

S O L I D E O  
G L O R I A

# Hebrews 1:5-14

Old Testament Promises of the  
Superiority of Jesus to the Angels

~ Part 1 – verses 5-9 ~

# Introduction

- How important is the superiority of Jesus? Why do you do what you do?
  - Colossians 3:23-24
- The way you think about Jesus impacts the way you live – your courage and your convictions

# Background

- Jewish people in the first century held angels in high regard
- Angels being involved in the giving of the Law of the Old Covenant is a significant reason angels were esteemed
  - Stephen's message before his stoning reveals this belief
    - Acts 7:52-53
  - The writer of Hebrews indicates this esteem as well, but exalts the salvation provided by Jesus Christ in the New Covenant as greater
    - Hebrews 2:2-3
- A critical point that must be understood is that since the New Covenant has come, there is no going back

# Jesus is superior because He is God the Son of God the Father (1:5)

<sup>5</sup> *For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?*

- God describes the angelic beings He puts in positions of power as "sons of God"
  - Job 1:6
  - Job 2:1
- God never called a specific angel His Son
  - Psalm 2:6-8
- When the Father says of His Son, "...today I have begotten you," the begetting does not refer to creation or birth
  - The Son was "begotten" when God exalted His Son as King, ruling and reigning over the nations of the earth
  - The "begotten" exaltation happened at the resurrection and ascension of Jesus
  - No angel, but only the Son, is given all the nations to the ends of the earth as His heritage
    - Deuteronomy 32:8-9
- Jesus is superior to the angels because He rules and reigns as the King, regathering the nations
- We are to welcome and reverence the rule and reign of Jesus over our lives and His earth

# Jesus is superior because He is God the Son of God the Father (1:5)

*Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?*

- The writer of Hebrews applies a portion of God's promise to David through Nathan after David's offer to build a temple for the Lord was turned down
  - 2 Samuel 7:14
- The Father's promise to have His Son perpetually on the throne of David (2 Samuel 7:1-17) can only be fulfilled by Jesus
  - Jesus is the eternal Son of God, but His incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension became the avenue for His Davidic rule and reign as the Son of God
  - The Apostle Paul also affirmed Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to David
    - Romans 1:1-4
- This is another confirmation that Old Testament truths are valuable and need to be seen through the lens of fulfillment brought by Jesus Christ
- What is true of Jesus Christ as the exalted King of glory, fulfilling the promise of an abiding Davidic throne, cannot be said of any angel

# Jesus is superior because the angels worship Him (1:6)

<sup>6</sup> *And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."*

- God's eternal plan of redemption includes the incarnation
- Jesus is "the firstborn"
  - It does not mean that He was the first before the other created beings
  - It means Jesus has a place of honor and preeminence
- As the plan unfolded through the miraculous conception and delivery of the Christ-child, the angels are called to worship God the Savior and Son
  - Luke 2:8-14
- Worship of Christ the Lord is nothing new to angels
- Worship of Christ by the angels at His birth reveals the significance of the event
- Deuteronomy 32:43
- God calls the angels to worship the Lord for all aspects of His mission, from birth to exaltation
- Jesus is God incarnate and exalted, and His angels are to worship Him

# Jesus is superior because angels are powerful, but He is the righteous Ruler (1:7-9)

*<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."*

- Psalm 104:4 ...he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.
  - The Psalm describes our sovereign Lord's power and authority over all He has created
  - All the Lord creates and controls are for His glory
  - Angels are given impressive powers and influence in the creation
- Angelic powers are not to be taken lightly



# Jesus is superior because angels are powerful, but He is the righteous Ruler (1:7-9)

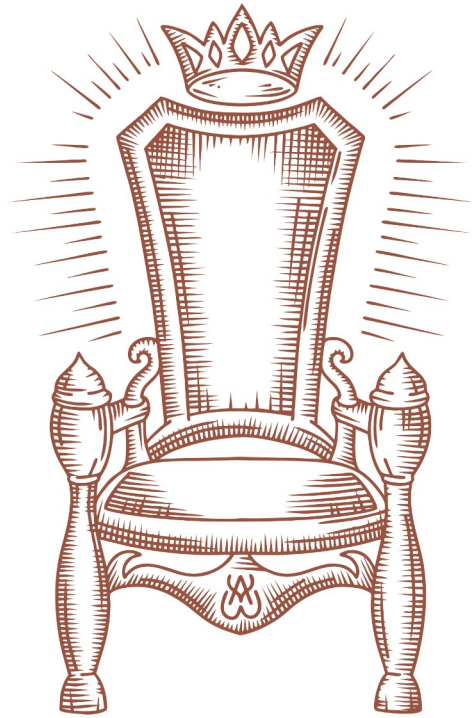
<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

- Psalm 45:6-7 is quoted to show the supreme power of the kingdom is issued by our Sovereign Lord Jesus
  - Psalm 45:6-7
- The impressive power of angelic beings does not remove them from the Lord's sovereign control
- The point of the writer of Hebrews is to show that this is clearly a reference to Jesus Christ, who is God, anointed by God as the Sovereign King
  - In fact, angels are completely responsive to the Lord's sovereign will and ways
  - The will and ways of the Lord are consistent with the love of righteousness and the hatred of wickedness
  - We must also be responsive to the will and ways of our Lord
    - We must affirm all that the Lord affirms
    - We must condemn all that the Lord condemns
- Angels are servants, but the Lord Jesus is sovereign
- If the angels wholeheartedly serve Jesus, the Sovereign Lord, shouldn't we?
  - Our delight and desires should honor our Lord, not coddle the world
  - All authority in heaven and on earth presently belongs to Jesus



# Questions to Consider

- In what specific ways do you feel challenged to welcome and reverence the rule and reign of Jesus over your life?
- Why is it important to appreciate the Old Testament by reading it through the lens of fulfillment brought by Jesus Christ?
- How should the fact that Jesus is God incarnate and exalted impact your worship of Him?
- In what ways should the worship and service that the powerful angels unreservedly offer to Jesus as Sovereign Lord impact your service and worship of the Lord?



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