

Knowing and Growing in Christ  
Hebrews 1:4-14 (Week 03) 01/28/2024  
Christ's Superiority to Angels

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup> 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"?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom."

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

<sup>10</sup> And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> 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"?

<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews (1:1-14)

### Introduction & Review

- Thanks, **Christina** for reading the **entire first Chapter of Hebrews**.
- Even though we've already looked at **the first three verses**,
- I wanted us to see the main theme of this Chapter (and really the entire Letter to the Hebrews) ...
- And that Theme is? **The Superiority of Christ**.
- Two weeks ago, in **verses 1 & 2**, we saw **Christ's** superiority to the **Prophets**.
- God spoke first **through the prophets** and then **in these last days** he spoke through **His Son**.
- And the main point is that **Christ is superior to the prophets** because his message not only fulfilled **theirs**, but it was **God's final comprehensive, complete, conclusive revelation**.

- And then last week we saw the **Sevenfold Superiority of Christ**
- **Christ is Superior** (Above, Over, Greater than All) **Because...**
- He is the heir of all things; **everything belongs to Him.**
- He is the **creator** and **sustainer** of all things; without Christ nothing would exist.
- He is the **radiance of God's glory** and the **exact imprint of his nature**, Christ is **Divine.**
- He **purifies sin**, **He is the one and only Savior.**
- and He is **the Perfect High Priest** and **Greatest King.**
- So that summarizes **the Superiority of Christ** we saw in the **first 3 verses of Hebrews.**
- Now today, we'll be covering a whopping **11 verses, verse 4-14.**
- **Because these verses focus on the same basic concept.**
- The **author of Hebrews** is not finished proclaiming **Christ's Superiority.**
- Even though he did a **fantabulous** job in the first **three verses.**
- He continues in **verses 4-14,**
- making a **special effort** to show that **Christ is Superior to Angels,**
- and we'll talk about why he does this shortly.
- **But first**, if we're going to follow his comparison of Christ to Angles,
- We must have an...

### Understanding Angels

- And this is not always easy, because **historically** we've been given a lot of **misinformation.**
- **For example**, in the preface to his book **The Screwtape Letters**, **C. S. Lewis** points out the **progressively distorted** picture of **angels** in **religious art.** He writes...

***Fra Angelico's angels carry in their face and gesture the peace and authority of Heaven.***

***Later come the chubby infantile nudes of Raphael;***

***finally the soft, slim, girlish, and consolatory angels of nineteenth century art, shapes so feminine that they avoid being voluptuous only by their total insipidity. . . . They are a pernicious symbol.***

***In Scripture the visitation of an angel is always alarming; it has to begin by saying "Fear not." The Victorian angel looks as if it were going to say, "There, there." (C.S. Lewis)***

- Angelic **Misinformation** is also found in our literature, TV, and Movies.
- One common, **but erroneous**, theme is that...
- **we have within us or on our shoulders both an angel and a devil. (name the movie?)**
- **And then there's the classic movie: "It's A Wonderful Life."**
- Even though it's my favorite Christmas movie, it fails miserably in its portrayal of Angels.
- **Clarence, George Bailey's Guardian Angel** is not only a **bumbling goofus** trying to earn his wings.
- But he's also a former human, which would mean that angels are people (or at least good people) who've died.

- So, if **art, literature, tv or movies** have contributed to your understanding of **Angels**,
- you need to understand that what you think you know,
- probably has little or nothing to do with what the **Bible says about Angels**.
- **For example**, when Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up in the Temple, **he also saw...**

<sup>2</sup> ***Above [the Lord] stood the seraphim** (a type of angel). **Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.** <sup>3</sup> **And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"** (Isaiah 6:2-3)*

- **Sorry no picture**, I actually think there's a good reason the Bible isn't illustrated.
- **However**, with words, **Scripture paints a good picture of what/who Angels really are.**
- **In fact**, Angels are mentioned over **100 times** in the **Old Testament**
- and more than **160 times** in the **New Testament**.
- So let me turn from the misinformation and give you 8 basic facts about Angels from God's Word.
- This certainly isn't all the Bible says about Angels but it should give us a good foundation for what we will see in Hebrews.
- I'm going to go quickly through these basic facts and we'll only look at a few verses,
- but I've included a lot of references in your notes.
- So, first thing about Angels...

### **1. Angels were Created by God**

- As Angels, they are not dead humans.
- Scripture doesn't specifically tell us when God created the angels,
- but we know he did, because the Bible tells us that God/Christ created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.
- **So, this would include Angels.**

### **2. Angels Exist in Vast Numbers**

- In Revelation they're described as "numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand" (**Revelation 5:11**).

