

INTRODUCTION

1. We are currently looking at Jesus as He is seen in Hebrews chapter 1.
2. He is better than the prophets
3. He is the heir and creator of the world
4. He is the radiance of God's glory
5. He is the exact representation of God's nature
6. He is upholding all things by the word of His power
7. He made purification for sins

8. He sat down at the right hand of God's majesty
9. Now as we look at verse 4, we see that He is better than angels.
10. Notice what verse 4 says: "Having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they."
11. Notice that the writer of Hebrews says He is "better than the angels" and now introduces us to these wonderful creatures of God.
12. In his book, *Angels: God's Secret Agents*, Billy Graham shares this about angels:
13. He says, "I am convinced that these heavenly beings exist and that they provide unseen aid on our behalf. I do not believe in angels

because someone has told me about a dramatic visitation from an angel, impressive as such rare testimonies may be. I do not believe in angels because UFO's are astonishingly angel-like in some of their reported appearances. I do not believe in angels because ESP experts are making the realm of the spirit world seem more and more plausible. I do not believe in angels because of the sudden worldwide emphasis on the reality of Satan and demons. I do not believe in angels because I have ever seen one — because I haven't. I believe in angels because the Bible says there are angels; and I believe the Bible to be the true Word of God” (pp.14-15).

14. The writer of Hebrews says in verse 4 that...

LESSON

I. Jesus is Better Than the Angels (v.4a)

A. Angels Exist

1. “The Jews held angels in very high regard as the highest beings next to God.”¹
2. The fact that angels exist is as certain as the fact that God exists.²
3. Thirty-four books of the Bible make reference to angels (seventeen in the Old Testament; seventeen in the New Testament).³

¹ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

² Dickason, C Fred. Angels Elect and Evil (p. 20). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³ Enns, Paul P. [The Moody Handbook of Theology](#). Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989. Print.

4. Hebrews 12:22 (NASB) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels.
5. Although the term *myraids* (Gk. *muriasin*) literally means ten thousand, here it denotes “countless thousands” (cf. Rev. 5:11).
6. The repetition of myriads in Revelation 5:11 also suggests the number of angels is countless.⁴

We know angels exist because the Bible says they exist and there are countless numbers of them.

The Bible also says...

⁴ Enns, Paul P. [The Moody Handbook of Theology](#). Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989. Print.

B. Angels were Created

1. Hebrews 1:7 says God “makes (poieo, means to create) His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire”
2. Psalms 148:2-5 (NASB) Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.
3. Colossians 1:16 tells us when Jesus created everything, He created the angels:

Colossians 1:16 (NASB) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

The statement of creation in Colossians 1:16 points to the creation of angels as a singular act; the act of creating angels does not continue.

Not only were they created but they were created to...

C. Angels are Spirits Who Do God's Bidding

1. They are called ministers in Hebrews 1:4, 14

2. The Hebrew word used for angels is *malak* and it simply means “messenger”; it may refer to a human messenger (1 Kings 19:2) or a divine messenger (Gen. 28:12).
3. The basic meaning of the word is “one who is sent.” As a divine messenger an angel is a “heavenly being charged by God with some commission.”
4. The word is found 103 times in the Old Testament. The Greek word *angelos* occurs 175 times in the New Testament; however, of men it is used only 6 times.
5. The word *angelos* is similar to the Hebrew *malak*; it also means “messenger ... who speaks and acts in

the place of the one who has sent him.”

6. Angels are Spirit beings created by God to minister to Him and do His bidding

Angels exist, were created, are ministering spirits who do God’s bidding and...

D. Angels are Subject to Him

Matthew 26:51-53 (NASB) And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions (6,000 per Roman

legion totalling 72,000) of angels?

E. Angels Are Also Called by Other Names

1. They are called *Sons of God* in Job 1:6; 38:7
2. They are called *Holy ones* in Psalm 89:5, 7
3. They are called *Host* in Psalm 89:6, 8; 1 Sam.17:45 which can be understood to denote the armies of heaven (Ps. 89:6, 8; 1 Sam. 17:45)⁵

F. Jesus was Lower than the Angels Before His Ascension

1. After His resurrection He appeared to Mary in John 20:15-17 (NASB) Jesus said

⁵ Enns, Paul P. [The Moody Handbook of Theology](#). Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989. Print.

to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’”

2. Hebrews 1:4 says that Jesus “having become as much better than angels.”

3. “Having become” refers to a change of state, not a change of existence.
4. The Son in His divine essence has eternally existed, but for a while He was made lower than the angels (2:9) and afterward was exalted to an infinitely higher position by virtue of what He had accomplished in His redemptive work.⁶

Not only is Jesus better than the angels but He...

II. Jesus Has a More Excellent Name Than the Angels (v.4b-5)

Hebrews 1:4 (NASB) having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

⁶ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

A. Their Name is Servant

1. Remember the word *angelos* is similar to the Hebrew *malak*; and means “messenger ... who speaks and acts in the place of the one who has sent him.”
2. No angels is sovereign Lord (see vv.6, 13, 14)

B. His Name is Son (vv.4c-5)

1. In verses 2 and 5 He is called “son”
2. But He was never called the Son until His incarnation. Before that He was eternal God (See John 1:1; 8:58)
3. Verse 5 says, “For to which of the angels did He ever say, ‘You are My Son, today

I have begotten You?’ and again, ‘I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me’?

4. Summary: The eternal Son took on a human nature to rescue us from sin and death (2:14, 15). Having for a time voluntarily taken a position “lower than the angels” (2:7), He is now in His resurrection and ascension “declared to be the Son of God in power” (Rom. 1:4) to save His people (v. 5 note). Christ’s exaltation thus inaugurates a new phase of His messianic and redemptive Sonship, and gives Him a dignity far above that of angels.⁷

⁷ Sproul, R. C., ed. [*The Reformation Study Bible: English Standard Version \(2015 Edition\)*](#). Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust, 2015. Print.

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus is superior to the prophets and the angels.
2. His name is far more excellent than the angels.
3. They are ministering spirits but He is the Son of God.
4. As verse 6 says, “And let all the angels of God worship Him,” let us all worship Him!
5. He is worthy of our praise this morning and every day.
6. He is God.

7. He is the God-man.
8. He is the Son of God.
9. Do you know Him this morning?
10. If not, you can right now.
11. You've already heard that He is better than the angels.
12. You heard last week that He is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by the word of His power. He made purification for sins and then sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high.
13. You can know Him this morning by agreeing with what the Scriptures has just taught

about Him and by repenting of your sin and calling on His name.

14. Jesus has another name in Philippians 2:10-11 (NASB) so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
15. Confess Him now.
16. Let's pray / Business Meeting.

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 - A. Angels Exist
 - B. Angels were Created
 - C. Angels Are Spirits Who Do God's Bidding
 - D. Angels Are Subject to Him
 - E. Angels Are Called By Other Names
 - F. Jesus was Lower Than the Angels Before His Ascension

- II. Jesus Has a More Excellent Name Than the Angels (vv.4b-5)
 - A. Their Name is Servant
 - B. His Name is Son (vv.4b-5)