

Superior Title!

Hebrews 1:4-5; Psalm 2
East Berlin Community Church
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February 23, 2025

Introduction

- People today measure their worth based on the title either before or after their name.
- Importance of titles in establishing the credibility of a speaker

Superior Title!

A. Jesus Christ is *“so much better than the angels”*

- Hebrews 1:4-- *“having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*
1. **Short primer on Angelology. Who are angels and what do they do?**
 - a. **Created beings**
 - Psalm 148:2, 5-- *“Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts...For He commanded and they were created.”*
 - Job 38:7-- *“the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy”*
 - b. **“Spirit” beings**
 - Luke 24:39-- *“A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have”*
 - c. **Do not marry nor procreate.**
 - Matthew 22:30-- *“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”*
 - 1) **All the angel who have ever existed were created at once.**
 - Colossians 1:16-- *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*
 - 2) **How many were created?**
 - Daniel 7:10-- *“A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.”*
 - d. **Not subject to death**
 - e. **Possess superhuman intelligence and power**
 - f. **Do not have “souls” and therefore are beyond the scope of redemption**
 - g. **Angels minister to God and do His bidding.**
 2. **Man’s temptation in worshipping angels**
 - Revelation 22:8-9-- *“Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.’”*

3. **First-century Jewish belief in angels**

a. **The “angelic council” and creation--** *“Let us make man in our image”*

b. **Angels as mediators of the first Covenant, the Law**

- Acts 7:53-- *“you have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”*
- Galatians 3:19-- *“was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.”*

B. **Jesus Christ “has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they!”**

- Hebrews 1:1-4-- *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*

1. **The exalted Christ is given the title of LORD!**

- Philippians 2:9-11-- *“God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

2. **Jesus Christ, by inheritance is given the superior title of “SON OF GOD!”**

- Hebrews 1:5-- *“For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’? And again: ‘I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son’?”*

a. **“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”--** from Psalm 2

1) **The psalmist prophetically pictures the rejection of the Messiah**

- Psalm 2:1-3-- *“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’”*

2) **God the Father installs His king, Jesus Christ who would be given the nations as His inheritance and then given the title, “Son of God.”**

- Psalm 2:4-9-- *“He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: ‘Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.’ ‘I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.””*

3) **As a result the nations of this world are urged to serve and fear the Son.**

- Psalm 2:11-12-- *“Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”*

b. **“I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”** from 2 Samuel 7:14

1) **God made a covenant with David regarding his kingdom and successor**

- 2 Samuel 7:12b-14a-- *“set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”*

2) **These words apply ultimately to the Messiah, the future son of David**

3. **When did Jesus Christ inherit the title "Son of God"?**
 - a. **Many believe in the "eternal generation of the Son"**
 - 1) Jesus Christ always existed as the Son, was always subservient to the Father. All three persons of the trinity eternally existed in the same relationship that we have today: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - 2) This view was developed to counter the teaching of Arius, who taught that God the Father, in eternity past, created the Son of God. That Jesus was the first of God's created beings, and thus not fully God but a lesser god.
 - b. **The Bible nowhere teaches the "eternal generation of the Son."**
 - 1) **Prior to time and to His incarnation, the title "God" or the "Word" is used of Christ.**
 - Hebrews 1:8-- *"Your throne, O GOD, is forever and ever!"*
 - John 1:1-3-- *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*
 - Philippians 2:6-7-- *"who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."*
 - 2) **When God takes on human form at His incarnation, the second person of the trinity, the "WORD" becomes flesh and inherits a new title, "the only begotten Son of God."-- the "unique, one-of-a-kind Son"**
 - Luke 1:35-- *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*
 - Luke 3:22-- *, "a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*
 - 3) **Throughout His earthly life, the unique Son of God had a unique relationship with God His Father.**
 - 4) **It was at His resurrection that Jesus Christ is declared to be the "Son of God."**
 - Romans 1:3-4-- *"concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*
 - 5) **Jesus Christ, as God the Son, continues in that relationship with His Father throughout eternity future.**
 6. Angels are collectively called the "sons of God" in Job 1:6 and 2:1. And the terms are applied to the children of Israel in Exodus 4:22 and Hosea 11:1. And we today who believe in Jesus are called the "sons of God" in 1 John 3. But Jesus Christ alone is the "only begotten of the Father", the unique, one-of-a-kind Son of God. He has inherited the title that He carries throughout eternity-- the "Son of God" and thus He is superior to the angels and to all created beings, including you and I!

Application: Angels and us today?

1. **We are not alone in our struggles with the spiritual forces that are out to defeat us.**
 - 2 Kings 6:17-- *"Then 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. **God's angels today are assigned to minister to us-- to assist God in answering our prayers, delivering us from danger, encouraging, and protecting our children.**
3. **We do not worship angels but we worship the One who has inherited the superior title by virtue of His incarnation, death, burial, and resurrection! We worship the One who is the Son of God-- Jesus Christ, our LORD!**