

Hebrews 1:5-14

++Did you know that the Chicago Daily Tribune actually ended World War II? That The Daily Telegram of Long Beach, CA ended WWI? And that the New York Times were responsible for the Berlin Wall falling in 1989?

--Of course you didn't...that's because they didn't have anything to do with it - they were simply messengers of the news.

++The writer of Hebrews wants to help his readers and us, the silliness of the same - that angels, although messengers of the coming salvation of God only pointed to the reality, but are not THE reality.

++Unfortunately, this can happen with us as well. We tend to look at something "good" and give it the same authority, power and supremacy as Jesus - job (how else do I give to the church?), family (God gave them to me), or status (I use it to show people Jesus).

++For these Jews, there was some controversy over Jesus' divinity in relation to angels, but first the establishment of Jesus as the final king in the line of David must also be presented - five different Davidic psalms are used to drive this point home.

++In essence, to the Jews, Jesus is simply a good man but not as powerful as the angels. The writer intends to use Jewish texts to cement his argument:

5 For God never said to any angel what he said to Jesus: "You are my Son.

Today I have become your Father."

God also said, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son." (Ps. 2:7)

6 And when he brought his supreme Son into the world, God said, "Let all of God's angels worship him." (Deut 32:43) 7 Regarding the angels, he says, "He sends his angels like the winds, his servants like flames of fire." (Ps. 104:4)

8 But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. 9 You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else." (Ps. 45:6-7)

++This argument centers around one word: *protokoton* "firstborn, pre-eminent, first to experience glorification" - therefore, this Psalm is about Christ, not David.

++Christ was not created, He was *introduced* to the world. *Eisago* - a big difference!

++Christ's introduction into the world in flesh from His pre-eminent existence as the 2nd person of the Trinity has some far reaching application for us (even though we aren't Jewish Christians living 2,000 years ago)

1-Christ reigns supreme forever in all things "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.

--In light of recent events, we must remain steadfast in the truth of this. Our will, our politics, our ideals, our opinions all pale in the mighty power of Jesus Christ who reigns supreme. While the world is quick to point out the divisiveness that divides and separates us, let us hold firmly to the cross that unites us.

2-Christ reigns in justice You rule with a scepter of justice. 9 You love justice and hate evil.

--Justice isn't simply punishment of the wicked, it's the exaltation of the just and right. Christ's work on the cross wasn't to punish the sinner, but to save the sinner - to enact God's brand of justice to the world "the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17

3-Christ is anointed (exuberant joy with dancing and celebration) with oil (the Jewish custom of setting something apart as consecrated and worthy) as God's beloved and therefore worthy to speak *on our behalf* by His blood Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.

--Who do you want speaking about you, standing in your defense, and atoning for your sins - you or the one who has been anointed with exuberant joy and celebration - God's favorite, Himself?

10 He also says to the Son, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands.

11 They will perish, but you remain forever.

They will wear out like old clothing.

12 You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing.

But you are always the same; you will live forever." (Ps. 102:25-27)

13 And God never said to any of the angels, "Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies,

making them a footstool under your feet.” (Ps. 110:1)

14 Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

++If my friend Duncan were preaching this sermon, he'd tell you that 1:14-2:1 are the height of the argument for him.

14 Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. 1 So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.

++The people who will inherit TRUE salvation, is us. Angels were simply messengers of the Good News told by the prophets through ages past (Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. 2 And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.)

++What God has spoken, through the Word (Jesus) is salvation, the promised inheritance.

++Psalm 102 is the scripture from which this is pulled: In Hebrew, the title is: *A Prayer of the Afflicted When He is Overwhelmed.*

++The truth of this Psalm/Hebrews is found in a three-fold way

- 1) All things were made in, by and through Christ
- 2) All things will perish, but Christ remains forever
- 3) All things are subject to Christ, who has crushed them under His feet

++Will you let this truth speak into your life right now? Will you let the truth of Jesus Christ help you to see that Jesus > Everything?

++Isaiah 59:19-21 tells us of God's power in Christ:
In the west, people will respect the name of the Lord;
in the east, they will glorify him.

For he will come like a raging flood tide
driven by the breath of the Lord.

20 “The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem
to buy back those in Israel
who have turned from their sins,”
says the Lord.

21 “And this is my covenant with them,” says the

Lord. “My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children's children forever. I, the Lord, have spoken!
++In the material world that we live in, we tend to only rely on our five senses - some of us have had two of these senses ripped from us temporarily. We have this mindset that if it can't be tasted, touched, seen, heard, felt or put through some series of number crunches or proven with experiments---it doesn't exist. Christ took that which didn't exist and made it exist - what exists now in you because of Him??? -
Hope
Power
Strength
Love
Endurance
Patience

In all things, through the power of Jesus Christ living through you.