obedience and faithfulness. (Philippians 2:9-11)
- (v. 5) “You are My Son, **today** I have begotten You.” The Holy Spirit quotes Psalm 2. NOTE: “**TODAY**” signifies that this happens in time. (See Luke 2:11)
 - ★ **MEDITATE** on EVERY WORD of this PSALM!!
- **WARNING TO THOSE NOT BORN-AGAIN:** “Kiss the Son!” (See Psalm 2:11)

“I Will Be to Him a Father” (Hebrews 1:5b; 2 Samuel 7:14)

- **NOTE:** The writer of 2 Samuel 7:14 says, “**I will be . . .**” pointing into the future!
- This passage had an **immediate** fulfillment in Solomon (a picture of Christ as King of kings – see 1 Kings 10:23), but an **ultimate** fulfillment in Christ, **the King of kings** – see 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16.
- This verse teaches the **virgin birth!** Christ’s **humanity** was begotten by God the Father! (Luke 1:35)

The Firstborn - ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ *"prototokos"* (Hebrews 1:6; Psalm 97:7)

- This term has nothing to do with **TIME**. It is a **TITLE** of **dignity** and **honour**.
 - This is a **TITLE** that communicates '**CHIEF ONE**.' (See Genesis 49:3)
- In Exodus 4:22, God designates Israel as His "firstborn" because they are His special (peculiar: Deuteronomy 14:2) possession.
- In Psalm 89 (a Messianic Psalm) God makes the Messiah His "Firstborn" by setting up above all the kings of the earth – He "becomes" the King of kings.
- In Romans 8:29 Christ is designated as the "Firstborn upon the brethren" – the Chief among the "sons of God."
- In Colossians 1:15, Christ is designated 'Firstborn of every creature' (or more literally – "Firstborn over all creation" which certainly does not mean He was the first creature created because He is the Creator of ALL things – See John 1:3. This title affirms that He is **HEAD** and **LORD** over all creation.
- In Colossians 1:18, Christ is titled the 'Firstborn from the dead' – Jesus was not the first to rise from the dead.
- "Firstborn" signifies that which surpasses all others – i.e. "the firstborn of the poor" – Isaiah 14:30 – the most miserable of all; "the firstborn of death" – Job 18:13 – the most horrible death.
- The title of **FIRSTBORN** signifies that Christ is the most honored, most dignified, most powerful and highest One.
- **QUESTION FOR THE BORN-AGAIN:** Are you **LIVING** your life with Christ as "*the Firstborn*"? Is He and His Word "chief" in your life?
- (Psalm 97:7) "Let all the angels of God worship Him!" **ONLY GOD IS TO BE WORSHIP!** (See Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9)
 - See Exodus 34:14; Revelation 22:9; Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20.
 - To worship anyone or anything **but** GOD is sin. (Exodus 20:1-6)
 - The word for "gods" in Psalm 97:7 is *Elohiym* - and here denotes "heavenly hierarchies" - Colossians 1:16
 - **ALL** angels means **ELECT** and **FALLEN** angels.
- **ANGELS:** Angels are **HIGHER** than man. They are holy, and wiser and stronger than man!
 - **Man's weakness:** We must call on God's power to battle fallen angels!
- If those who are **HIGHER** than us are **commanded** to **worship** the Son then who are we **NOT** to adore, worship, and serve this Son! **NOT TO** is nothing less than pure arrogance and pride! **NOT TO** is the

grossest of sins!

- Christ is superior to angels because they are **commanded** to worship Him!
- The Holy Spirit quotes Psalm 97:7 (really 96:7 in the Greek OT).
- At His first coming the angels praised the "Sender" – here they are commanded to worship the "Sent One."
- **NOTE:** Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20 - worship belongs to God **alone!**

Who Makes His Angels . . ." (Hebrews 1:7; Psalm 104:4)

- Psalm 104 is a psalm of praise for Yahweh the Creator.
- "**Who** makes . . ." looks back to Hebrews 1:2 – "the Son" "who created **ALL** things!" (Consider Colossians 1:16)
- Angels are mere "spirits", He is God their Creator. They are "ministers" or "servants"; He is **HEAD** over every authority and ruler. (Colossians 2:10)
- **WIND vs SPIRIT:** the Hebrew word רִיחַ ruwach {roo'-akh} the same word for SPIRIT and WIND. The same is true for the Greek word Πνεῦμα pneuma {pnyoo'-mah}. See and consider John 3:8.
- WIND like spirits (or angels) is **INVISIBLE**, **POWERFUL**, **QUICK** (speed) and both are **SERVANTS** of **GOD** – fulfilling His word. (Psalm 148:8)
- "**ministers a flame of fire**" – here fire speaks of judgment. Angels are executioners of God's wrath. (Gen 19:13; Psalm 78:49 (angels of evil or angels of judgment); Matt 13:41, 42; 2 Thess 1:8)
- "**ministers a flame of fire**" – this, too, can speak of their brilliance. (See Matthew 28:3,4; Acts 12:7)

PSALM 45: The Returning King for His Bride!

- (v. 1) The inspired writer is **FULL** and **OVERFLOWING** with joy as he meditates on **HIS KING**.
- Before you can overflow you must **FIRST** be filled. (See Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23; John 7:38, 39)
- He meditates as he awaits for the coming of His King.
 - **BLESSED** are those who **ARE WATCHING**. (Luke 12:37)
 - We are to be **EAGERLY** watching. (Philippians 3:20)
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, Titus 2:13; John 14:2-3; 1 John 3:1-3

But to the Son . . . (Hebrews 1:8; Psalm 45:6)

- God, the Father, testifies to the Godhead (deity) of Christ!!!

- The angels are ministers (servants), Christ is the One who commissions and sends them!
- A scepter of RIGHTEOUSNESS. When Christ returns He will rule with and by RIGHTEOUSNESS – not just by POWER. (Consider Jeremiah 23:5)

Loved of RIGHTEOUSNESS (Hebrews 1:9; Psalm 45:7)

- The past tense needs to be observed. The Father is still addressing Jesus (His Son) in His humiliation while on earth. He ***loved*** righteousness (more than just doing what is right) and ***hated*** iniquity.
- RIGHTEOUSNESS: the revealed will of God. He WAS perfect. (Matt. 5:48)
- “I DELIGHT to do Thy will, O God.” (Psalm 40:8; also see Psalm 119:97)
- He ***hated*** iniquity. Righteousness and iniquity cannot co-exist.
- “Where there is a love for God there will be a hatred for sin.” (AWP)
- Christ does not change! He still HATES today. (See John 14:21; Rev. 2:15)

God, Thy God??? (Hebrews 1:9)

- “How could the same person (addressed as God in verse 8) be both supreme and subordinate? God is Christ’s (God-man) God in three ways:
 - ① Christ’s human nature was created and sustained by God.
 - ② God sent Christ to be the Mediator (John 3:34) and would be subject to God as the Sender.
 - ③ Christ was ordained to be the HEAD of a mystical body (the Church) and God entered into a covenant with Him.

Anointed with Oil (Hebrews 1:9; Psalm 45:7)

- Anointing with oil was used, initiated by God, to appoint kings. (See 1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 89:20)
- “above Thy fellows . . .” Remember Christ is the FIRSTBORN over all creation.
 - God anointed Him over all the angels – angels are rulers too (Col. 1:16) but Christ, in all things, has the pre-eminence (Col. 1:18)
- Christ is/was God’s “anointed one” - Hebrew: Messiah. (Psalm 2:2; Isaiah 61:1; John 1:41; Acts 10:38)