### **3. Angels Can be Invisible**

- **For example**, in **Number 22**, The Lord had to open **Balaam's** eyes so he could see the angel blocking his way (**Numbers 22:31**)

### **4. Angels Appear in Various Forms**

- They can have a **human-like appearance** and are often mistaken for men.
- We see this in their encounter with **Abraham** in **Genesis 18**,
- and their encounter with the **women at Jesus' tomb**.
- They can also appear **shining with Glorious Light**.
- This is what the **shepherds** saw when the **Angels announced Jesus's Birth**. (**Luke 2:9**).

- And as we read in Isaiah, they can appear as fabulous, winged creatures (**Exodus 25:20; Isaiah 6:2**).

### 5. Angels Worship God (**Job 38:7; Psalm 103:20; Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8; 5:9-12**).

- Again, we saw this in Isaiah where the seraphim cry out... <sup>3</sup> ... ***“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” (Isaiah 6:2-3)***

### 6. Angels Are God’s Messengers

- You could say this is their **main function**.
- The Hebrew word for angel is **malak** and the Greek **angelos**.
- Both mean **"messenger,"**
- They are **messengers** of God.
- Angels **revealed the future** to Daniel and to the **Apostle John** (**Daniel 10:10-15; Revelation 17:1; 21:9; 22:16**).
- And the **Angel Gabriel** announced the births of both **John the Baptist** and **Jesus** (**Matthew 1:19-24; Luke 1:11-28; 2:9-12**).

### 7. Angels Minister to Believers

- In **Psalm 34:7** says...

***<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. (Psalms 34:7)***

- An angel shut the mouths of the Lions when Daniel was thrown into their Den.
- Angels ministered to Jesus after his temptation in the wilderness.
- An angel delivered Peter from Prison. (**Acts 5**)
- And an angel comforted Paul before he faced Caesar.
- **And finally...**

### 8. Angels Will be God's Agents at the End of the Age

- They will call forth the elect with a loud trumpet from the four winds (**Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17**)
- They will then separate the wheat from the chaff (**Matthew 13:39-42**).
- They will open the **seals**, blow the **trumpets**, and pour out the **bowls of wrath** and Judgement.
- And they will also execute the judgment against Satan and his servants (**Revelation 19:17-20:3**)
- **So those are some of the things the Bible tells us about Angels.**
- And I think it’s fair to say **they are awesome beings with great power**.
- But despite all their greatness and power, **AND THIS IS THE POINT** of Our Passage...
- They are, **in all ways**, **inferior** to Christ.
- And I think, **we as Bible believing evangelicals**, get that.
- Angels are great but **Christ is the Greatest by Far**.

- **And so, we come to the question?**
- **Why (does the Author of Hebrews) Compare Christ to Angels? (Why Bother)**
- Now remember this letter is written to Jewish Christians who were under pressure from both the imminent threat of Roman persecution of Christians,
- And ostracism by their fellow Jews.
- And at least some were tempted to compromise their faith and return to Judaism, which unlike the fledgling Christianity, **was recognized as a legal religion by Rome.**
- So, it seems that one of the temptations was to simply agree that Jesus was an angel,
- perhaps even the greatest angel, **but not God.**
- **Judaism had a place for angels so they could** be accepted into the synagogue and escape the awful pressure and persecution.
- And the thing that made this so tempting was it didn't require an **outright** denial of Christ,
- but only a **different affirmation** of him as **the greatest angel.**
- And you might be thinking, well, this isn't really an issue in our day,
- except maybe for **Jehovah's witnesses** who believe that *Jesus was created by Jehovah as the archangel Michael before the physical world existed.*
- But, as Bible Believing Evangelical Christians, **we all know** Jesus wasn't, isn't and never will be an Angel.
- So, can we just skip these verses?
- No we can't, because even though we might not be tempted to say that Christ is an Angel.
- We are, at times, tempted to make **Christ less than he truly is.**
- Because who Christ truly is, **his supremacy not just over angels but over all people, governments, other religions, or religious leaders.**
- And his uncompromising insistence that **he is the way, the truth and the life** brings tension to our lives.
- Couldn't we just say, **without denying him**, that he is **a way, a truth and a life.**
- People would like us so much more if we **just changed the article from the to a.**
- Because if there's anything our current culture hates,
- it's someone who says My Way is THE ONLY WAY.
- My Truth is The Truth, ***I am the only one who can give you eternal Life.***
- And that's what **Jesus said.**
- But when we say proclaim his words, **it rubs people the wrong way.**
- So why not simply say that Jesus was Great, even the very best of man to ever live.
- **That his teaching and ethics were amazing.**
- That his life and love and willingness to die for what he said are a great example to follow.
- **I mean that's pretty good.**

