

Hebrews 1:4-14

Happy veterans day

Once again good morning and thank you for joining us! Would you please turn in your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 1?

Last week we did an introduction, a background for this book. Then we only covered 3 verses you'll recall as we saw 7 reasons in the first 3 verses why Jesus is greater than the OC.

This morning, we're going to dive into a fascinating topic that has captured the imagination of people for thousands of years. It's the topic of angels.

We're gonna study verses 4-14 as we finish chapter 1, and the title of this mornings message is All about Angels
Let's pray

Today in America, our attitude towards angels is almost a mocking attitude. **SHOW PIC** You mention the word angels and people only think of those chubby little babies **CLOSE PIC**
But that's not anywhere in the scriptures.

And that's really not a surprise because we as a nation don't even believe in creation. Lot's of folks can't define what a gender is, or even what marriage is supposed to be. So no wonder folks struggle not only believing but understanding the spiritual realm.

Skepticism and lack of understanding regarding the spiritual realm is nothing new. In the days of Jesus' ministry the Sadducees didn't believe in resurrection. They didn't believe in angels. They didn't believe in spirits.

And even the Sadducees had to wrestle with their lack of belief about angels because they believed in the Torah. And it tells us **In Deuteronomy 33:2 And he said:**

**"The LORD came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came with ten thousands of saints;
From His right hand
Came a fiery law for them.**

It tells us that when the law was given, there were a multitude of angels involved in the process.

From cover to cover the Bible is absolutely clear as it lays bare for us the reality of a spiritual realm, a realm we cannot see or hear. And in this realm there are innumerable angels.

There are 105 references to angels in the Old Testament, and there are 165 references to angels in the New Testament. This is no small subject in scripture.

In fact, if you want to do yourself a favor, grab Billy Graham's book. It's just called Angels. David Jeremiah has done a great book on angels if you wanna go more in-depth.

The bible speaks volumes about the spiritual realm, and the very spiritual warfare that's going on around us.

It's fascinating to ponder, how many angels are present when we gather here on a day like today? What does it look like to them when the redeemed are gathered? 1 Peter tells us there's things the angels desire to look into. Angels are flabbergasted at the thought of God dying for His creation!

Now we know that Jesus says in **Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."**

It's hard for us to grasp that isn't it? Jesus is in our midst. But there must also be angels attending everywhere.

Psalm 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

Think of the hidden ministry that goes on in our lives, in the spiritual realm as the angels watch over us. As they watch the way we live in our joy, in our sorrows and our failings and in our victories.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 18 10 "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."**

As you study the life of Jesus, you see that angels played a role throughout His earthly life.

We're getting close to Christmas, you know the scene. **Luke 1 26**
Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"[fn]
29 But when she saw him,[fn] she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

You remember the angels with the shepherds, **Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest,**
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"[fn]

But we also see angels with Jesus when he's tempted in the wilderness. It says after Satan left, the angels came. **Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.**

We watch Jesus in Gethsemane, an angel comes and minister. Luke 22 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Yet when Jesus goes to the cross, there's no angels, because He has to bear that alone. There's no assistance from heaven as the sin of the world is placed upon Jesus.

But then in the resurrection, the angels are there again at the tomb. And when 40 days later Jesus ascended to heaven, we're told the angels said this as the disciples are staring into the sky Acts 1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

I love that. The angels are like uh, guys, what are you doing? Quit standing around, you got work to do, get to it!

Now there's an untold number of angels, yet the Bible only gives names to 2 of them. Michael is the Archangel. He's the head of all angels. Jude 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!"

Fittingly, Michael's name means who is like the Lord.

There's an often overlooked role that Michael the archangel plays, and that's during the rapture of the church. 1 Thess 4:17 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.

The other named angel is Gabriel.

Gabriel is not an Archangel, but throughout the scripture he appears on the scene making announcements. He speaks to Daniel, to JTB dad Zacharias, and to Mary each time making an announcement.

We also see in the bible there are different types of angels. The cherubim have four faces and wings. We see them around the throne of God.

It was cherubim that was placed at the Garden of Eden to guard the way to the Tree of Life with a flaming sword. We see the cherubim on the veil in the temple and standing over the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant.

Then there's Seraphim that we encounter in Isaiah chapter 6. They are over the throne of God and seem specifically involved in praise.

And yet one of the Seraphim will come with a pair of tongs and take a coal from the altar. Seraphim, which means burning one, think how superior the altar of God is if a burning one has to use tongs to take a coal from the altar of God to put it on the tongue of Isaiah.

As we read of Angels in the scripture, we see that they are incredibly powerful.

Elisha when he is a Dothan and as he's sleeping, the Syrian Army comes and surrounds the city. So Elisha's servant is waking him up, panicking.

In 2 Kings 6 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Of course angels aren't afraid to get their hands dirty... you bible students remember the account of chapter 19

2 Kings 19:35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel^[fn] of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

We see the Angel of Death come into Egypt, a single Angel, and all the first born in egypt die that evening.

Of course when you get to the book of Revelation you'll see the angels of God involved in judgment.

But the primary purpose of angels is told to us in v14-they are ministering spirits. Elijah is strengthened by an angel.

We see Jesus strengthened in Gethsemane.

We see Paul near the end of Acts say an Angel stood by me this night and he strengthened me.

