

Angels, Prophets, & Priests are just Messengers!

Hebrews 1:1-14 (vv.4-14)

Facilitator: Rev. Vera Rhyne

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The epistle of Hebrews exalts the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. THE LESSON: Angels, Prophets, & Priests are just Messengers!

During the time of the writing of Hebrews, the Christians Jews were going through difficult times and were being tempted to go back to the Jewish religion. The temple was still standing and all the priestly ceremonies were still being carried on daily. How easy it would have been for all these Jewish believers to escape persecution by going back into the old Mosaic system that they had known before. This book is written to encourage them to hang on to their faith and danger of forgetting the true Word that their first leaders, now dead, had taught them.

Prophets and Priests spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit.

Creator, Prophet, Priest, and King – Jesus Christ is superior to all the prophets, angels, and priests who have ever appeared on the sacred pages of the Scriptures. There is only one God, three Persons in One, sovereign over all and Creator of all. He is the One who provide the message to the messengers. There is but one message as there is one true gospel. There are many messengers but here is only one God. He choose who and how His message is delivered.

1. Verse 4.

We learn in verses 1-3 that Jesus is the Heir of all things, the Creator of the universe the brightness of God's glory, the image of God's person, the sustainer of all things, the sacrifice for our sins, and the highly exalted One.

And we read, "So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs."

The description of Jesus shows us that He is far superior than any angelic being. This verse informs us that Jesus became better than the angels. He is eternally better than the angels.

Jesus ' superior status is demonstrated by a superior name, which is not merely a title, but a description of His nature and character.

Angels are incompatible to the name of Jesus. The devils are powerless because of His name (Luke 10:17). Demons were cast out in His name (Mark 16:17-18). Healing occurred in His name (Acts 3:6, 3:16). Salvation comes in His name (Acts 4:12, Rom 10:13). We are to baptize in His name (Matt. 28:19). We are justified in His name (1 Cor. 6:11). Everything we do and say is done in His name (Col. 3:17). There is no power, deliverance, salvation, healing, nor justification in the name of angels.

Understanding how Jesus is better than the angels help us understand how He is better than anyone or anything in our life.

2. Verse 5.

Jesus is superior to the angels because He is the Son of God, as shown in Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14. The question is asked, "For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father" Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?"

In this verse, the author quotes from the Old Testament to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the Son and is therefore superior to the angels.

Though angels have been called "sons of God" in the sense that they are

of a direct creation of God, no individual angel has ever been addressed as “son of God” in any of the Scriptures.

The author of Hebrews proved that Jesus is superior to the any angelic being because God the Father says things to the Son that He never said to angels.

3. Verses 6-7.

The Old Testament Scriptures abundantly demonstrate the superiority of the Son of God to the angels from His superior position.

The title firstborn is one of rank and honor, for the firstborn receives the inheritance and the special blessing.

Firstborn refers to Jesus exalted status and authority as Ruler of all creation.

Christ is the “Firstborn of all creation” (Col.1:15) because He created all things, and He is the highest of all who came back from the dead (Col 1:18).

When He came into the world, the angels worshipped Him. He now sitteth at the right of God the Father, and angels worship Him.

4. Verses 8-9.

The writer continues to quote from the Psalms (45:6-7) to reveal the superior nature of the Son. Jesus is declared to be God Himself, One whose throne is righteous and eternal. We celebrate that His throne is forever and ever. His scepter (a special staff that symbolizes authority) signifies His righteousness.

He is completely good. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness. He is undefeated, unchallenged, and almighty.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore” (Isa. 9:7)

5. Verses 10-12.

This reference is from Psalm 102-25-27: ‘You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle You will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.: This psalm is quoted because it speaks of the unchangeable, eternal Son of God. The Son of God has always existed and will always exist. His kingdom has no end because His life has no end. The Lord is eternal and His faithfulness will outlast the world.

Jesus is the Creator, and one day He will do away with the old creation and bring in a new creation.

Heavens and earth will pass, but the Son of God is eternal. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

6. Verses 13-14.

Jesus sits, whereas the angels are sent. The angels are not asked by the Father to sit at His right hand, the position of privilege. They are sent to serve the children of God. Angels are the ministering spirits who serve the Lord seated on the throne. They also minister to us who are the “heirs of salvation” through faith in Christ.

It is impossible to do away evidence presented in these quotations in the Word of God that infallible proof that Jesus Christ is further greater than the angels, He is greater than the law, and any religious rituals.