- And if we say things like that about Jesus but don't mention his exclusive claims.
- If we are willing to say well Jesus is My Truth,
- but he doesn't necessarily have to be **your truth, the pressure will be off.**
- So, I hope you can see **the temptation** for the Hebrew Christian in their **life-threatening** context.
- A simple **change of emphasis** on the person of Christ from **Son to angel** and you could be **spared suffering.**
- But God **through the writer of Hebrews** is determined that these **Jewish Christians** of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century be encouraged and hold fast to the Superiority of Christ,
- not falling to this temptation to make him a great Angel.
- So, he sets forth a series of **Old Testament** texts from the **Septuagint, (the Greek translation of the Old Testament)**
- These **texts powerfully demonstrate the superiority of Christ** over angels.
- And I pray that as we **examine God's word today,**
- we too will be encouraged and motivated to hold fast to the Supremacy of Christ over not only Angels but over any current cultural pressure to make Christ less than he truly is.
- **So, let's turn to our text, where we find...**

### **Five Ways Christ is Superior to Angels**

- First,

#### **1. Christ Has a Superior Name**

- **Beginning in verse 4 we read...**

***4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 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"? (Hebrews 1:4-5)***

- According to Jewish thought, a **person's name** revealed his **essential nature.**
- And here in **Hebrews the specific** name/nature is that of **"Son."**
- Now these verses give the impression that the **name Son** was **bestowed** upon Jesus at a specific point in time.
- ***Having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited...***
- Or ***You are my Son, today I have begotten you.***
- So, we ask, wasn't Jesus **always superior to angels?**
- And wasn't he always the Son, **the Son of God?**
- And the answer is **YES and a little NO.**
- **In his Eternal Divinity,** Jesus has always been and will always be **superior to the angels,**
- And he has always **been and will always be the SON, the second person of the trinity.**
- Jesus never **stopped being divine,** so he never stopped being the SON!

- But at a specific point in time, **the incarnation**, Paul says in Philippians...

***<sup>5</sup> ...Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)***

- Jesus **emptied himself** and took the form of a **servant**, he was born as a man.
- And in so doing he **set aside, not his divinity but his divine rights**.
- So, **you might say**, as a man for a time,
- **Jesus was not superior to the angels** and that he set aside his rights as Son.
- In fact, in **Hebrews 2:7** this is confirmed for us.
- Speaking of Christ, quoting **Psalms 8** we read...

***<sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels... (Hebrews 2:7)***

- So, there was a time when Jesus (as a servant, as a man) was made a little lower than the angels.
- But that was **a little while**, I would say **about 33 years**.
- It began at Christ's incarnation, and it ended upon his resurrection.
- **In fact**, in **Acts 13** Paul specifically proclaims that **the resurrection fulfilled Psalm 2:7**:
- Which is quoted in **Hebrews 1:5...**

***<sup>32</sup> And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, <sup>33</sup> this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." (Acts 13:32-33)***

- When Christ who lived a sinless life, gave himself as sacrifice for our sins, he defeated sin and death and upon his resurrection he fulfilled the prophecy of the second Psalm, when God declared You are my Son, today I have begotten you.
- So, **Hebrews 1:4 and 5** is speaking of **the exaltation of Christ's human nature**.
- When his human nature is brought in line with his divine nature,
- and he inherits for **all eternity the name Son**.
- Jesus' name, his nature (both human and divine) is as the second person of the trinity,
- **God the Son**.
- And this is **not the case with angels** (or anyone or thing else for that matter).
- No angel was ever **called "Son,"**
- though sometimes, like people who trust in Christ, angels are referred to as sons of God.
- But no angel or no human has had or ever will have the title the nature of "The Son of God"
- And the writer shows this through two **Old Testament quotations**.
- The first as I mentioned is from **Psalms 2:7** and quoted in **verse 5...**

***<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? (Hebrews 1:5)***



- **Psalm 2** was already a famous **Messianic Psalm**.
- The Jews believed it would be fulfilled at a future day by a descendant of David who would be crowned king.
- And Jesus was that descendant of David, **that Son begotten by God**.
- No angel (no other person) has ever or will ever share that name, that nature!
- Hebrews also adds to this **Sonship** argument with a **second quotation**,
- taken from **2 Samuel 7:14**.
- At the end of **verse 5** we read...

