

Heb 1:5-14

5 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"?

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:
"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

7 And of the angels He says:
"Who makes His angels spirits
And His ministers a flame of fire."

8 But to the Son He says:
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."

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

10 And:
"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands."

11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;

12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail."

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:
"Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Jesus is so much better than any other being out there.

- He's better than Moses, better than the prophets,
- better than the angels and so on.

It is generally understood to be written to Hebrew Christians

- who had accepted Jesus as Messiah
- although Gentiles do benefit from the book.

Much of what we'll read is filled with OT references,

The author also assumes knowledge of Melchizedek, Moses and Abraham

- and of the law without having to explain them.

All of that combined is why most think the book is written to Hebrew believers

- and perhaps even Hebrew unbelievers.

The book is all about us having a Priest named Jesus

- who is the light of the world,
- the Savior for those who will believe.

There is only one name under the heavens by which we can be saved and that's Jesus.

Story of Acts 3, Lame man healed

Heb 1:4

4 having become so much better (superior) than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

What are angels? What are we told about angels?

In revelation 5 they're heard by the thousands.

In most cases they're invisible as was the case of Balaam in Num 22

There are also times when angels are visible and appear as men.

They're also seen shining in glorious light.

There are at least four specific functions of angels.

- First, they continually worship and praise God.

Rev 4:8

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"

Angels communicate God's message to man.

Dan 10:12-13

12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard;

and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

Rev 12:7-9

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out,

This angel appeared to Daniel after a 21 day delay

- and touched on the invisible world
- and it lifted the veil of invisibility
- that the enemy hides behind.

The angel made it clear to Daniel when he told him,

- “your words were heard
- and I have come in response to them.”

Ps 108:13

13 With God's help we will do mighty things,
for He will trample down our foes.

In 1st Samuel as David was preparing to fight Goliath David said:

1 Sam 17:47

47 And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

Daniel was in a spiritual battle, battling in prayer,

God who defeats our enemies.

Jude 9,

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Michael the archangel didn't try to fight that battle.

- He didn't act presumptuously.
- Instead of rebuking Satan directly, He said,
- “The Lord rebuke you!”

Nowhere in the bible does it say we are to rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus.

Angels minister to believers:

Ps 34:7

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

There is safety of abiding in the Presence of God.

Ps 91:1-2

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."

Ps 91:11-12

11 For He (God) shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Charles Spurgeon:

"Not one guardian angel, as some fondly dream, but all the angels are here alluded to.... They have received commission from their Lord and ours to watch carefully over all the interests of the faithful."

Have you ever stopped to think of the task angels have in ministering to us?

Are they having to work hard on our behalf?

Psalm 91, was quoted

- and twisted by Satan when tempting Jesus
- in the wilderness in Matt 4.

Angels will be God's agents in the final earthly judgements and Christ's second coming.

Matt 24:31

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1 Thess 4:16-17

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation tells us that angels will open seals,

- blow the trumpets, and pour out the bowls of wrath.

Angels will execute judgement against Satan and his servants (Rev 19-20).

Heb 1:4

4 having become so much better (superior) than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

A person's name back then held much greater significance than today.

A name represented a person's character and personhood.

"Jesus" means "Yahweh is Salvation or The Lord Saves."

So when the early Christians spoke the name of Jesus,

- they were aware He was the Christ,
- the Messiah and God's promise of salvation.

The name Jesus refers to a position or authority.

- See, Jesus is eternal,
- angels were created.

Jesus has a more excellent name than any angelic being.

"having become so much better than the angels,"

- means God came into the world,
- was born as a baby and went thru His life.

The resurrected Jesus is God and man. 1 Tim 2 says, there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

We will judge the angels one day.

1 Cor 6:2-3

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

Heb 1:5

5 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"?

This is a rhetorical question, of course the answer is "None!"

- God never told an angel, “you are my Son.”

Ps 2:7

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

In the NT this psalm is often applied messianically to Jesus, Acts 13:33 & Rom 1:4.

“You are my Son” is in the present tense and

- describes a continuing relationship.

Angels are sometimes called “sons of God”

- but not “Son of God!”

Verse 5 shows that Jesus was not just another angel or a messenger.

- He’s the divine, royal Son
- and is worthy of worship.

Heb 1:6

6 But when He again brings the firstborn (this isn’t referring to the firstborn in time but meaning He will never die) into the world, He says:

"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

- The bible never says to worship angels.

In fact, Col 2:18 makes it clear that we are not to worship angels.

In Rev 19:10 John fell at his feet to worship an angel bringing the scroll

- and the angel told him, “Do not do it!”

Anything we worship other than God is a form of idolatry.

Rev 22:8-9

8 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.

9 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."

After Jesus healed a blind man, he asked if he believes in the Son of God

John 9:36-38

36 And (the blind man) He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37 And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." 38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

Jesus accepted the worship.

Heb 1:7 (quote from Psa 104:4)

7 And of the angels He says:

"Who makes His angels spirits
And His ministers a flame of fire."

NLT

Heb 1:7

7 Regarding the angels, he says,

"He sends his angels like the winds,
his servants like flames of fire."

The author of Hebrews is using Psa 104:4 to describe the servant nature of angels.

We'll see in the next couple of verses of Hebrews a quote from Psalm 45

- showing that the Son (Jesus) is called God
- and has an eternal throne - clearly placing Him above the angels.

Heb 1:8

8 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 9 describes the nature and character of Jesus.

Heb 1:9

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Jesus loves righteousness and hates lawlessness.

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You (this is God saying God to another entity, Jesus, I'm anointing You!)

To be anointed refers to being chosen, empowered and honored for a royal or priestly role.

The OT foretold that God would send an anointed King and Savior.

Ps 2:2

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, (Jesus)

Isa 61:1

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Jesus read this verse in the Synagogue in Luke 4. He went on to say, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Heb 9:b

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." (That's the relationship
between God and His companions, us)

Heb 1:10

10 And:

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Here the author is taking from Psa 102 25-27.

Ps 102:25-27

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

26 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.

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

The author is continuing his argument in Hebrews

- and making a theological point
- that Jesus is not only exalted above the angels,
- but He is the eternal creator
- whereas angels were created

Heb 1:11

11 They will perish (heavens and the earth), but You remain; (continue to exist)

And they will all grow old like a garment; (quoted from Isaiah 50:9, Isa 51:6)

12 Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail."

The idea here is that the heavens and the earth is growing old like a garment and will wear out.

The picture painted here is of clothing.

Jesus is eternal and will never change.

2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Heb 1:13

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:
"Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?

This is a quotation from Psalm 110:1, a Messianic psalm

- that was understood in Jewish tradition
- to refer to the coming Messiah.

Verse 13 speaks of the Messiah seated at the right hand of God

- a position of authority and exalted by God.
- This is a rhetorical question
- because God never told an angel
- to sit at His right hand,
- again showing that Jesus
- has a unique status far above the angels.

1 Cor 15:24-25, Rev 19:11-16, Phil 2:-11, and Rom 16:20 speak of Jesus being victorious over His enemies.

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

The purpose of ministering spirits is to serve others.

- They don't rule over others,
- nor are they worshipped by others.

In summary of chapter 1, God has spoken and speaks thru His Son and in times past thru prophets.

Jesus is heir of all things and created all things and is seated at God's right hand and is superior to angels.

And finally, angels are ministering spirits sent to serve believers in Christ and not to rule or reign.