

Hebrews 1:5-14

Last week we did our introduction to the book of [Hebrews](#). There we discovered this letter was written for Jews who had accepted Jesus and were under intense and increasing pressure to denounce Jesus and return to Judaism. So the author of the book, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, started out by showing how Jesus was superior to anything that had come before Him, and was actually what **1)** the Old Testament, **2)** the Law, **3)** the sacrificial system, **4)** the feast or Holy days, **5)** and everything God had given His people, **was pointing them to** (see also [Luke 24:44](#), [Col. 2:16-17](#)). And he is not done yet in proving Jesus' superiority to things that had trusted in before.

- We closed out with [verse 4](#) last week, which reads, “*having become so much better than the angels, (speaking of Jesus) as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they*”. And it's important for us to understand angels played a big role in the nation of Israel, as God used them to **1)** deliver messages, **2)** protect, **3)** intervene on behalf of His chosen people, **4)** and more. For example **1)** God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the Lions when Daniel was thrown into their den ([Dan. 6:22](#)), **2)** God sent two angels to warn Lot and his family to leave before Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed ([Gen. 19:1](#)), **3)** and as Jacob slept on his way back toward Haran, how God showed him a ladder into heaven (displaying God really was involved with the affairs of man) and angel's ascending and descending in mass to do Gods will for His chosen people ([Gen 28:10-12](#)). **4)** And Angels were sent to tell the shepherds of the Messiah being born into the world, *praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men* ([Luke 2:8-14](#))!”
- Now these are just a very limited number of examples to help us try and see how the nation of Israel would have viewed angels based on the interactions they, and some of their most prominent figures, had with them. Without God's use of the angels in Israel's history, their story would be quite different. And they knew all the accounts as they would have been told them over and over (their history was/is vitally important to them).
- So as this book begins, Paul (who I believe the author to be) will dismantle the superiority the Jews placed in things, people, or *angels*, **which led them to refuse to see Jesus for who He was and is**. And today he will dedicate his time to explaining why Jesus is superior to angels. But it won't be the end of this topic because [Ch. 2](#) continues this discussion using different points of reasoning.

This topic, which causes us to look into angels a little more, is such an important one for a few reasons. The first is due to those who think angel's do not exist. The second revolves around major misunderstandings regarding angels (even though Dr. Jeremiah says they are mentioned over 100 times in the OT and 160 times in the NT). So as the Holy Spirit brings this topic up, I think we're given an opportunity to gain a little better understanding.

One more thing that might be helpful is to see there are four sections in [verses 5-14](#). **1)** [Verses 5-6](#) are the things God has **not** said about the angels, and by implication has said of Jesus. **2)** [Verse 7](#) is what God has said about angels. **3)** [Verses 8-12](#) are the things He says only about Jesus. **4)** Then [verses 13-14](#) again covers what He has not said about angel's, followed by what the role of angels is. And each section will use Old Testament verses to make his point (7 direct ones in total).

Section 1- Things God has **not** said about angels, and by implication has said about Jesus.

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You (Psalm 2:7)”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son (2 Sam. 7:14)”?

These two Old Testament references show **Jesus as the Son of God** (the *more excellent name* spoken of in [verse 4](#)), which is highlighted here in [Ch 1](#). While when we get to [Ch. 2](#) (still showing the superiority of Jesus over angels) it will highlight **Jesus as the Son of man**. Yet, as always, there is some cross over because both speak of Jesus who was 100% God and 100% man.

- And I think it's here in [verses 5-6](#) that some get really confused about Jesus being eternally existent God when these verses in fact prove that He is (we haven't yet read [verse 6](#), so we'll get to that in just a minute). But it's the terms *Son* and *begotten* which some have misused or misunderstood, therefore creating issues for themselves (I say for themselves, because it's not creating an issue for God. He knows who He is and isn't going to be changed by someone else's opinion. Yet so many act as if their opinion will change who He is. Are you one of them?).
- In Jesus being God's *Son*, what is being pointed out is that no angel has ever been called the Son of God. Now in [Job 6:1](#) angel's as a whole are called sons, denoting they were created by God. But no angel is

called the Son. Because this position belongs to Jesus alone. Listen to [John 5:17-18](#) to see how the Jew would have understood this position as Jesus said to them, “*My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*” Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, *but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God*”. Being the *Son* of God is a clear claim to being equal with God. And it’s **the Father** here calling Jesus His Son!

- And the term *begotten* is again from [Psalm 2:7](#). But if you go to [Acts 13:33](#) you’ll see Paul use this very passage to tell us that *begotten has to do with God raising Jesus from the dead* (see also [Rom. 1:3-4](#)). In [Psalm 2:7](#) it’s prophetic. In [Acts 13:33](#) it’s explained and fulfilled (something *Hebrews* does again and again).