*Or again, [implying, to which of the angels did God ever say] **"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"**? (Hebrews 1:5)*

- This is also a quotation from a well-known **Messianic passage**,
- commonly called the **Davidic Covenant**.
- Here the **prophet Nathan told David** that after his death his son would build a house for God
- and establish a **royal throne** that would endure forever.
- God's words to the Son – Messiah (Christ) - were, **"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"**?
- And even though David's son Solomon did build a great temple,
- His kingdom, like all the kings in David's line, did not endure forever.
- In fact, their kingdom (North and South) fell to the **Assyrians and the Babylonians**.
- Therefore, the later prophets looked forward to a **greater son of David whose kingdom would endure forever...**
- And that fulfillment came **in Jesus**.
- The **angel Gabriel's** announced to Mary:

*<sup>32</sup> **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,** <sup>33</sup> **and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."** (Luke 1:32-33)*

- So, we see by fulfilling these two **Old Testament sonship prophecies**.
- That Jesus **is superior to the angels** because he alone has the name,
- the nature of THE SON OF GOD.
- When all that can be said of angels is that they are **messengers**.
- So how could anyone ever think of **demoting Jesus to the position of a mere angel!**
- And how **dare we think** of demoting him to anything less than **the One and Only Son of God**.
- Because, first **Christ has a superior name to the Angels, He is THE SON...**
- And second,

## **2. Christ Has a Superior Worship**

- This is a little misleading, because the worship of Christ is not just superior worship,
- It is **exclusive** worship.



- Scripture is clear **that Angels are not to be worshipped at all.**
- In **Revelation 22**, the **Apostle John** was so overwhelmed with what the angel was revealing to him that he fell down in worship.
- But the **Angel rightly said...**

***<sup>9</sup> ... “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (Revelation 22:9)***

- Scripture teaches that we are to **worship God alone.**
- The first two commandments, **you shall have no other gods before me, and you shall make no idols** prohibit the worship of anyone or anything but God.
- And when Satan tempted Jesus with the kingdoms of the world if he would worship him,
- Jesus said...

***<sup>10</sup> ... “Be gone, Satan! For it is written (in Deuteronomy 6:13), “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” (Matthew 4:10)***

- Worship belongs to God alone.
- And so, the author of Hebrews shows **Christ’s superiority to the Angels** by pointing to their worship of Him.
- **Verse 6 of Hebrews 1...**

***<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” (Hebrews 1:6)***

- Here he quotes from the final verse of the **Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:43).**
- The Jews considered these final lines to **be Messianic.**
- Now if you look **Deuteronomy** up in the ESV Bible (translated from the Hebrew)
- it doesn’t use the word **angel.**
- It says **“bow down to him all gods”**
- But in the Greek Septuagint (also translated from Hebrew), which the author of Hebrews is using, it is translated **“Let all God’s angels worship him.”**
- Angels are commanded to **worship Christ** and they rightly obey.
- We get a taste of their worship in Revelation **chapter 5**, this is glimpse of Heaven...

***<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”***

***<sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:11-13)***

- The Angels lead out in a chorus of worship for the Lamb of God.
- Angels (unless they are fallen angels) do not worship other angels, **for that would be idolatry!**
- They worship God the Father Son and Spirit alone.

- They Honor Christ above themselves, above all others.
- And this should say something to us as well, **we must worship God** (father, Son and Spirit) alone.
- We must honor **Jesus Christ above all others**, he has no equal.
- For he alone is worthy, he alone was slain for our sins, he alone can save us.
- And we must lift him up above all other people, ideas, cultures, philosophies, religions, “so called scientific discoveries.”
- He must be above all things in our lives.
- **So, second Christ has a superior exclusive worship.**
- And third,

### 3. Christ Has Superior Status

- As we saw in the beginning, **angels are messengers**, they are the **servants of God**.
- But the Son, the one we worship is **sovereign**.
- His status is **above all**.
- This is the point the author of **Hebrews** will make in verses 7-9.
- He begins by quoting **Psalms 104:4**, regarding the **angels' being servants**:

***<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” (Hebrews 1:7)***

- Angels do some spectacular things.
- They sometimes **inhabit wind and fire**.
- **We see this at least once** in the story of Samson’s birth recorded in **Judges 13**.
- An **angel of the Lord comes to Samson’s** barren mother,
- and tells her of the **upcoming birth of Samson**.
- And in the course of the story, she along with her husband **Manoah**, make a burnt offering to the Lord.
- And in **verse 20** we read...

