

# Superior to the Angels!

## Hebrews 1:6-14

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- *"My day is better than your dad!"*
- In first century Jewish minds, angels were to be esteemed, to be honored as the highest beings in God's creation.
- How is Jesus Christ "better than the angels"?

## Superior to the Angels!

### A. By Virtue of the Title that He has inherited. He is the "Son of God."

### B. By Virtue of being the Object of the Angels' Worship

- Hebrews 1:6-- *"But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."*
1. **Jesus Christ as the "firstborn"**
    - a. **Refers to a position, to one's eminence.**
      - Genesis 49:3-- *"Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power."*
    - b. **Jesus Christ is preeminent over all!**
      - Colossians 1:18-- *"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."*
  2. **Angels will worship Him, but when?**
    - a. The word "again" is connected to the verb "bring", not "say"
    - b. **The writer is quoting from Psalm 97:7**
      - 1) The earth is called to rejoice because the Lord reigns.
        - Psalm 97:1-- *"The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad!"*
      - 2) The entrance of the King
        - Psalm 97:2-5-- *" The LORD reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth."*
      - 3) The whole world sees His glory
        - Psalm 97:6-- *"The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory."*
      - 4) At Christ's second coming, those who worship false gods will be confounded.
        - Psalm 97:7a-- *"Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols."*
      - 5) All will be commanded to worship Him, even all 'gods'
        - Psalm 97:7b-- *"Worship him, all you gods!"*
          - a) "Elohim" or "mighty ones" is used of angels
          - b) At Christ's second coming, all the angelic hosts will worship Christ
      - 6) This will be a time of great joy and celebration.

- Psalm 97:8-12-- *“Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments, O LORD. For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”*

c. **At His incarnation, Jesus Christ was made a “little lower than the angels”.**

d. **When Jesus takes the title deed to the nations of this world, His inheritance, angels will worship Him.**

- Revelation 5:11-14-- *“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”*

### C. **By Virtue of His Superior Position and Power as Sovereign King**

- Hebrews 1:7-14-- *“And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.” But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”*

#### 1. **The Position and Power of Angels**

a. **Angels are “spirits and His ministers, a flame of fire”**

- Hebrews 1:7-- *“he makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire.”*
  - 1) The writer is quoting from the Septuagint version of Psalm 104:4
  - 2) Angels are “spirit” beings, created or made by God
  - 3) They are God’s “ministers”, under His control as servants.

b. **Angels also render service to you and I**

- Hebrews 1:14-- *“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”*
  - 1) **Angels are “ministering spirits” employed to execute the will of God.**
  - 2) **Angels minister to those who are “heirs of salvation”**
    - Romans 8:14-17-- *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

- a) **Angels watch over the littlest ones.**
  - Matthew 18:10-- *"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."*
- b) **Angels rejoice in heaven when a sinner repents**
  - Luke 15:10-- *"there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*
- c) **They accompany God's children when they make their final journey**
  - Luke 16:22-- *"was carried by the angels in Abraham's bosom."*

## 2. **The Superior Position and Power of Jesus Christ, the Exalted, Sovereign King!**

- Hebrews 1:8-13-- *"But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?"*
- a. **The declaration of the Father concerning His Son**
  - Hebrews 1:8a -- *"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever!"*
  - 1) **Clearest declaration of the Deity of Christ**
    - John 10:30-- *"I and the Father are one"*
    - John 10:33-- *"you, a mere man claim to be God."*
  - 2) **A quote from Psalm 45, clearly a Messianic Psalm**
- b. **Two Characteristics of Christ's Kingdom that sets it apart from all earthly kings and kingdoms.**
  - 1) **He will reign in righteousness and justice.**
    - Hebrews 1:8b-9-- *"A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*
    - a) **He will have in His hand a "just or righteous" scepter, indicating how he will reign.**
    - b) **Jesus loves righteousness and hates lawlessness.**
    - c) **Because Jesus loves righteousness and hates sin, the Father "anoints him with the oil of gladness above they fellows."**
    - d) **Jesus Christ was anointed as king at His ascension.**
  - 2) **He will reign "forever and ever"**
    - Hebrews 1:8a-- *"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever!"*
    - a) **Creation is not "eternal"**
      - Hebrews 1:10-12-- *"And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."*
    - 1) **A quote from Psalm 102:25-27**

- 2) **Creation is not a “constant” but it is “wearing down”**
  - 3) **One day the world will perish.**
    - 2 Peter 3:10-- *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”*
    - 2 Peter 3:12-- *“looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”*
  - 4) **We are looking forward to the “new heavens and new earth”.**
    - 2 Peter 3:15-- *“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*
- b) **Jesus Christ’s kingdom remains forever.**
- Hebrews 12:26-28-- *“whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”*
- c) **Jesus Christ will reign until every enemy is defeated**
- Hebrews 1:13-- *“But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?”*
- 1) **Will occur during Christ’s kingdom here on earth during the Millennium**
  - 2) **Jesus Christ’s kingdom will merge with the eternal kingdom**
    - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28-- *“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”*
  - 3) **Throughout eternity, Jesus Christ will reign and dwell with us.**
    - Revelation 21:3-- *“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”*