So you wonder how many times you and I have been somewhere, and unbeknownst to us, an angel is guarding us, or strengthening us, has allowed us to go another mile to go another day.

How many times did somebody have ill will that never came to fruition because of angelic intercession around us on behalf of Christ?

Fascinating to think about

And because there's so much about angels that we don't know, there are folks who get really drawn to that. They begin to investigate, and pour their time into angelology. Yet we're about to see the writer of Hebrews say no no no. Yes angels are incredible, but there's one who is greater than all the angels.

Let's read v1-3, then we'll jump into v4

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 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; 3 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,

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

mentioned last week if we'll find the word better 12 times in Hebrews. It tells us we have a better priesthood, a better sacrifice, a better altar. Here in v4 the author of Hebrews proves why Jesus is better than the angels.

So what the author of Hebrews does now is, because angels played such a key role in the Jewish faith, so he goes through 7 Old Testament passages that every Hebrew would have been familiar with. These 7 OT quotes are in regards to the Messiah to prove Jesus' superiority.

1st we see that Jesus is superior to the angels because He is the Son of God, as shown in Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You”?[fn] Pause here. The author of Hebrews proved that Jesus is superior to any angelic being because God the Father says things to God the Son that are never said to angels.

Psalm 2:7 shows that God the Father called Jesus, “Son” — the more excellent name mentioned in v4. This shows that Jesus is greater than the angels, because no angel was ever given the name of Son.

God the Father also spoke to God the Son and described Him as begotten. It means that the Father and the Son share the same being.

...5 And again:

“I will be to Him a Father,
And He shall be to Me a Son”?[fn] This quote from 2 Samuel 7:14 is another instance of something that God the Father said to God the Son that He never said to any angel.

This statement is a good example of an Old Testament prophecy that had two fulfillments in mind. The promise of 2 Samuel 7:14 was fulfilled in David’s son Solomon. In a more perfect sense, it’s fulfilled in the Son of David, Jesus Christ.

In v6-7 Jesus is superior to the angels **because angels worship and serve Jesus**, as shown in Deuteronomy 32:43 and Psalm 104:4.

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”[fn] The word firstborn doesn’t only mean the one literally born first. Firstborn was a title, not a description of origin

Firstborn describes someone who was of the highest position and honor.

See v6 shows that Jesus is superior because Jesus is the one who angels are worshipping. Revelation 5 gives a glimpse of the angelic worship of Jesus. **Rev 5 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:**

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”**

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

**“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”^[fn]**

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four^[fn] elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.^[fn]

7 And of the angels He says:

**“Who makes His angels spirits
And His ministers a flame of fire.”^[fn]** Psalm 104:4 demonstrates that Jesus the Messiah is Lord over the angels. The angels belong to Jesus, and He is not among them.

8 But to the Son He says: Again, the emphasis is that God the Father says things to God the Son that are never said to angelic beings.

...8 “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; Psalm 45:6-7 plainly says that God the Father calls Jesus God. This is powerful evidence of the deity of Jesus.

...8 A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. Angels are called to minister, but Jesus exercises royal power. There’s a vast difference between the two.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”^[fn] God has elevated His Son Jesus above all others in two ways:

1st Jesus is greater than any human messengers because only Jesus is the Anointed One. No prophet, priest, or king could claim the authority that Jesus has.

Secondly Jesus is set above angels because Christ is superior to any other spiritual being.

You recall in the OT the Jews would anoint their kings and their priests with oil. God expressed complete joy in anointing the perfect King and Priest.

10 And:

“You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands. Psalm 102:25-27
shows that the Jesus is not only called God, but also LORD
(Yahweh). The Son is described with attributes and terms that
belong only to God.

And of course we studied last week how creation came through
Jesus. Angels didn't play a part in creation.
11-12

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.”[fn] Jesus is greater because Jesus
never changes! Isn't that so comforting in this maddening world of
AI and crazy inflation, Jesus never changes.

Now in v 13-14 it demonstrates that Jesus is superior to the
angels because He sat down, having completed His work, while
the angels work on continually.

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:

“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?[fn] Now for the seventh
time in this chapter, the writer to the Hebrews quotes the Hebrew
Scriptures. He quoted Psalm 110:1 to show again that God the

Father said things to Jesus the Messiah never said to angelic beings.

Anyone who sits in the divine presence shows that they have the perfect right to be there, because sitting next to God indicates equality.

There are no seats for the angels around the throne of God, because they are constantly busy praising God and serving Him. The angels stand before the Father, but the Son sits down — because He isn't a subject, He is the Sovereign.

This chapter closes with a reminder about angels...

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Notice, the angels' purpose is to serve; Christ's purpose is to reign.

Angels are higher than people in creation's hierarchy being created first and with higher function. But God has reversed the order and instructed the angels to serve His people.

There are those who will knock on your door and say that Jesus Christ is not ultimately superior to the angels, but that He is one of the angels....

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus is the brother of the archangel Michael. But it's absolute heresy-not because we're splitting doctrinal hairs, but because if, like angels, Jesus Christ

was created by the Father, it greatly cheapens the sacrifice God made on the Cross of Calvary.

If Jesus is not God, then God merely sent an angel to die on the Cross and take the sin of humanity.

That's not what happened. Paul would say great is the mystery of godliness that God was manifested in the flesh **1 Timothy 3:16**
And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

**God[fn] was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.**

God Himself bore our sin. God Himself died on the Cross.