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## CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS

*Hebrews 1:4-14*

### Intro: What Impresses You?

#### I. Why the Concern over Angels?

- A. Angels had an impressive role in the Old Covenant made with Israel
  - o They were glorious heavenly servants of God—people were awed by them!
  - o Angels were said to have a role in the deliverance of the OT law (Acts 7:53)
- B. Audience of Hebrews may have wrongly elevated angels
  - o Some may have thought the Old Covenant was superior due to special role of Angels
  - o Some may have even begun to worship angels as superior to Jesus

#### II. Why is Jesus Superior to the Angels?

##### **Note: the author appeals to seven OT passages to prove Jesus' identity**

- o Thus, he clearly sees the OT as something that speaks of Jesus!
- o "Jesus said to them, 'Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled'" (Luke 24:44).
- A. Jesus Has a Better Name than Angels (v.4-5)
  - o No angels are ever called the "Son of God"
    - Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14 were used often by early Christians to prove Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God
  - o But *when* did Jesus receive the title "Son of God"?
    - From an eternal perspective, Jesus has always been the Son—he is eternally begotten of the Father
    - When we look at his earthly ministry, Jesus's status as Son was declared at various points but especially at his resurrection (Acts 13:32-33; Rom 1:4)

*\*\*In the Roman world, when sons came of age they were formally bestowed with the family name (even though they always had it)*



B. Jesus is Worshipped by the Angels (v.6)

- o Throughout Scripture people often try (wrongly) to worship angels and are rebuked. Only the one true God can be worshipped.
- o But Deut 32:43 indicates that the angels, as great as they are, worship Jesus! (see Is 6:1- 6; John 12:41)

C. Jesus is the Divine King and thus Ruler of the Angels (v.7-9, 13-14)

- o In v. 8-9, author cites Psalm 45:6 and applies to Jesus: "Your throne O God..."
- o In v.13, author cites Psalm 110:1 to show Jesus sits at the right hand of God—a place of power and glory
- o In v. 7, 14, author cites Psalm 104:4 to show that this great King Jesus sends out the angels for our sakes!

*\*\*Do you realize the implications of Jesus as KING of the universe?*

- Where else would you turn for help? You friend is the King of the world!
- Do you realize he will conquer all his enemies? Are you on the Lord's side?
- Jesus is both King and Priest at the same time! He is both Lion and Lamb.

D. Jesus is the Creator of All Things including the Angels (v.10-12)

- o Citing Psalm 102:25-27, the author shows Jesus was there in the beginning as creator of all things
- o Notice contrast between creator and creation—Jesus is forever but the creation wears out



## Discussion Groups

1. Are you far too easily impressed with things other than Jesus? What are some of those things and how does this passage help you correct your thinking about them?

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2. How can Jesus' identity as the King of the Universe help you work through the challenges in your life today? How might it change your worship?

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3. How are you doing balancing Jesus as both Lion and Lamb? How does this passage help you achieve that balance?

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