

Lessons From Hebrews

Greater Than The Angels

(He 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. Looked last week at the introductory material to this fantastic book.
 - i. The things we need to keep in mind while studying this book...
 1. It was written to heavily persecuted Jewish Christians.
 2. It was written to admonish and encourage them to stay faithful because many were drifting away and considering going back to Judaism.
 - b. This week we are going to examine how Jesus is "Greater Than The Angels."
 - i. **He 1:3-4** "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, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs."¹
3. Angels have always been a fascination to mankind.
 - a. This has led many to place them in a "higher" place than they should.
 - i. Mainly due to the misunderstandings people have concerning angels such as...
 1. When we die we become angels.
 - a. **I Co 15:35-49**
 2. We each have guardian angels.
 - a. **He 1:14**
4. As the Hebrew writer points out "Christ is superior to the angels."
 - a. Let us now examine this most telling truth.

I. Jesus Is Greater In Relationship

- A. Jesus is God's unique Son
 1. He is the only "begotten Son."
 1. **He 1:5** "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"?"
 2. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (NKJV)
 2. He is the only Son to be worshiped.
 1. **He 1:6** "And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him.""
- B. Thus...
 1. Let none of us consider for a moment as sons to be greater than the Son.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From Hebrews

II. Jesus Is Greater In Reign

- A. All created things are under subjection to the reign of Christ
 - 1. **Mt 28:18** "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
 - 2. Angels are no exception.
 - i. Notice angels fall into the same category as wind and fire ie nature.
 - a. **He 1:7** "Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.'"
 - ii. Jesus is in control of nature and nature heeds the voice of Jesus.
 - a. **Ps 148:7-8** "Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!"
 - b. **Mk 4:41** "And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'"
- B. Thus...
 - 1. Let none of us for a moment think it wise to usurp the authority of Christ as we too are like the wind and fire, here to do His will.

III. Jesus Is Greater In Reward

- A. There is only one that has been granted a "seat" on the right hand of God
 - 1. **He 1:13** "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'?"
 - 2. **Mk 16:19** "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."
 - 3. **He 10:12** "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God"
- B. The angels are not seated they are servants
 - 1. **He 1:14** "Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"
- C. Thus...
 - 1. Thus let none of us for a moment think we are anything other than servants or that our reward will be anything other than deserving of such.
 - i. **Lk 17:10** "So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

IV. Jesus Is Greater In Work

- A. His work is sovereign
 - 1. Christ created all people.
 - i. **He 2:5-6**
 - 2. Christ cares for all people.
 - i. **He 2:6-7**

Lessons From Hebrews

- B. His work is saving
 - 1. Christ is the founder of our salvation.
 - i. **He 2:10**
 - 2. Christ is the source of our sanctification.
 - i. **He 2:11**
- C. His work is subduing
 - 1. Christ is the One that subdued Satan.
 - i. **He 2:14**
- D. His work is sympathizing
 - 1. Christ is the One that was tempted like us and thus helps those that are tempted.
 - i. **He 2:18**
- E. Thus...
 - 1. Let none of us consider for a moment that we work harder, do more, or have been through more than the only begotten Son of God.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren Jesus is "Greater Than The Angels" and thus greater than us by far.
 - a. Let it be said of each of us that with this knowledge we understand our need to serve our Lord.
 - b. I'm reminded what someone once wrote.

No service in itself is small,
none great through earth it fill;
But that is small that seeks its sown,
And great that seeks God's will.²
- 2. Question: Are you heeding the example of the righteous angels by understanding Christ is "The Great I Am" and thus knowing your place and serving your God?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not? Repent now and make this your life's work to service the living God.
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² The author is anonymous. (12,000 Religious Quotations edited by Mead, Franks pg. 403)