

First Southern Bible Study - June 29, 2022

Better than Angels - Hebrews 1:4-14

Introduction

1. The frame of the passage
 - 1:4 - mentions the angels
 - 2:1 - wraps up with a “therefore” gives the more earnest heed to this gospel
2. Cites the Old Testament to show how Christ is superior or “better” - in this passage, to angels
 - better things - 6:9
 - better person than Abraham - 7:7
 - better hope - 7:19
 - better covenant - 7:22
 - better covenant, -better promises - 8:6
 - better sacrifices - 9:23
 - better possession - 10:34
 - better country - 11:16
 - better resurrection - 11:35
 - better things - 11:40
3. Why angels?
 - demigods - half-gods or intermediate beings
 - elevated them
 - were commonly worshiped - Col. 2:18. Why?
 - Why are angels worshiped today?

I. Seven Scriptures from the Old Testament

1. **Verse 5 - A Son** (Ps 2:7)
 - A. “Begotten” is “caused to exist”
 - “*prototokos*” is first begotten
 - “*monogenes*” describes the unique relationship; of the Son to the Father in his divine nature
 - B. Refers mostly to “begotten” into kingly office in Old Testament but here takes on a more intimate spin if you take it with Col. 1:15 and New Testament doctrine - and especially note the word “Son”
2. **Verse 5** (2 Sam. 7:14)
 - A. Note “and again”
 - B. Another father-son quote
 - C. Both verses in verse 5 can refer to Jesus, they cannot refer to an angel - the implication is that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament references, angels do not
 - D. At 2 Sam. 7:14 God promised David a son, the throne of whose kingdom He would establish forever, or that one of David’s house would inherit a kingdom, forever
 - E. Already a son in heaven... here a man/ son
3. **Verse 6 - The Firstborn** (Ps 89:27)
 - A. Firstborn (a title)

- B. The word is “*prototokos*” in the Greek - the same word used by Paul in Col. 1:15
- C. Used also at Rom. 8:29
 - firstborn among many brethren
- D. Angels are servants and worship both God AND His son
- 4. **Verse 7 - Angels are Servants** (Ps 104:4) - not divine
 - A. The role of angels - ministering spirits
 - B. “Spirits” from the Greek “*pneuma*” - meaning wind, spirit, or messenger
 - He makes His angels wind or “winds”
 - C. He is saying the angels are “spirits” - variable
 - Jesus is unchangeable
 - D. He “makes” them so - created for this task
 - E. “Ministers” is “*leitourgas*” or “servants”
 - F. Coming off verse 6 this is what the writer is conveying... the Son is a Son and angels are “servants” or ministers. Look at verses 8-9 - He has been begotten to rule.
- 5. **Verses 8-9 - He is Divine in His Person** (Ps 45:6-7)
 - A. “Righteousness” is “*dikaiousune*” meaning that which conforms to a standard or norm which is itself in keeping with what God is in His holy character (verse 8)
 - another basic idea of righteousness is “straightness”
 - note the “scepter” that was borne by the king as a symbol of authority
 - here the king’s character of authority is communicated
 - B. “Anointed” -always used in the Old Testament of anointing with the Holy Spirit (verse 9) - kings were anointed with oil after ascending to the throne
 - C. “Oil of joy/ gladness” (verse 9) - after anointing we have joy
 - anointed by God for His threefold office - prophet, priest, and king
 - but anointing oil (as in Ps. 23:5) is one of gladness
 - D. Above thy “fellows” (**verse 9**)
 - the angels are co-participants in this process
- 6. **Verses 10-12 - He is Divine by Creating** (Ps 102:25)
 - A. The unchangeable eternal majesty and power of the son (verses 11-12)
 - B. Based on the fact that He laid the foundation of the earth (verse 10)
 - remember verse 2 says He made the worlds
 - C. “They” - the heavens... shall perish (contrast)
 - “But” you - remain (not shall remain- future, but remain- present)
 - D. “They” will wear out like a garment - you’ll roll them up like a worn out coat
 - “You” will remain the same”
 - the word for “garment” may be translated “vesture” or mantle
 - note that this creation is not for forever - it will be “exchanged” - a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21)
- 7. **Verse 13 - The Son’s Position Over Angelic Creation** (Ps 110:1)
 - A. Be my companion in royal dignity - the idea is enthronement as king
 - B. Sit here while I make your enemies your footstool
 - 1) Notice that we have enemies as did Christ

- 2) They will not all be converted - they will all be footstools
- 3) It is wrong to buy the idea that we will usher in the kingdom by moral actions... we are at war. And there will be a final battle - Armageddon - against the Beast, the Anti-Christ, and Satan

- C. Angels do not sit
- D. No angel was ever invited to be enthroned
- E. The process of enthronement is found at 1 Cor. 15:22-28
- F. Marvelously consistent with the “expectation” of Heb. 10:13

II. Angels as “Ministers” (verse 14)

- 1. The function of angels
 - A. To work with the heirs of redemption
 - B. At 2:5-18 he resumes his argument against angels
- 2. An obvious contrast between angels/ servants and an enthroned king
- 3. Jesus occupied a temporary ministering position (lower than the angels) - man, for a while
- 4. “Heirs” of salvation
 - A. Joint-heirs at Rom. 8:17
 - B. Inheritance idea will be picked up again at Hebrews 3 and 4 - inherit a “rest”
 - C. Heirs and their “will” is mentioned in chapter 9
 - D. Inherit the promises at chapter 11
- 5. Who do the angels work for? And why?
 - 1 Peter 1:11-12, angels desired to look into the gospel we minister