

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

HEBREWS 1:1-9

LESSON: THE SON GREATER THAN ANGELS—May 12, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

The author of Hebrews does not name himself; his identity is unknown. The general consensus is that this letter was written to Jewish Christians. The purpose in the first part of chapter 1 is to show that Christ is *"better than the prophets"* and Christ is *"better than the angels."* The epistle begins without any greeting, demonstrating that it is not a personal letter but a word of exhortation. Immediately the author proclaims his theme: The work of Jesus Christ is God's final work and is superior to all that which preceded it. The author clears up confusion by carefully explaining how Christ is superior to angels.

I. HEBREWS 1:1-3

1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,— This simply means that God does speak! *"At sundry times and in divers manners"* meant that He spoke in many separate revelations, at many different times. Therefore, in the past, God spoke in many different ways to the fathers through the prophets. God spoke in visions, dreams, and even face to face to reveal little by little His Will and even Himself. The prophets of the Old Testament were great men and women of God whom God spoke to and entrusted His message, however, no man could ever contain or share the whole revelation of God. Men could understand only part or fragments of God. Therefore, God had to make revelations to many different people at different times and manners.

EIGHT REVELATIONS ABOUT THE SON'S SUPERIORITY TO ANGELS: 1:2-3

1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, — **FIRST, GOD SPEAKS TO US BY HIS SON.** Although God's Word was spoken by the prophets, His very own Son came to earth and revealed God, proclaiming all that God is. God in these last days uses His Son, for There is no one greater who knows all of God than His very own Son, not even angels. Men fade into insignificance when compared to Jesus Christ. And God could send no greater messenger with His Word than Himself through His Son, not angels.

1:2b ...whom he hath appointed heir of all things,— **SECONDLY, JESUS WAS APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS.** Being heir to all things denotes supreme dominion over angels and man. Everything the Father has, the Son has. As Son of God, He had created all things and as Son of man He will inherit all things (Rom.8:16-17). What is Jesus to inherit or receive?

- Jesus inherits all power in heaven and earth.
- Jesus inherits the authority to execute all judgment upon men.
- Jesus inherits the whole universe.
- Jesus inherits all government.
- Jesus inherits all power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.
- Jesus inherits all the angels and all the other spiritual authorities and powers.
- Jesus inherits a Name above every name and every knee shall be bowed before Him.

And in verse 4, *"Jesus obtained a more excellent Name than the angels!"*

1:2c ...by whom also he made the worlds;— **THIRDLY, JESUS IS THE CREATOR AND MAKER OF THE WORLDS.** The worlds can be translated as *"ages"*, referring to time, space, energy, and matter—the entire universe

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and everything that makes it function, Jesus is the Creator, wherever they are and however many there may be; visible and invisible, Christ created them, not angels! There is nothing in existence that He did not create.

1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory,— FOURTH, JESUS CHRIST POSSESSES THE VERY GLORY OF GOD.

This possession was before He ever came into the world. All Light came from Him! Jesus has always had the brightness and radiance of God's eternal glory. No angel had that ability without Him. His very essence and presence shined forth!

1:3b and the express image of his person,— FIFTH, JESUS IS THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF GOD. The word "express" (Gr. *charackter*) indicating the very stamp, imprint, mark, and impression—the very resemblance of God. Jesus Christ is the perfect imprint and very image of God's nature. The word "**Image**" (*hypostasis*) means substance, essence, and persona (character and personality). Not only is Jesus Christ's God's spokesman, He is God Himself—the full revelation and complete embodiment of God Himself! No angel is the image of God.

1:3c ...and upholding all things by the word of his power,— SIXTH, JESUS CHRIST UPHOLDS ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER — Sustainer of the universe. No man can do that. God did not create the world and leave it to fly through space; No, the Word of Jesus Christ's power keeps evil from completely conquering and utterly destroying all things. His Word spoke it into existence, and can certainly sustain, maintain, defend, and justify the upholding of it by His Word! No angel could uphold the world by their Word.

1:3d ...when he had by himself purged our sins,— SEVENTH, JESUS BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS. ¹He has taken us from unrighteousness to righteousness. The purpose of purging is to get rid of something that holds you back. Purging helps you by propelling you forward. How? When you confess and repent of the unrighteous behavior, you purge out all sin. Sin holds you down and holds you back. Purging brings deliverance, and deliverance allows you to move forward without hindrances. "*Jesus gave himself that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*" Titus 2:14. Redemption did not come from some great prophet, but from Jesus Christ alone who sacrificed Himself for our sins. No man or angels could do this; only a Perfect Person could ever purify and cleanse men from their sins. His Perfect Righteousness and His Sacrificial death stands for all men.

When a man believes in Jesus Christ, truly believes, the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ cover him. God takes the man's faith and honors it; He honors it by counting the man as being in the righteousness and death of Jesus Christ. The man is righteous in Christ, and he has already died to sin in Christ. Therefore, the man is purified; his sins are cleansed and washed away.

