
Sermon Notes

January 15, 2017

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Better Than Angels

Hebrews 1:4-14

Angels

- ❖ What they aren't
 - cherubs floating on clouds and wearing diapers
 - statues or pins
 - anything like what Hollywood depicts them to be
 - spirits of deceased people
- ❖ What they are
 - 108 references to angels in the OT; 165 in the NT
 - spirit beings that do not have flesh and bones but which do have bodies
 - angels can appear in human form
 - angels can appear in other forms as well (Matt 28:3)
 - angels are highly intelligent and possess emotions
 - angels are permanent: they do not die or go out of existence
 - angels are either Godly or demonic
 - angels are highly organized

- angels are more powerful than people
- angels are both spectators and participants in God's mighty work of redemption and judgment
- ❖ Why does this matter?
 - when the author of *Hebrews* writes, many Jewish people had begun to embellish basic OT teachings about angels
 - given the numerous popular misconceptions about angels that exist today, we need to keep ourselves aligned with what the Bible says about angels

Jesus is BETTER Than Angels

- ❖ In appealing to his Jewish readers, the author of *Hebrews* appeals to seven OT Scriptures that point to the way in which God's Messiah is superior to angels
- ❖ A brief, preliminary survey of this monument to Christ
 - vv. 4-5, Jesus is better than angels because He has a better title, a more excellent name
 - only Christ is the Son, angels are created servants
 - only since His incarnation has Jesus been called "Son" (*cf.* Luke 1:35)
 - Jesus' Sonship comes into full bloom in His resurrection as He is begotten again from the dead
 - "Son" is a far more excellent name/title than "angel"
 - God bestows the name "Son" on Jesus, the name that is above every name

- v. 6, Jesus is greater than angels because **He** is worshiped
 - even though, for a time, Jesus was made lower than the angels, He is now exalted above the angels and the angels are commanded to worship Him
 - angels are NOT to be worshiped (Rev. 19:10)
 - angels have always worshiped Christ as God, now they also worship Him as Son!
 - it is a sin to worship anyone or anything other than God
- v. 7, since Jesus created the angels, He is obviously superior to them
 - the angels belong to Jesus
 - angels are Jesus' created servants (ministers, winds, flames of fire)
- v. 8, God the Father testifies about Christ's eternal nature and the great difference that exists between Him and angels
 - the clearest, most powerful, emphatic and irrefutable proof of Christ's deity in the entire Bible
 - vv. 10-12, Jesus is better than angels because He exists eternally
- vv. 13-14, Jesus is better than angels because He sits at the right hand of God
 - this is the Son's seat!
 - angels will never sit on a throne

Personal Application

1. What are some popular misconceptions about angels that you observe among people you know?
2. Has Hebrews 1:4-14 challenged you to reexamine any beliefs you have previously had about angels? In what ways has studying these verses clarified your understanding about the existence of angels and the functions they do or do not perform?
3. If someone asked you why you believe Jesus is superior to angels, what would you tell them?
4. Jesus has all authority and power. He must be worshiped, listened to and obeyed. How does thinking about what God reveals about Jesus in these verses stimulate to praise and worship Him more personally, deeply, and intimately?