

## *Jesus Superior to the Angels* *Hebrews 1:4-14*

*“So we find that the Son of God is superior to angels in every way, with each of His superiorities having been described in the Old Testament. Jesus is Messiah. He is God in the flesh. He is the Mediator of a New Covenant, a covenant better than the Old. In the brief fourteen-verse chapter, we see the deity of Jesus Christ established by divine names. He is called Son, Lord, and God. By divine works He creates, sustains, governs, redeems, and purges sin. By divine worth He is the one to be worshiped by the angels and all other creatures in the universe. By divine attributes He is omniscient, omnipotent, unchanging, eternal. In all these ways the superiority of Jesus Christ is proclaimed. Why are these truths so important? The next passage gives the answer. ‘For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?’ (Heb. 2:1-3). If God expected such a positive response to the law, which came through angels, what response does He expect concerning the gospel, which came through Jesus Christ? MacArthur*

- I. Hebrews was written to give its readers a biblical understanding of the second person of the trinity and his superiority over all things. The primary recipients, the Jews, held the Old Testament religious system in higher regard than Jesus himself. In fact, Judaism and its elements had become an idol that they worshipped and bowed down to. They were guilty of syncretism, the mixing of beliefs, and it had to be refuted if they were to truly live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Heb. 13:2  
Isa. 40:18  
Isa. 40:25  
Isa. 40:28  
Isa. 41:8

*There is another form of idolatry prevalent today. Its growth is fostered by cultures that continue to drift away from sound biblical teaching, just as the apostle Paul warned us, “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:3). In these pluralistic, liberal times, many cultures have, to a large degree, redefined God. We have forsaken the God revealed to us in Scripture and have recast Him to comply with our own inclinations and desires—a “kinder and gentler” god who is infinitely more tolerant than the One revealed in Scripture. One who is less demanding and less judgmental and who will tolerate many lifestyles without placing guilt on anyone’s shoulders. As this idolatry is propagated by churches around the world, many congregants believe they are worshiping the one, true God. However, these made-over gods are created by man, and to worship them is to worship idols. worshiping a god of one’s own making is particularly tempting for many whose habits and lifestyles and drives and desires are not in harmony with Scripture. gotquestions.org*

- II. Angels were created by Jesus Christ to serve him as Lord. They were held in high regard because of the prominent role they played in fulfilling God's will throughout the Old Testament. *"Angels are the highest of all God's creatures: heaven is their native home (Matt. 24:36) They 'excel in strength' (Psa. 103:20). They are God's ministers (Psa. 104:4). Like a king's gentlemen-in-waiting, they are said to 'minister unto the Ancient of days' (Dan. 7:10). They are 'holy' (Matt. 25:31) Their countenances are like 'lightning' and their raiment is as 'white as snow' (Matt. 28:3). They surround God's throne (Rev. 5:11). They carry on every development of nature. 'God does not move and rule the world merely by law and principles, but by living beings full of light and love. His angels are like flames of fire; they have charge over the winds, and the earth, and the trees and the sea (the book of Revelation shows this...). Through the angels he carries on the government of the world" (Saphir). Pink*

Heb. 1:4-13  
Psa. 148:2-5  
2 Peter 2:4  
Matt. 22:30  
Psa. 103:20  
Dan. 10:4-6,12-13  
Rev. 1:7  
1 Cor. 6:3  
Col. 2:18  
Rev. 19:10  
1 Tim. 2:5  
Psa. 2:7  
2 Sam. 7:14  
Luke 3:22  
Rom. 1:3-4  
Isa. 45:12  
Psa. 102:25-27

- III. Jesus commissioned his angels to minister to his saint as part of his gift to those who will inherit salvation. They protect and keep us safe from the evil one and his minions (1 Jn. 5:18). They are sent to answer our prayers (Dan. 10; Acts 12). They help us in our time of need (Lk. 22:43; Gen. 16). They watch over us and keep us from harm (Ps. 91:11). They minister to us in ways we can hardly imagine and that should instill in us a sense of wonderment, praise, and security in knowing that Jesus is taking very good care of us as wait his return.

Heb. 34:7  
Ps. 91:11-12  
Isa. 41:28-31

***Psalm 34:7*** *The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*