



Jesus as Superior to Angels
(Hebrews 1:3-14)

Hebrews 1:3-14

(English Standard Version)

- 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.
- 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 1:3-14

(English Standard Version)

- And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
- “Let all God's angels worship him.”
- ⁷ Of the angels he says,
- “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”
- ⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

Hebrews 1:3-14

(English Standard Version)

- And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² 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.”
- 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”?
- ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Background Information:

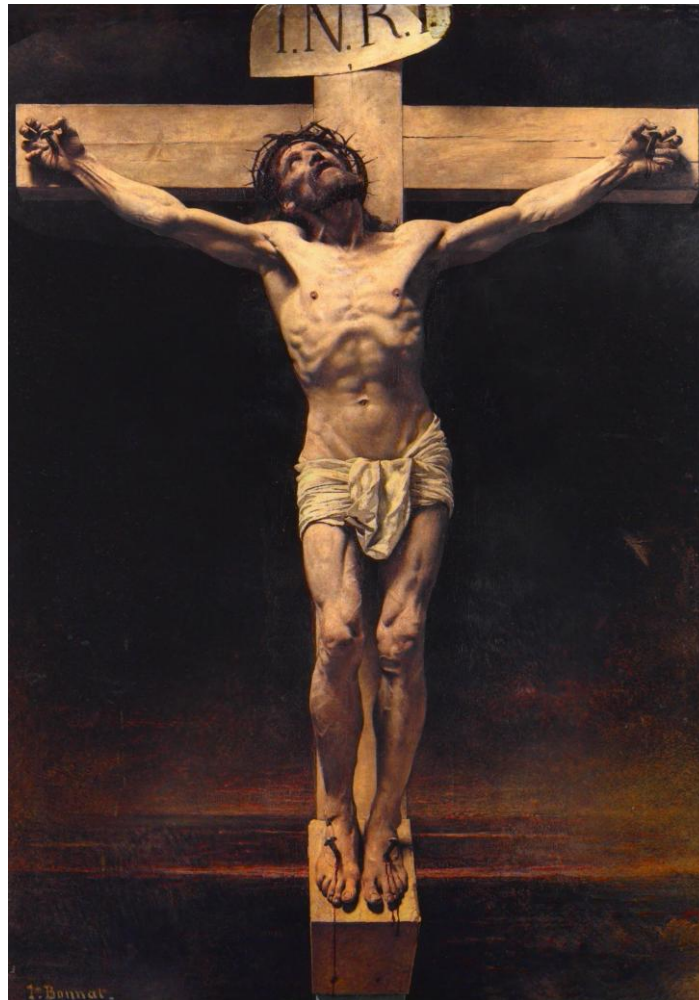
1st Century Jewish Christians Harassed

- “They [Jewish Christians] were being pressured by their former Jewish leaders and also by pagan contacts to view Jesus not as God but as merely a man, and therefore less than the angels.
- Angels had played a powerful role in Israel’s past. . . . When an angel spoke, people listened” (Ray C. Stedman, *Hebrews*, p. 26).

Whom to Choose: Mighty Angels?



Whom to Choose: Or a Crucified “Messiah”?



What are Angels Really Like?



What are Angels Really Like?

- **Angels as mighty warriors**
- I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶ His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. (Daniel 10:5-6)

What are Angels Really Like?

- **An army of angels protect Elisha and his servant**
- “When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:15-17).

What are Angels Really Like?



What are Angels Really Like?

- **An angel protects the body of Moses**
- “So, Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, ⁶ and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day” (Deuteronomy 34:5-6).
- “But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you’” (Jude 1:9).

What are Angels Really Like?



Depiction by the poet/artist William Blake (c. 1805)



What are Angels Really Like?

- **An angel as a messenger of God to Daniel:**
- “And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words” (Daniel 10:10-12).

What are Angels Really Like?

- **Angels as messengers of God at the empty tomb of Jesus:**
- “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead’” (Matthew 28:107).

What are Angels Really Like?



Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **Angels are capable of falling:**

“How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn!

You said in your heart,
‘I will ascend to heaven;
above the stars of God
I will set my throne on high;

But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the far reaches of the pit. (Isaiah 14:13-15)

- ⁶ And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he [Jesus] has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day” (Jude 1:5-6).

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **1. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as God's Son**
- “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 1:5)
- “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and **behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”** (Matthew 3:16-17).

Definition of “Theophany” (Delete???)

- “The term is from two Greek words meaning “God” and “appearance.” A theophany is a manifestation of God, usually with both visual and audible elements” (*An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*).
- Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- ⁴ Then **the LORD called Samuel**, and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. (1 Samuel 1:3-5)

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **2. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as a king**
- “But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom’ (Hebrews 1:8).
- “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9)

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **3. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as the Messiah**
- “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions” (Hebrews 1:9).
- Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ **Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** (Matthew 16:13-16).

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **3. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as the Messiah**
- “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 LORD says to my Lord:
 “Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.” (Psalm 110:1)

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **4. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as the unchanging creator of the universe**
- **“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
¹² like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.^[a]
But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”** (Hebrews 1:10-12)
- **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”** (Hebrews 13:8).
- Aristotle, Aquinas, et. al. : “The unmoved mover” (The cosmological argument)

Christ's Superiority Over Angels

- **5. Unlike angels, Jesus is identified as God**
- “Let all God’s angels **worship him**” (Hebrews 1:6).
- Thomas answered him, “My Lord and **my God!**” (John 20:27-28).

Applications

- **Do Not Drift Away from the Lord**
- Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2:1-3).

Applications

- **Accept Jesus as Savior and Lord**
- Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be held on to for advantage ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and **every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)



Let Us Pray

A pair of hands is shown in silhouette, raised and joined at the palms to form a cross shape. The hands are positioned against a bright, glowing sunset or sunrise sky, with the sun's light shining through the center of the cross formed by the hands. The background features a horizon line over water, with the sun's reflection visible. The overall mood is spiritual and contemplative.