



3: Jesus is Better Than Angels

Many people are fascinated by mysterious and powerful creatures called “angels”. The same was true of 1st century Jews, which is why the author of Hebrews quotes 7 Old Testament passages to prove that **Jesus is Better Than Angels**.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

CATCH THE CONTEXT

Hebrews 1:1-3 (CSB) Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Jesus is Better than all the Temple rituals, priests, sacrifices, prophets, and kings. God not only spoke through prophets in the past, **He also spoke through ANGELS**. And Jesus is better than them too!

Many people have a fascination with angels, yet misunderstand them.

- X No one goes to heaven because they lived a good life. Jesus came to die for people who have sinned.
- X No one who goes to heaven as an angel. It's better than that! Those who trust Jesus will be transformed into humans who never die, have no more sin nature, and see Jesus face to face! In fact, followers of Jesus will one day JUDGE angels (1 Cor 6:3).
- X Angels are not man-made myths (nor naked babies).

Factbook: Angels

- “Angel” comes from the Hebrew *malak* and Greek *angelos*, = “messenger”.
- Angels are mentioned over 100 times in the OT and more than 160 times in NT.¹
- **Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) about angels:**
 - As visible messengers, angels often appeared as human men (Gen 18:2; 19:1, 2; Jos 5:13-14).
 - Sometimes angels were invisible protectors of God's people, and prosecutors who fight on their behalf (Ex 14:19; 23:23; 2 Kings 6:17; 19:35; Ps 34:7). Angels even punished God's disobedient people (2 Sam 24:15-17).
 - Angels are powerful creatures who serve/worship God in heaven (Is 6:2-3) and carry out His purposes on earth.
 - Many Jews believed the Old Covenant was brought to them by angelic messengers.²
- In **New Testament Scriptures** angels are probably best known as **MESSENGERS** who brought news of Jesus' birth to Joseph (Mt 1:20), Mary (Lk 1:16-38), and the shepherds (Lk 2:10-15).



¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*, vol. 1, *Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993), 34.

² Acts 7:53 - the Law was “delivered by angels” (ESV); “given through angels” (NIV)

Angels are powerful, heavenly MESSENGERS of God. But...**Jesus is BETTER than all the angels.** The author of Hebrews quotes 7 Old Testament passages to prove this (Ps 2:7; 2 Sam 7:14; Deut 32:43; Ps 104:4; 45:6-7; 102:25-27; 110:1).³

1 and 2 of 7 Old Covenant Quotes

Hebrews 1:4-5 So He became **superior to the angels**, just as the name He inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did he ever say, *You are my Son; today I have become your Father* [from Psalm 2:7], or again, *I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?* [from 2 Samuel 7:14]

What is **this name He inherited** that is **more excellent than theirs?** It's the name/title "**Son**".

• **Psalms 2:7:** "*You are my Son; today I have become Your Father*"; applied to David, but ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

2 Samuel 7:12-14a When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **I will be his father, and he will be my son.**

First applied to Solomon (who built God's temple) this promise was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, of whom God would **establish the throne of His kingdom forever**. This is confirmed when an angel speaks to Mary about the upcoming birth of Jesus.

Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and **His kingdom will have no end.**"

③ **What's the answer to the question:** "For to which of the angels did he ever say, *You are my Son; today I have become your Father*, or again, *I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?*" **ANSWER:** _____

3 of 7 Old Covenant Quotes

Hebrews 1:6 Again, when He brings **his Firstborn** into the world, he says, ***And let all God's angels worship him.*** [from Deut 32:43]⁴

FIRSTBORN

✗ Calling Jesus the "**firstborn**" does not mean "first created" (as Jehovah's Witnesses wrongly claim).

✓ **Firstborn** does not always refer to the one BORN FIRST, but to one who is IN AUTHORITY OVER OTHERS in the family. (God called King David his "firstborn" despite the fact that David was not the firstborn son of Jesse.)

Psalms 89:27 I will also make him my **firstborn**, greatest of the kings of the earth.

Chronologically, David was the LAST BORN (1 Sam 16:3-13). Clearly, **firstborn** isn't referring to birth order but to supremacy over all others - the One to whom all others must submit to.

FIRSTBORN = Large and In Charge!

