
Don’t shoot the messenger – Ever heard that?

1) Angels: An Angel = simply means messenger. But heavenly “Angels” are much more than mere messengers Vs. “Angel” = spiritual beings created to serve God. Powerful. Intelligent. Had a Will.

2) Prophets were also Messengers. They brought the message of God to Israel & world

3) Jesus has been called a good man; a moral example; a righteous teacher; a holy prophet. = But Jesus rejects these titles for He is God. He is Lord. To be worshipped as God – in the flesh.

Point: Jesus is the both the messenger and MESSAGE of God Himself. (i.e. flowers to my wife) Jesus is “better than,” superior to mere angels; infinitely greater than a mere prophet. Jesus is God!

The Author of Hebrew’s case of Jesus of Nazareth’s Superiority To Angels

The Son (Jesus) is “much better than the angels”... – Heb. 1:4

In the 90’s Popular TV shows and movies depict angels working in our lives (“Highway To Heaven”, “Touched By An Angel”, “The Preacher’s Wife”, - old School: “It’s A Wonderful Life”)

What’s the deal with Angels anyway?  The Bible declares that Angels, spiritual beings, exist. “Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!” Ps. 103:20

1) Why do Angels exist? Angels exists as divine worshipers, messengers, and agents of God to accomplish God’s perfect will within the universe. We see Angels actively engaging mankind, helping, serving, and bringing God’s message to families and nations. We also see angels battle, at times on earth & in some type of heavenly warfare with demonic forces (Dan. 10:13; Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:4).

2) Are Angels watching us now? Is there an invisible spiritual realm? Yes. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Heb. 13:2

3) Do we have Guardian Angels? “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14); “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.” Ps. 34:7; “For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.” Ps 91:11

4) Do Angels escort us at death? "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.” Lk. 16:22; cf. 1 Th. 4:16;
-“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire.” Mt. 13:41-42

5) Can Angels experience Salvation? Can Demons, fallen Angels, ever be redeemed? ”Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” Mt. 25:41

** (Author of Hebrews to Jews:  Angels were an important part of the Judaism and the Old Test.
A. Angels assisted with the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai - cf. Dt. 33:2; Ps. 68:17; Ac 7:53; Gal 3:19
B. They appear throughout the history of Israel, delivering God’s message to Abraham, Daniel, Mary . . .
    1) Angels may be called “sons of God” collectively - cf. Job 1:6
    2) But, the name “Son,” is a title that only the Messiah, that Jesus can properly wear...

Author of Hebrews asks his Jewish audience to consider the following scriptural support:

Vs. 5: Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because JESUS IS THE unique “SON” of God –
1. Messianic Distinction: The first is Ps. 2:7
"For to which of the angels did He ever say, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”?
- A psalm depicting the enthronement of the Messiah (the Lord’s Anointed, in which Jehovah calls the Messiah “My Son” (The “begetting” has reference to the resurrection of Jesus - Ac 13:33; Ro 1:4)
And again, “I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM, AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?

a. This passage had immediate application to Solomon, David’s son. But as the Messiah who would receive the throne of David was also descended from David... (It's ultimate fulfillment/application would be to the Messiah, i.e. Jesus, the “son of David” - Mt 1:1; Mk 10:47; Jn 7:42)

B. BUT NO ANGEL IS EVER CALLED “MY SON”...

= This not only demonstrates Jesus’ superiority to angels... It proves that Jesus Himself was not an angel! Contrary to what some (such as JWs) believe

VS. 6: Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because they worship HIM

FIRSTBORN: (NOT as the first person created or literally FIRST “born” – as some [JWs] believe Jesus was created/born) "And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

- “Firstborn” [bekor] = metaphor to describe one who occupies the rank/privilege of being firstborn
  = “firstborn” not necessarily [born first] -refers to the nation of Israel (the least of nations)– Ex. 4:22
  = of David (youngest of eight) - Ps 89:20,27
  = of Jesus to demonstrate His preeminence over creation (Col. 1:15-18)

-Jesus as the Firstborn (= God’s Son & Creator & God Himself), the angels are to worship Him

We see throughout Scripture, Jesus received worship while on the earth:

a. From the wise men - Mt 2:11
b. From the leper - Mt 8:2
c. From the Synagogue Official - Mt 9:18
d. From His disciples in the boat - Mt 14:33
e. From the Canaanite woman - Mt 15:25
f. From the man born blind - Jn 9:38
g. From the women and other disciples following His resurrection - Mt 28:9,17
h. From the disciples following His ascension - Lk 24:52

VS. 7: Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because they serve HIM

"And of the angels He says "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

*In distinction from Jesus, Angels are not to be worshipped but are useful servants

1. They are created spirits to serve God (called “ministering spirits” in He 1:14)
2. Their service can be as powerful yet transient as “wind” or “flames of fire”
3. Angels refused to be worshipped:

"At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!" Rev. 19:10

"And I am John, the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. 9But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” Rev. 22:9

VS. 8-9: Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because “GOD” ENTHRONED AND ANOINTED

“But of the Son He says “YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.”

Vs. 8: The author is quoting from another Messianic psalm – Ps. 45:6-7
- The Son, Who is God, has been enthroned, and reigns over an everlasting kingdom with righteousness
  - A kingdom of which Daniel said “shall never be destroyed” - Dan 2:44
  - A kingdom of which Gabriel (an angel) told Mary: “there will be no end” - Lk 1:33

Vs. 9: “YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS
ANointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions.

This Son, Who is God and King, has been “anointed” as King and Sovereign

VS. 10-12 Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because JESUS IS THE ETERNAL CREATOR
1. Now the Hebrew writer is quoting from Ps 102:25-27 addresses God using His covenant name Yahweh
   - This is the name that God used to identify Himself to Moses – Ex. 3:13-14
   - Jesus said before Abraham was, “I am” –Jn. 8:58

Vs. 10 “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS.”
   - In the beginning it was Jesus who created the earth and the heavens – cf. Heb 1:2

VS. 11-12 “THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, - AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.”
   - Jesus is also eternal, therefore unchangeable - He 1:11-12
   - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Heb. 13:8

VS. 13-14: Jesus is superior (Better than) the angels because JESUS IS THE “SOVEREIGN” Lord of Heaven and Earth
   “But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?
   - “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”
   - NO ANGEL HAS ever BEEN INVITED TO SIT AT GOD’S RIGHT HAND...
   - The psalm quoted now is Ps 110:1
   - ONLY Jesus receives Praise: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” Re 5:11-12