And we should note that since God has never said this about any of the angels, you have some real problems if you, like the Mormons, believe Jesus is the brother of Lucifer, being that Lucifer is a fallen *angel*, and therefore would mean if Jesus is his brother, He would also be an angel. Or if you believe as the JW’s do that Jesus is one and the same as the Angel Michael. **It matters who you say Jesus is.** Which should pull all our minds back to **the question Jesus asked** His disciples in [Matt. 16:15](#) (after others had been claiming Jesus was John the Baptist or one of the prophets), asking them, “*But who do you say that I am?*” And why Peter’s answer was so good, as he replied, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God* ([16:16](#)) (emphasis added)”. If He is less than God to you, then you are less than saved by Him. **It matters who you say Jesus is.**

⁶ *But when He* (God the Father) *again brings the firstborn* (Jesus) *into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him* ([Psalm 97:7](#) [which is another book where the author is not named. It’s therefore known as one of the Orphan Psalm]).”

Now we come to the other term I mentioned some people misuse or misunderstand and that’s “*firstborn*”. And it does not speak to Jesus being created, for we know He is eternally existent; **but rather speaks of His position.**

- For, in Judaism, the position of your birth was of supreme importance in terms of your **status and authority**. *If you were the firstborn*, you took the headship of the family and had the final word on all matters.
- And so here, the point is that Jesus has the headship of the house and lineage of God. And as such, all created order, **which include the angels, are to worship Him.** If you want to see what that looks like, read [Rev. 5:8-14](#). And if it’s your first time, be prepared to be deeply moved and find yourself worshipping too.

Section 2- What God has said about angels

⁷ *And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire* ([Psalm 104:4](#)).”

We already know Jesus is eternally existent, because He is God. But **angels have a beginning**. They were created by Him. And He created them as *spirits*. And this simple statement about them being spirits is very important.

- First of all, when people ask questions like “can God make a rock so big He can’t lift it?” They have missed the point. The spiritual is supreme in power over the physical. So the obvious answer is no. Physical things (all of which God created) are of zero challenge for God (as well as all spiritual creation being no challenge to Him).
- **But when it comes to angel’s, the bible has multiple accounts which prove the strengths and weapons of man are not match to the angels.** Pick a fight with one of them at your own peril.
- **But here’s the thing.** If there is a big rock (or planet, or galaxy...) God (and Jesus is God) wants to move, He could speak it out of its place or existence. **No angel can do that, because no angel is the creator.** They are there to do His will because He made them for that purpose. But they are in no way His equal.

And describing them as *a flame of fire* is interesting and should serve as a reminder of God’s power and righteous judgement. **1** In [Gen. 3:24](#) we have an angel with a flaming sword concealing the Garden of Eden. **2** In [2 Kings 2:11](#) we have angels with fiery chariots. **3** In [2 Thes. 1:7-8](#) we have angels descending in flaming fire at Jesus’ return (see also [Ezek. 1:13-14](#), [Dan. 7:9-10](#), [2 Kings 2:11](#)). **I think what is happening in these images here, is humans trying to describe something not commonly seen by mankind.** And the best they could do was to ascribe *fire* to it ([Rev. 10:1](#), [Ezek. 10:2-7](#), [Dan. 10:6](#)). It could be fire! It could be something more. It could be something out of this world.

- But I think we would be remiss if we failed to point out when angels appear with fire, **1** there is **purification from sin or for holy encounters** ([Lev. 16:12-13](#), [Isa. 6:6-7](#)) **2** quick destruction promised for

those who proceed against God or his people (2 Kings 6:15-16), **3**) or simply judgment incoming (think Sodom and Gomorrah [Gen. 19:24, Luke 17:29]).

- And if then the fiery aspect speaks of their ability and intent to quickly deal with those who come against God's plans or His people, **we can see another way they serve the Lord.** And that should cause some to rethink their plans before proceeding and then finding themselves in a place where Jesus dispatches angels to protect or defend His people.

Section 3- the things the Father says about Jesus

Being this section is what God the Father says about Jesus, we don't see a direct quotation of how Jesus is superior to angels. But in light of who Jesus is, the implication is clear.

⁸ *But to the Son He* (God the Father) *says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions* (Psalm 45:6-7: a Messianic psalm)."
It just doesn't get much clearer than when you have God the Father calling Jesus **God, that Jesus is God!** But by no means is this a one off. I recently went through a few different studies that revealed in every chapter of **John** there is a reference to Jesus being God. Both were wonderful (Wes Huff, Mike Winger). But that's not the end of the discussion either. The bible is filled with this fact.

- And we see here that God the Father has **already** said to Jesus, "*your throne, O God, is forever and ever*". And that He has **already** anointed Jesus with the oil of gladness above all His companions. Both of these are in what is called the *aorist indicative*, meaning **God the Father has already declared this as being done in and for God the Son.**
- These things have **already** occurred when Jesus ascended after His resurrection (Phil. 2:9-11, Acts 2:33). And later, when we come to Heb. 12:2, we will hear that "*Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross; despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*" (emphasis added).

