

Looking to Jesus



A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Looking to Jesus

“The Ministry of Angels”

Hebrews 1:5-14 shows Christ as superior to the angels in 3 distinct comparisons:

I. Son vs Servants

Verses 5-6

II. Eternal vs Ephemeral

Verses 7-12

III. Majesty vs Ministry

Verses 13-14

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For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:5-14)

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Angels in Scripture

The Bible presents 5 types of angels throughout its pages:

1. **Angel/of the Lord:** a messenger
2. **Cherubim:** angels of protection: covered God's throne and protected the garden of Eden, also used in decoration for the ark and the temple, seen by Ezekiel in several visions. Satan was a cherub (Ezekiel 28:11-19)
3. **Seraphim:** fiery, 6-winged angels of God (Isaiah 6:1-7)
4. **Archangel:** Only Michael named (Daniel 10:13, 12:1, Jude 1:9). Will be present at the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
5. **Captain of Host:** the leader of the angelic forces (Joshua 5:13-15)

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Angels in the Old Testament

Angels have been referenced in the Bible since the book of Genesis. Every time an angel is seen in scripture, they are carrying out tasks assigned by God:

- **Genesis 19** **Protected Lot's family and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah**
- **Exodus 14, 23, 32** **Guided the Children of Israel to the promised land**
- **Numbers 22** **Rebuked Balaam and instructed him not to curse Israel**
- **1 Kings 19:1-8** **Ministered to Elijah in the desert**
- **Psalm 34:7** **Surrounds and protects God's children**
- **Daniel 6:22** **Rescued Daniel in the den of lions**

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Angels in the New Testament

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- **Luke 1** **Prepared several people for the birth of John the Baptist and Christ**
- **Matthew 4:11** **Ministered to Jesus after the temptation in the wilderness**
- **Matthew 18:10** **Watch over children in their innocence**
- **Luke 15:10** **Rejoice when a sinner repents**
- **Luke 22:43** **Ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane**
- **Acts 5, 12,** **Delivered the apostles from prison**
- **Revelation** **Carryout God's judgement and redemption of the world**

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The “Angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament

Unlike angels, “The Angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament was the preincarnate Christ:

- **Genesis 22:11-19** Appeared to Abraham and confirmed the promise of his seed
- **Exodus 3** Appeared to Moses in the bush; commissioned him to deliver Israel
- **Joshua 5:13-15** Appeared to Joshua and gave instructions for defeating Jericho
- **Judges 6:11-27** Performed miracles and Gideon was afraid he was going to die because he had seen the face of the Lord
- **Zechariah 3:2** Defended the High Priest Joshua from Satan

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Christ Compared to the Angels

Son vs Servant

“For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” (Hebrews 1:5-6)

Verse 5 is quoted from Psalm 2:7. It describes God’s anointing of His chosen. Many ancient kings upon coronation would declare that the god of their nation had adopted them as a son.

Verse 6 is from Psalm 97:7. The KJV renders it “worship him, all ye gods”. The word for gods is *elohyim*, which is used for God Almighty; but also for judges and angels.

The writer’s argument is from the aspect of silence, as no scripture refers to a single angel as God’s son; they are collectively called “sons of God” in various texts (Gen 6:2, Job 1:6, 38:7)

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Christ Compared to the Angels

Eternal vs. Ephemeral

“Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” (Hebrews 1:7-12)

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Christ Compared to the Angels

Eternal vs. Ephemeral

Verse 7 is a quote from Psalm 104:4, describing God's use of the elements to do His will.

Verses 8 and 9 reference Psalm 45:6-7. It is used to contrast the temporal nature of the wind and fire used to describe the angels, by showing the eternality of Christ's throne and power

Verses 10 through 12 are taken from Psalm 102:25-28. These verses show Jesus' superiority by comparing the finiteness of creation to the infiniteness of the Creator. Although heaven and earth will eventually pass away, Jesus as God the Son, exists forever.

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Christ Compared to the Angels

Majesty vs. Ministry

“And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Verse 13 looks back to Psalm 110:1. This Psalm is the most frequently quoted Old Testament scripture in the New Testament. It is likely because Psalm 110 is a clear prophecy by David concerning the Messiah. Jesus himself quotes from this Psalm (Matthew 22:43-45).

Verse 14 shows us that the angels did not provide salvation; rather, they provide service to those whom the Son has made heirs of salvation.

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Summary

While angels have important responsibilities in God's kingdom, they are not to be compared to Christ in position, purpose, or power. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, making Him solely worthy of our worship, obedience, and service.

HIS NAME ALONE IS EXCELLENT!!

Psalms 8:1 "O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens."

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