

Hebrews 1:5 – 2:18

Brown Community Group May 13, 2017

1⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

¹⁰ He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

What is the purpose of comparing Jesus with angels?

1. *To show that Jesus was not an angel.*
2. *To show that the angels do not rank with Jesus and are inferior*
3. *To use angels as a benchmark for looking at Jesus, inhabitants of the earth and heavenly beings.*

What are angels?

Angels are not defined in the Bible and descriptions are few and somewhat confusing. There are two types of angels mentioned, cherubim and seraphim. Only two angels are mentioned by name: Gabriel and Michael, the archangel. Most of the ideas that we have about angels come from inference based on deeds, sayings or instructions or they are based on visions.

Some of the duties or abilities that we can infer about angels are that they

- *Were messengers*
- *Were guardians*
- *Were able to do miraculous deeds*
- *Were sometimes invisible*
- *Were able to travel/teleport*
- *Were able to resolve situations*

- *Had control over life and death*
- *Were comforters*
- *Great soldiers*

LAWGIVERS

The Jews, both in the Old and New Testaments, believed the law of Moses was handed down by God to the angels and then passed by them to Moses. Even though the law was God's, the fact that it came from angels caused the people to assign them much more authority to them than we do today. Their beliefs are supported by the following scriptures:

Exodus 3:1-2 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Deuteronomy 33:1,2 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death. He said: "The Lord came from Sinai and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran. He came with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes.

Psalms 68:17 (A Psalm of David) The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands; the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.

Acts 7:35-36,52-53 "This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness ... And now you have betrayed and murdered him (Jesus)— you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

Galatians 3:19 Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.

The concept of angels as lawgivers is necessary to understand what the Hebrew writers means in chapter 2.

2 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

⁵It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor⁸ and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Summary

- *Angels are servants and messengers of God*
- *Jesus is not an angel. At one time he was lower but now he is much higher*
- *The law of Jesus, as Son of God, is higher than the law of angels, the servants of God*