

The Book of Hebrews
Jesus Is Superior to The Angels!
Hebrews 1:4-14 (page 838)

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W h a t do we know about angels?

W h y was the author addressing this issue?

The Jews believed that:

- angels were the h i g h e s t beings next to God
- angels were the m e d i a t o r s of the Covenant with them
(Deut 33:2-4; Acts 7:51-53; Gal 3:19)

Jesus is g r e a t e r than angels because:

- of His t i t l e / n a m e (v 1:5; Psalm 2:7; 2 Sam 7:14; 1 Chr 17:13; Rom 1:4; Acts 13:32-33)
 - He is THE S o n (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; John 1:12)
- He is w o r s h i p p e d (v 1:6; Psalm 97:7; Deut 32:43)
 - First born = *protokos* ... c h i e f one, p r e e m i n e n t one (Col 1:15, 18)
 - Not a temporal or c h r o n o l o g i c a l word, but an a u t h o r i t y word
 - Not a reference to His b i r t h, but to His s o v e r e i g n t y

(continued on inside)

- of His superior nature (vs 1:7-9; Psalm 104:4; 45:6-8)
 - Since Christ created the angels, He is greater than they are
 - The angels are His servants (v 7; Psalm 104:4)
 - The Father affirms the deity of the Son (vs 8-9; Psalm 45:6-7)
 - The Son is eternal and has an eternal throne (v 8-9)
 - His superiority to the angels is permanent, not subject to change

- of His superior existence (vs 1:10-12; Psalm 102:25-27)
 - He is greater because He exists eternally (v 10; Psalm 102:25)
 - He is the One who will bring the universe to its consummation (vs 1:11-12; 1 Cor 15:24-28; 2 Peter 3:5-7; Rev 21:5)
 - All of created order will change but the Son remains unchanged (vs 1:11-12; 13:8; Psalm 102:26-27)

- of His superior destiny (vs 1:13-14; Psalm 110:1)
 - Ultimately, everything in the universe will be subject to Jesus Christ as the Ruler of all (v 13)
 - The angels are agents and servants of God, but not rulers (Rev 19:10)
 - Jesus' destiny is to reign over all, the angels' destiny is to serve those who will inherit salvation - believers (v 14)

So verses 4-14 documents the superiority of Jesus over the angels because:

- His name is *greater than theirs* - He is THE Son of God (v 5)
- His dignity is *greater than theirs* - He is worthy of worship (v 6)
- His status is *greater than theirs* - He is eternal and unchanging (vs 7-12)
- His function is *greater than theirs* - He will reign over all at God's right hand (vs 13-14)

Jesus' superiority to the angels rests on the fact that He is God!