

Hebrews Chapter 1: 5 – 2: 18

Christ Superiority over the Angels

The Bible tells us angels are real. From the beginning in the book of Genesis to our text in Hebrews today. Angels are spirits sent to care for God's children, and are around the throne of God worshiping Him today.

Angels in the Jewish religion were extremely significant, mainly because of the truth found in Deuteronomy 33: 2.

These "holy ones" were angels who assisted in giving them God's law on His holy mountain.

Angels were highly used by God, not only to speak His voice, but to also speak of His authority. Since angels were highly regarded, the writer knew he had to affirm Christ superiority over them.

Chapter 1: 5-14 (the affirmation)

Knowing these believers were tempted to turn back to the Jewish religion of their forefathers, the writer makes his argument using the very Scriptures of the Old Testament that they as a Jewish people would have held in high esteem.

The writer quotes seven Scriptures in the Old Testament, most of which come from the book of Psalms.

Point # 1. Christ is the Son and the living Word of God.

As a whole, the angels have been called "the sons of God", but not one has been called out individually by God as His Son, and been set apart from all the others.

"Today" does not refer to the time of Jesus's birth on earth, nor the time of His baptism by John the Baptist, but rather the time after His resurrection when Christ, the Son, enters into His Messianic Kingship.

Angels are powerful creations of God and perform special tasks for God, but none have been promised by God to rule over all of heaven and earth. That position is only for His Son, Jesus Christ.

Angels may be messengers of God's word, but they, themselves, are not the Word of God.

Because Christ is their creator and ruler over all, the angels are to worship Him.

Point # 2. Christ is the only One worthy of worship.

Point # 3. Christ is the sovereign, Anointed Savior of the world.

Resources: The Epistle to the Hebrews by F. F. Bruce; Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Hebrews by Charles Swindoll; The Wiersbe Bible Commentary; NLT Parallel Study Bible; Hebrews by Matthew Z. Capps; Hebrews Life Change Series; www.biblegateway.com, www.biblehub.com, www.youtube.com;

Jesus is the one with the power to create the world, to reign over it. And because of His exalted position at the right hand of God, is the only One to save it.

No angel has ever brought salvation to the earth. Angels aide us, but it's Christ who saves us.

Chapter 2: 1-4 (the exhortation)

The word “we” shows the writer’s personal connection to these believers.

To listen carefully or to pay attention to the truth they’ve already heard is reminding them that the gospel message requires responsibility.

Drifting comes as a result of neglect. The writer is saying don’t neglect the word of God, otherwise you will find yourself drifting from it.

The writer, once again, points out the truth of the angels bringing the original law of God to their people to prove the point—if they heeded the message brought by angels, how much more they should then heed the message brought by Christ, who is the very word of God.

The angels were messengers, but Christ is the message.

These believers are not in jeopardy of losing their salvation, they’re at risk of losing their heavenly rewards.

OBEY (how do we keep from neglecting the Word)

O—Open God’s word. Let His word get ingrained in you that it changes your way of thinking. We have to replace what’s false with God’s truth, and let it renew our minds and transform us from the inside out.

B—Bring it into play. The word of God does us absolutely no good, if we don’t apply it in our lives. His Word not only brings us life, but it needs to be a part of our lives that it is as natural as breathing.

E—Extract and Evaluate. Extract the sin in our lives and remove anything that is getting in the way of us growing closer to Christ. Evaluate our priorities. Make sure Christ is first and everything is lined up in their proper place under Him.

Y—Yield to His authority and commands. Our lives are not our own. Yield to His commands, not just the ones in His word, but the things He ask us to do for Him.

Chapter 2: 5-18 (the explanation)

Though man was created to be lower than the angels, those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, will have a higher calling than them one day.

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Because of Christ coming to this earth, lowering Himself to become like us, and dying on the cross, could He restore to us all that we had lost and more.

Point # 4. Christ's humanity brought restoration to what man had lost.

Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Point # 5. Christ's humanity brought many children into glory.

He is the only One we are able to follow into glory. It was through His death on a cross and His resurrection that makes this possible.

Christ calls us His brothers and sisters and is not ashamed of us.

By Jesus coming to this earth, He was able to die. And through His death, won the victory over the devil.

Point # 6. Christ's humanity brought deliverance from death and disabled satan.

Because of Christ's victory over death, He has limited satan's power.

Point # 7. Christ's humanity made Him our compassionate High Priest.

Because of His time on earth and His battle with the devil in death, He is able to understand us and our troubles.

Christ is able to relate to us, and we are able to relate to Him.

Because of all that Christ has done for us, He now gives us both hope and help.

Hope for the future when we will finally one day overcome life's battles, and help for today to get through them.

Homework Questions

1. What comes to mind when you think of angels?
2. How have you seen angels minister to you or others you know? Read Psalm 91: 9-12. What is its significance to you?
3. What was the significance of the firstborn in the Jewish religion? In light of this, what point was the writer making by saying that God never told the angels what He told His firstborn Son, Jesus?
4. Read Psalm 97: 1-6. Which words describe God's holiness, His goodness, His judgment, His power and authority, and His glory? In your own words why is Jesus worthy of worship?
5. Read Hebrews 1: 13. What does the picture of Jesus being seated in this exalted position say about the purpose of Christ's life, death, and resurrection?
6. Why does the message of the gospel require responsibility on the believer's part?
7. Read Matthew 11: 20-24 and Luke 12: 47-48. How do these passages support the truth found in Hebrews 2: 1-4.
8. Read 1 Corinthians 3: 13-15 and 2 Corinthians 5: 10. What do these passages say about the importance of our work for Christ on this earth and our heavenly rewards?
9. What are some spiritual problems that can occur from neglecting the word of God?

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10. What things in your life make you prone to neglect the Word of God?
11. What advice would you offer to someone, drifting from the Word of God?
12. In your own words, how was Christ able to restore what man had lost?
13. Have you ever thought about our future calling be higher than that of the angels? Why or why not? How does this perspective change your view of God's role for you in His Kingdom?
14. What does it mean to you, to know that Christ calls you His sister and is not ashamed of you?
15. Do you ever struggle with fear of death? If so, what truths from this lesson help you to let go of this fear?
16. How does knowing that Christ understands us and our troubles encourage you today?
17. In your own words, how does Christ give us both hope and help?

Personal Reflection Questions: Pray and reflect over your response with God.

Do you honestly appreciate the gift of salvation? What proof of this is visible in your life?

How concerned are you of losing heavenly rewards? What significance does 1 Corinthians 3: 13-15 and 2 Corinthians 5: 10 have to you?

Do you honestly believe Christ understands you and is for you? Why or why not?

Do you find it easy to ask Christ for help and do you believe He will? Why or why not?

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