1:3e ...sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;— EIGHTH, JESUS SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH. Jesus sits there as the great Mediator and Intercessor for man. No other person or angel could ever come close to being seated or accepted at the right hand of God. The right hand is the place of power, authority, and honor. Christ alone has this position! The seat that Christ has taken is the throne of God where He rules as sovereign Lord. This depicts a victorious Savior, not a defeated martyr because He has completed His assignment! It has been His position while still being God!

II. HEBREWS 1:4-9

1:4a Being made so much better than the angels,— Jesus was made so much better than the angels, refers to...

- His Incarnation (embodiment)— the Word made flesh, — Son of God and Son of Man. He still accomplished the cleansing of our sins.
- His price paid at Calvary (*the reason for the Incarnation*),

¹ <http://pastorphilip.wordpress.com/2012/10/24/purged-of-sins/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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- and then His Exaltation as Savior.

Although angels had high and exalted positions, no angel was better than Jesus; no angel could perform what Jesus could do, for they are created beings. As God, Jesus has always been greater than the angels, even of Him as man in human form.

1:4b ...as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. The inheritance is in His permanent possession. ²He was declared to be the Son of God, and it was made manifest, that this name rightfully belonged to Him, upon the discharge of His office— at His resurrection and ascension to heaven. Therefore, He is said to obtain it by inheritance.

1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?— The Hebrew author begins a series of Old Testament quotations or questions: Which of the angels were asked to be God's Son or was told that God would be his Father? In Job 1:6 the group of angelic heavenly beings was called "*the sons of God*" as they gathered before God like a council before a king. However, no one angel was given the individual title of "Son." They do not inherit that name, only Jesus. God said "*thou art my Son*" to Jesus, not to the angels. The more excellent name that Jesus possesses is "*Son*." He alone has been "*begotten*" (*gegenneka*), that is, born or sent into the world by God. **THE BEGOTTEN SON, WAS DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD** by the Father. Therefore, Jesus Christ is more superior than the angels because of this. Jesus is the first and only begotten Son.

1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. The word "*firstbegotten*" (*prototokos*) means in the sense of priority and superiority, of being above someone else. It is a word that shows dignity, honor, and worth; that someone deserves praise. Jesus Christ is the One who is to be worshiped and praised, not angels. Jesus Christ is the Person who entered the world as man. He is the Person who was raised from the dead; conquered death forever, and then ascended into heaven to live forever. He is the Person who is to return and take us home to heaven to be with Him eternally. Angels can't and are not able to do this. Therefore, our worship, our hope, our attention, our praise are to be upon Christ.

- When Jesus Christ was born into this world, He was attended and worshipped by angels (Lk.2:13).
- When Jesus Christ was in the wilderness and the devil left, behold angels came and ministered to Him (Mt. 4:11).
- When Jesus Christ was taken into the world above, at resurrection and ascension, He was attended and worshipped by angels (Acts 1:10).
- When Jesus Christ returns to this earth again, He shall be attended and worshipped by angels (Mt.13:41).

1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. Consider the word "**make**": Angels are made, that is, created and controlled by God. They are created spirits who serve God; He makes His ministering angels a flame of fire in the operation of the universe. They guard, fight, do battle, bring messages, etc. They serve God just as wind and fire have been made to serve God and man. They honor the Father, therefore they honor the Son. Christ is not a created being. He was here before any angels. In job 38:4, 7 speaks of angels worshipping God as He was creating the world... *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? While the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?*" And John 3:31 says "*He that cometh from above is above all: He that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all*"

² <http://biblehub.com/hebrews/1-4.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. *“Throne”* and *“Scepter”* are known for as symbols of authority. Jesus Christ is God, the Sovereign Majesty; the King who sits upon His throne, not angels. Jesus Christ is the King who has the scepter of righteousness which denotes His power over **all**, including the angels. His throne and scepter are forever!

1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Jesus Christ has been anointed with the oil of gladness above all fellows. Who is meant by fellows? It has to mean all creatures both in heaven and earth, for no being or person nor group of beings or persons are equal to Him. He is the Anointed One above all angels. He loves righteousness and hates iniquity. We must look to Jesus Christ for righteousness, not angels.

SUMMARY:

God's spokesmen in times past were at various times and in different ways. He spoke to the fathers or ancestors by His prophets to reveal His Will and Himself. However, at the end of these days, God speaks to us by His Son. This is the Son whom He has appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the worlds. Jesus is the brightness of God's glory, the express image of His person. And He upholds all things by the Word of His power. He purged our sins, and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (**1:1-3**).

Although angels had high and exalted positions, no angel was better than Jesus. For by inheritance He obtained a more excellent name than theirs. As evidence for the superiority of Jesus over angels, the author proceeds to ask which of the angels did He ask to be Son and He would be Father? There is no other firstbegotten than Jesus in which the angels worshiped Him. He made the angels to be spirits or messengers as swift as the wind and ministers or servants to be as a fiery flame. But for the Son, His kingdom, authority, and power will last forever and ever. He loves right and hates wrong. And God has anointed Him, pouring out more oil of gladness upon Him, than anyone else (**1:4-9**).

APPLICATION:

Angels are created beings to worship the Creator, just as we also are created to worship the Creator! Don't waste your time worshipping men.