

## The Superiority of Jesus: “Greater Than the Angels” – Hebrews 1:4-14

This morning we continue our study in the book of Hebrews. Having established that Christ is the superior and sufficient revelation of God, he now declares Christ is superior to the angels who serve as messengers from God.

The subject of angels begins in verse 4 of chapter one and will continue to be in view throughout chapter two. The writer of Hebrews will use the word angels some 13 times in his letter; 11 of these in the first two chapters.

- **Angels are mysterious messengers.** The writer of Hebrews introduces us to a comparison and contrast between Jesus and the angels. For this contrast to be meaningful, we must then necessarily have some biblical understanding of angels. Comparing something well known to something unknown is not helpful!

According to Grudem’s Systematic Theology, “Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgments, high intelligence, but without physical bodies.”

- **Angels are created . (Col. 1:16: Psalm 148:2, 5)**
- **Angels are spirit beings. (Hebrews 1:14)**
- **Angels are highly intelligent . (Acts 27:23-25)**
- **Angels are infinitely inferior to Jesus!** Having established what angels are, let us see what the writer of Hebrews declares concerning them in relationship to Jesus. In verses 5-12, the author uses three themes, each containing a pair of OT quotations, thus illustrating the sufficiency of Scripture to interpret Scripture.
  - **Jesus is greater due to His exalted Person . (4-5)** Psalm 2:7 introduces the unique relationship between the Father and the Son: along with 2 Samuel 7:14 that speaks of the Davidic Covenant. Jesus is greater than the angels for He, as the Son of God is the fulfillment of all the Messianic hope and the Davidic covenant. “Your throne shall be established forever.”
  - **Jesus is greater due to His exalted position . (6-7)** Now the writer uses two OT passages to declare the superiority of Jesus as the object of angelic worship. Referencing Deuteronomy 32:43 and Psalm 103:4, we see angels worship and serve Jesus!
  - **Jesus is greater due to His cosmic rule and reign . (8-12)** Using two OT passages: Psalm 44:7-8 and 101:26-28, the writer demonstrates the reign and cosmic rule of the Son. He alone is Creator, and the angels are his creation. The Son rules and reigns over all the angels.

The final OT reference in verse 13 brings us back to where we started in verse 3: “the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

### Application points:

Angels worship and praise God, and so should we!

Angels serve and minister for God, and so should we!

Angels minister to and support believers, and so should we! (Heb. 1:14)