***<sup>20</sup> And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. (Judges 13:20)***

- So, **the angel of the LORD** became part of the flame of fire.
- **But notice**, in **verse 7** it specifically says, **he GOD makes his angels...**
- Angels can do **spectacular things** but only as servants of the Lord.
- On the other hand, **Christ, the Son, is eternally sovereign**.
- Quoting from **Psalms 45:6-7**, **Hebrews** says...

***<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” (Hebrews 1:8-9)***

- The Son has a **throne**, a **scepter** and he is **anointed by God**.
- All of this speaks to **his rule, his authority, His Sovereignty**.
- His **throne - his rule – is forever and ever**.
- His **scepter - his authority - will be upright** – he will rule a righteous kingdom forever and ever.
- His **anointing with the oil of gladness** refers to the heavenly joy that is his as **sovereign King** of kings.
- Jesus Christ is the eternal **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.
- And the **Angels are his servants**.
- They may at his command **take on wondrous forms, Inhabiting wind and fire**.
- And they may **perform feats beyond not only the capacity** but the **imagination** of humanity.
- **But they are still servants**.
- Christ, however, is the **eternally enthroned, sceptered, anointed sovereign**.
- Therefore, it's impossible to logically think of Christ and **angels as peers**.
- In fact, it is impossible to think of Christ and anyone as peers.
- Christ's **status** is above all, over all, **he rules all and all must submit to Him**.
- So third, Christ has a Superior Status to Angels.
- And fourth...

#### 4. Christ Has a Superior Existence

- In **verses 10-12** of Hebrews 1, the author quotes from **Psalms 102:25-27**.

***<sup>10</sup> And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, <sup>12</sup> 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 1:10-12)*

- Do you see what is **being communicated**!
- As a **man outlives his clothes**, as his garments **wear out**.
- so, Christ will **outlive the earth** and the heavens which he created.
- Yet He will **remain eternally and unchanged**.
- Here the author doesn't give us a **specific stated contrast with the angels**.
- The implied contrast is that **angels**, because they are **created, are temporal**.
- They were at some point in time created,
- They may like humans exist for all eternity, but they will only do so by the power and will of Christ.
- Their existence, like our existence is dependent on Christ, **even changeable by Christ**.
- Whereas Christ (God) alone is self-existent, unchanging and independent.
- To the suffering Jewish believers who found themselves on the wrong side of both Roman and Jewish Culture.
- These words of Christ's eternal existence, his unchanging nature, must have given them great comfort.
- To be reminded that **Heaven and Earth** would pass away but Christ and all who are in him will remain must have brought them great encouragement.

- Similar encouragement is found in **Chapter 13...**

***<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)***

- And doesn't this speak to us as well.
- In a world that seems to be out of control, upside down.
- What's right is called wrong and what's wrong is called right.
- And we as Christians, ***seeking to hold true to the word of God***, seem to be moving farther and farther away from what our culture says **is good and loving and kind**.
- We are definitely on the wrong side of our godless culture.
- And therefore, **we like the Hebrew Christians**, could be facing persecution for our faith.
- But be encouraged, for even if you are on the wrong side of culture, society, government, even your family and friends.
- If you **remain steadfast in your faith**,
- if you **trust and obey Christ over all others**, then you are on the right side of eternity.
- You are on the right side of Christ, who's existence is eternal and unchanging.
- And therefore, he will sustain you throughout all eternity.
- So, we have seen and I pray been encouraged that **Christ Has a Superior Existence** than Angels.
- Now we turn to the **final proof of Christ's superiority...**

**5. Christ Has a Superior Vocation**

- This is similar to our third point; Christ has a Superior **Status**.
- Christ vocation, **his job if you will is to rules**;
- Whereas the **vocation of the angels** is to serve Christ.
- That Christ rules supreme is proven by a passage quoted more often in the **New Testament** than any other (fourteen times).
- Jesus even quoted it himself and applied it to himself at his trial (Mark 12:36).
- It is **Psalms 110:1**, which is quoted here in **Hebrews 1:13**

***<sup>13</sup> 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"? (Hebrews 1:13)***

- The answer is "**None, not one, no one!**"
- In his commentary on this passage, **Kent Hughes writes...**

***Christ's absolute rulership is dramatically seen here in that it was the custom for a defeated king to prostrate himself and kiss his conqueror's feet. and for the victor to put his feet on the captive's neck so that the captive became his footstool (Kent Hughes)***

- We get an example of this in **Joshua 10**.
- After Israel defeated **the five kings of the Amorites**, in **verse 24** we read...

