



Hebrews 1:4~14

Jesus is Better than Angels 🔥 Sun, Oct 14th 2007

Draw your attention to Heb 1 – open with stories

On a dark night about a hundred years ago, a Scottish missionary couple found themselves surrounded by cannibals intent on taking their lives. That terror-filled night they fell to their knees and prayed that God would protect them.

Intermittent with their prayers, the missionaries heard the cries of the savages and expected them to come through the door at any moment.

But as the sun began to rise, to their astonishment they found that the natives had retreated into the forest. The couple's hearts soared to God. It was a day of rejoicing!

The missionaries bravely continued their work. A year later the chieftain of that tribe was converted. As the missionary spoke with him, he remembered the horror of that night. He asked the chieftain why he and his men had not killed them. The chief replied, "Who were all those men who were with you?" The missionary answered, "Why, there were no men with us. There were just my wife and myself." The chieftain began to argue with him, saying, "There were hundreds of tall men in shining garments with drawn swords circling about your house, so we could not attack you."

The missionary was the "legendary" John G. Paton of the New Hebrides.

Norwegian missionary Marie Monsen, who served in North China, experienced the intervention of angels on several occasions. In her autobiography *A Present Help*, published in 1960, she tells how looting soldiers had surrounded the mission compound but never entered—leaving the missionaries unharmed and happily perplexed. A few days later they learned why when a marauder explained that as they were about to enter the compound, they saw “tall soldiers with shining faces on a high roof of the compound.” Miss Monsen said: “The heathen saw them, it was a testimony to them, but they were invisible to us. It came powerfully to me and showed me how little we reckon with “the Lord, the God of Hosts,” who sends forth his angels, mighty in strength “to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14)

I could literally fill up my time tells you stories this morning of the intervention of Angels in the lives of God’s people – scripturally and from history.

Yet, that is not the specific aim of our text today.

Heb 1:4 – wants us to know – Jesus is better than angels

- Thought good to draw attention to angels
- Then ask simply....what are angels?

I. What are Angels?

1. Angels are real

- a. Directly mentioned over 300 times in Bible

2. Angels are spirit beings – v.7,14

- a. Angels are a created being – **Col 1:16** 
- b. Not people who have died-you will not be

3. Angels are Numerous – beyond number **Heb 12:22**

4. There are good angels and bad, fallen angels

- a. Bible calls them demons – **Rev 12:4,7** 

5. Angels - Most of the time invisible

- a. Elisha and his servant -1 **Kings 6:15-17** 
- b. Even now – in this room – invisible
- c. Can appear as human – **Heb 13:2** 
- d. But is not their natural appearance
- e. What do angels look like
 - i) Point out because of our odd culture
 - ii) Angel pictures are babies or women
 - iii) Biblically – fearful, powerful beings **Mat 28:3-4** 

6. Angels are powerful and able

- a. Powerful – slew 185,000 in Hezekiah's day 
- b. Able – rescued men like Daniel, Peter

7. Angels can be messengers

- a. Gabriel to Mary, Zacharias – in Daniel

8. Angels can strengthen

- a. Jesus – ministered to –**Mat 4:11; Luke 22:42-43** 

9. Not exhaustive study of angels

- a. But see they are very real – awesome beings

II. Jesus is Better than Angels

1. Point of Hebrews– to hold before us greatness of Christ

- a. Calling us to Christ, secure us from moving away

2. So far – held before us that Christ is God's message

- a. Held before us 7 attributes of Jesus' greatness
- b. Today – 7 OT passages, showing over angels
 - i) 7 is God's number for perfection, completeness
- c. Further – in the 7 quotes – follow work of Christ

3. 1st Verse - Seen in Incarnation

- a. Jesus is – always the Son of God
- b. Day – here is day Jesus became man

4. 2nd Verse - Seen in Resurrection

- a. Could be that 2nd verse just reaffirming 1st
- b. But some see it as describing resurrection **Rom 1:3-4** 

c. Key - Jesus is the Son of God

- i) Has a better name than angels –**v.4**
- ii) No angel called the Son
 - A. Angels, men – called sons, children of God
 - B. But Jesus is uniquely the Son of God
- iii) Title God affirms again and again thru life
 - A. Baptism, Transfiguration–**Lu 9:34-35** 
- iv) Jews knew what this claims – Him as God **Jo 5:18** 
- A. Don't interpret by our culture – Word

d. Important–some do seek to see Jesus as an Angel

- i) Jesus is no angel – more – is God Himself
- ii) If you miss, miss eternity – **John 8:24** 

5. 3rd Verse - Seen in Return

- a. Note the words – when He again brings – not yet

6. 4th Verse - Seen in Judgments

- i) Looking ahead – angels will play large part
- b. Key – Jesus is the Firstborn**
 - i) Doesn't mean born first – but chief, highest
- c. Key - Angels worship Jesus**
 - i) God is worshiped – angels aren't - **Rev 22:8-9** 🖥️
- d. Important – angels are not to be worshipped**
 - i) Part of point here – to free us from
 - ii) If worship anything else, robs God—**Col 2:18-19** 🖥️
 - iii) Not to listen to angel that turns from **Gal 1:8** 🖥️

7. 5th Verse - Seen in Millennial Reign

- a. Looking forward to day – when Jesus reigns
 - i) 2:8 – don't see it all yet...but is coming
- b. Key - Angels serve, Jesus reigns**
- c. Key - Jesus is addressed as God, Lord**
 - i) Clear as clear can be – Jesus is God
- d. Practical – loving right, hating wrong = great Joy**
 - i) True of Christ – need to see as most joyful
 - ii) True now – sin robs, right bring joy
 - iii) True in eternity – it will be a blast – joyful

8. 6th Verse - Seen in Dissolution

- a. Day coming...when all this will go away
- b. Key - Jesus is the beginning and end**
 - i) Thru whole Bible – **first & last, author & finisher**

9. 7th Verse - Seen in Consummation

- a. Jesus is conquered...awaiting the victory
- b. Key - Jesus is heir of everything**
 - i) How it began in **v.4**, add **Rom 8:16-17** 🖥️

Conclusion

Psalm 2

- Why world set against Christ? Vain – pointless
- God laughs – not mocking...but crazy
 - Like one resisting Tsunami by blowing
 - Like one resisting avalanche w/umbrella
- God has set His King – Christ
- V.7 – Incarnation
- V.8 – Cross, resurrection
- V.9 – Millennium, judgment
- Now – be wise – kings, judges
 - All – extent of your ability to choose
- Serve Lord with fear, rejoice in Him-trembling
- Kiss the son – relationship
 - Or – destroyed – easily in His judgment
 - Today, surrender your life
- Blessed are those who trust in Him
 - Today...great, wonderful is the one who has invested himself, herself in the Son

Luke 9:23-26