LET ALL GOD'S ANGELS WORSHIP HIM

* This quote comes from "the song of Moses" in Deut. 32:43, as found in the book of Odes, the first "hymnal supplement" in Church history, where the phrase "sons of God" has been changed to "angels of God".⁵

The only one worthy of worship in Scripture is GOD. Yet God tells the **angels to worship the Son**. Before coming to earth as a humble human, Jesus had the same glory as God the Father. Jesus prayed this just before His crucifixion.

John 17:4-5 I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, **glorify me** in Your presence **with that glory I had with You before the world existed.**

Jesus is worthy of worship in the writing we call Revelation.

Revelation 5:11-14 Then I looked and heard the voice of **many angels around the throne**, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. They said with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb** who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing! I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the One seated on the throne, and **to the Lamb**, forever and ever! The four living creatures said, "Amen," and **the elders fell down and worshiped.**

³ David L. Allen, Hebrews, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2010), 161.

⁴ This phrase "And let all God's angels worship him." Is not found in the Hebrew text, but in the LXX (Septuagint - Greek translation) of Deut. 32:43.

⁵ David A. deSilva, Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews" (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 98.

4 & 5 of 7 Old Covenant Quotes

Hebrews 1:7-9 And about the angels he says: *He makes His angels winds, and His servants a fiery flame* [from Ps 104:4], but to the Son: **Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; this is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.** [from Ps 45:6-7]

While the angels are God's powerful servants and messengers, **the Son** is the **anointed** king, who sits on the **throne forever and ever**, at the right hand of the Father, wielding **the scepter** of authority over every created being, including angels.

- Fallen angels (aka demons) recognize the authority of Jesus. Jesus was in the synagogue in Capernaum when I demon possessed man approaches and says:

Luke 4:34 "Leave us alone! What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus cast out many demons. Here's another example, a wild man who lived among the tombs and ran around naked, able to snap the chains and shackles that were put on him.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, **Son of the Most High God?** I beg you, don't torment me!"

Luke 8:30-31 "What is your name?" Jesus asked him. "Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss.

*What are these demons afraid of? **The Son of God**, the One who created them, the One who they used to worship and whom righteous angels still worship; the One who had the authority to cast them to hell forever!*

- **Angels are God's messengers, but Jesus is Better, because Jesus is God's Messiah.**
- **The angels are God's servants, but Jesus is Better, because Jesus is God's Son.**

6 of 7 Old Covenant Quotes

Hebrews 1:10-12 And: *In the beginning, Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain. They will all wear out like clothing; You will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed like clothing. But You are the same, and Your years will never end.*

[from Psalm 102:25-27]

This Psalm is written about God, yet the writer of Hebrews applies it to Jesus!

The earth and heavens will perish? It is estimated that our sun will run out of fuel in 5 billion years.⁶ Did ancient Astronomers know this? Doubtful. Yet the writer of Hebrews knew this would occur.

The author compares the universe **perishing** and Jesus **remaining** to a person outlasting their worn-out clothing that they **roll up** and throw away. The earth and heavens Jesus made will wear out, but Jesus the Creator is eternal: "Your years never end."

7 of 7 Old Covenant Quotes

Hebrews 1:13-14 Now to which of the angels has He ever said: **Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies your footstool?** Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?

[from Psalm 110:1]

- The **answer to the 2nd question**, "aren't angels sent by God by serving His people?" - is **YES**.
- **Jesus is Better than Angels.** Angels are messengers who serve, but Jesus is the Messiah who serves, saves & rules!
- The **answer to the 1st question**, to which angels has God said "**sit at My right hand until I make your enemies your footstool**" is: **NONE**. This quote from Psalms 110:1, is one of the favorite Psalms of the early church who recognized its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Further, Jesus quoted it about Himself (Matt 22:42-45).

Using an enemy as a **footstool** is ancient imagery for defeating an enemy. The conquering king would place his foot on the neck of the defeated leaders as a footstool. (Joshua commanded his leaders do this to the kings who fought against the Hebrew people - Joshua 10:24).

✓ This is what God will do to the enemies of Jesus.



⁶ <https://www.space.com/14732-sun-burns-star-death.html>

Paul puts it this way:

Philippians 2:7b-9 And when He had come as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and **gave Him the name that is above every name**, so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow** - in heaven and on earth and under the earth - and **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

② **Will we CHOOSE to bow or will we be forced to?** What if *THAT DAY* were *TO-DAY*...are you confident that Jesus is LORD over your life?

② **Who is Jesus...to YOU?** A good man, a great prophet or teacher, a miracle worker...OR...is Jesus BETTER?

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).