***4 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. (Joshua 10:24)***

- One day Christ will have victory over all his enemies.
- He will be seated at the right hand of the Father, in the place of honor and authority.
- And his enemies will all bow before him, **he will put his feet on their necks**.
- This is a picture of his **Sovereign authority as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.
- And not only will his enemies bow before him, **but Paul tells us in Philippians 2...**
- And I seem to quote this passage **every week but here we go again**.

***9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)***

- So, the enemies of Christ, **Satan, his demonic forces, and all who reject Christ will bow before him**.
- They will be **his footstool**.
- And all the **angels**, and all who trust in Christ will bow before him as his servants.
- For the **son has an infinitely superior vocation**, as the Sovereign ruler of all.
- In contrast the angels' vocation is that of serving.
- **Verse 14...**

***14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:14)***

- The vocation, the Job of Angels is clear.
- They are **ministering spirits**;
- The force of the original Greek is that they **are perpetually being sent out to help God's people - one after another**.
- This was number 7 in our basic facts about angles.
- And I gave some examples of this in Scripture...
- Protecting Daniel in the Lion's Den.
- Ministering to Jesus after his temptation
- Delivering Peter from Prison.
- Comforting Paul before he faced Caesar.
- But here's the great thing for us, these ministering spirits (angels) are still being sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.

- In Billy Graham's **Book Angels**, he records this story.
  - On a dark night about a hundred years ago, a Scottish missionary couple found themselves surrounded by cannibals intent on taking their lives.
  - That terror-filled night they fell to their knees and prayed that God would protect them.
  - Intermittent with their prayers, the missionaries heard the cries of the savages and expected them to come through the door at any moment.
  - But as the sun began to rise, to their astonishment they found that the natives were retreating into the forest.
  - The couple's hearts soared to God.
  - It was a day of rejoicing!
  - The missionaries bravely continued their work.
- 
- A year later the chieftain of that tribe was converted. (he inherited salvation)
  - As the missionary spoke with him, he remembered the horror of that night.
  - He asked the chieftain why he and his men had not killed them.
  - The chief replied, "Who were all those men who were with you?"
  - The missionary answered, "Why, there were no men with us. There were just my wife and myself."
  - The chieftain began to argue with him, saying, "There were hundreds of tall men in shining garments with drawn swords circling about your house, so we could not attack you."
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- The missionary was the "legendary" **John G. Paton** of the New Hebrides
  - And this is one of the **great tales of missionary history**.
  - One of a kind, we might think.
  - But it's just the first of several similar accounts from **Missionaries** that **Graham records**.
- 
- And I want us to notice that in this story and in others, the Angels were invisible to the missionaries.
  - And one of the things this should say to us that that, we don't know how many times God dispatches angels (ministering spirits) into our lives, to protect, encourage, comfort, deliver, or minister to US.
- 
- What a privilege it must be for these Angels to **serve the Lord and his people**.
  - But the point here is that **their vocation of service (no matter how amazing and spectacular and miraculous) it is inferior to the Son's vocation** of ruling all things.
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- So, to the Jewish believers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century who were being tempted to say that Christ is an angel and escape persecution.
  - And to the Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century who are being tempted to say that Christ is less than he truly is.

- God's Word issues a clear call:
  - Christ is superior to angels (and all others) because he has **a superior name** he is Son;
  - **a superior worship** - all the angels worship him;
  - **a superior status** - he rules the universe.
  - **a superior existence** - he is eternal and unchangeable;
  - **a superior vocation** - he is Sovereign King who commands the angels to minister to His people.
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- And the message to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century church is this:
  - **Christ is superior to everyone and everything.**
  - He is superior to any (physical, emotional, or spiritual) difficulty you are facing.
  - He is superior to a culture that has rejected him and is headed to eternal destruction.
  - He is superior to those who hate him and hate you for loving him.
  - And he (with ministering spirits at his command) can see us through any hardship, difficulty or persecution.
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- Therefore, we must not fall to the temptation of **demoting Christ** in any way.
  - We must instead, lift him up in every way, we must trust in him every day of our lives in every situation we face.
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- And one final thing, we must, no matter the consequences in our culture, proclaim Christ's superiority, that he is the way the truth and the life to all people.
  - Amen.
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- Would you pray with me!