I believe many of us at one time or another have wondered why Jesus (being all knowing) would subject Himself to such abuse and death to redeem fallen humanity. Likely because we picture Him being at least something like us. But the reality and contrast couldn't be clearer. **The reason Jesus willing came into the earth to be mistreated and die, was for the joy and gladness it would bring Him when **1**) the work of our salvation, **2**) and therefore restoration to the Father, was completed.**

- Let that sink in for a minute. Did you understand it that way? Have you come to understand that your redemption brought a level of *gladness* to God the Son that no one else has ever experienced?
- Folks, God had pity on us, **because He absolutely loves us.** And this should then take us to **John 15:9-11** which says to us who have put our faith in Jesus "“*As the Father loved Me* (Jesus speaking), *I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full* (emphasis added).”
- Jesus was looking at the cross and knew the unimaginable pain He would have to experience, **but because He was looking at the joy and gladness your salvation would bring to Him, He pressed right on into it.** If you truly get that, then you will also desire to do the will of the Father, **and Jesus joy will be your joy also.** You can't get it somewhere else because Jesus has what no one else has. And He offers it to those who, for the joy of being His and looking into their eternal future with Him, will endure the pressures placed upon them, as they also suffer, that others might be reconciled to God.

¹⁰ *And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands* (see also 1:2-3). ¹¹ *They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail* (lit. "have no end". He is eternally existent) (Psalm 102:24-27).”

The point being made here, **1**) is in Jesus all things were created (see also Col. 1:16), **2**) and by Him they will be destroyed **to make room for the new heavens and the new earth.** We read this just recently in **2 Pet. 3:5-7 & 10-13**, which identifies they were both made and will be destroyed **by the word of God.** Which **John 1:1-3** clearly tells us is Jesus.

- The Angels most certainly have no such power to do any of these things, for they, like the heavens and earth, were created.
- There is not a single verse 1) that ascribes to any angel the ability to create anything (not even offspring, much less the heavens and the earth). 2) Or speaks of them having a role in judging and dismantling the creation, 3) before creating what is described for us in [Rev. 21-22](#) (which, BTW, is to be created out of nothing that exists).
- This is Gods territory for only He has the power to do so, and the Father makes it clear here that Jesus is the one who will do this. Just in case I haven't made the point yet, **Jesus is God!!!**

Section 4- What God has not said about angels, but has said about Jesus. And the role of angels.

¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool (Psalm 110:1) " ? ¹⁴ Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Last week we dealt with Jesus sitting down at the right hand of the Majesty on high after He had purged our sins by going to the cross. There we mentioned that the priests could never sit because under the Old Covenant there was no sacrifice which covered sin once and forever ([Heb. 10:1-4](#)). **But Jesus sacrifice paid it all, once and for all** ([John 19:13](#), [Heb. 10:12-24](#)).

- And just like the priests of the Old Covenant, **the angle's work is not yet done either**. Can you imagine how hard they work to assist us in this spiritual war and fallen world. I actually don't think we can imagine it. But I believe they also enjoy their work, knowing they are in the perfect will of their King, Jesus (yet I will say the accounts we have of them only seem to express joy when they are worshipping- they appear a little Spock like with us from what we have in the bible 😊. Likely because they have seen how ridiculously we can behave).
- But there is more to Jesus sitting than Him just completing the work of our salvation. **He sits to show His position also**. **The angels never have been invited to sit in the place reserved only for deity**. And specifically, for the Son of God (Satan desired that at God cast out). Think of it this way, in earthly customs we know when someone of great prominence enters the room, it would be unheard of to remain seated. But if, say a king, was seated when you entered, it would be extraordinary for them to stand and greet you. **How much more is this the case when angels or men enter the presence of the Son of God!**
- But make no mistake about the rest of the message here. Jesus has completed the work of our salvation. Yet the work of His judging the world and the fallen angels is coming. And when it does, He will change His posture and position to judge and make war ([Rev. 19:11-16](#)).

Folks, I am so grateful that Jesus dispatches angels to minister to our needs. But I'm more grateful that He has revealed Himself to us so that by coming to Him today as the Son of God, we could be saved and approach Him not just as our Savior, but as the King of Kings.

- The reality is everyone will bow to Him at some time and in some capacity ([Phil. 2:10-11](#)). And if you do not revere Him now as King, you will bow to Him then as judge. Jesus is God. And what you decide to do with Him **is an eternal decision**.
- So if you have not yet received Jesus, catch this last detail as he tells us angels are *ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation* (emphasis added). Did you catch that **Jesus is already looking out for you if He knows you will come to Him**, by sending His angels in advance of the day you finally call upon His name? **Have you ever wondered how you made it this far?**
- **Could it be God knows that on a day just like today, you will finally call on Jesus for your salvation? Being He's the one who gave you life and sustains it, isn't it only reasonable you would joyfully give it to Him?**