

**Jesus Christ,
Better than the Angels
(Hebrews 1:1-4)
Pastor Morgan Lester
Sunday Evening, August 21, 2016**

In Colossians 2, the Bible gives a warning to *“let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen...”*. That may seem strange to you who are saved and who have been raised on the Bible. But, to those who are lost, this is a common occurrence!

Many false religions teach a worshipping of angels, including Catholicism, Islam, and Judaism. That was perhaps even more true during the days of the early church. The Jews at this time only had the Old Testament scriptures. To them, the appearance of an angel was the closest thing to the Lord that they could ever hope to see.

And they did have good reason. Angels had appeared to men and women all throughout the Old Testament. We are told that Abraham entertained angels the day before Sodom and Gomorra were to be destroyed. In Genesis 32, we find that Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord all night long. In the book of Judges, an angel appeared to Samson’s mother and father, foretelling of his birth and life. Later, the Bible describes an angel that slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night.

So, it is easy to see why a man might have been tempted to worship an angel. To one who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, these beings are the most powerful and glorious creatures that they read about in the word of God. And yet, we know better!

Right here in verse 4, the Bible says, *“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they”*. That is speaking of Jesus! And it says that he is “much better than the angels”. Tonight, with that thought in mind, I want to bring you a message on the subject of “Jesus Christ, Better than the Angels!”.

1. First of all, let me say that Jesus Christ is better In His Name.

If you’ll notice in verse 4, it says that Jesus is better because *“he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they”*. Although angels are spoken of fairly often in the Bible, the truth is that we are not given their names very often. But there are a few exceptions to the rule.

We are told that one of the angels is named Gabriel. He is the angels most associated with delivering messages. He is the angel that delivered a message to Daniel in the Old Testament and to Mary in the New Testament. As a matter of fact, He was the one to announce Christ’s birth to young Mary.

The other angel mentioned by name is Michael. He is said to be the archangel “which standeth for the children of [the Lord’s] people” Israel. He is seen in the Scripture opposing the devil and yet not bringing a railing accusation against him.

The name Gabriel is a Hebrew name that means “God is my strength”. What a wonderful name that is. Any father would be proud to have a son who’s name means God is my strength. The name Michael is also a Hebrew name that means “Who is like God” or “He who is like God”. My, what a privilege it must be for the angel to bear such a name as Michael.

Yet, both of these names pale in comparison to the name of Jesus. As a matter of fact, every name pales in comparison to His glorious name! For the name Jesus means “Jehovah saves”! The Lord saves! And, to ever one who has believe on Him, we can all say Amen! Jesus is the Lord and saves unworthy sinners like you and me!

Jesus Christ, Better than the Angels

continued

He is also called “Immanuel”— God with us. Oh, what a lovely name, the name of Jesus! You see Michael is a good name and yet no man will ever bow down before Michael. Gabriel is a great name, and yet, in eternity no one will sing His praises! But the Bible says that “*God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Phil.2:9-11). What a name, the name of Jesus! It is a better name! It is the best name!

2. Then I see also that Jesus is better than the angels In His Sonship.

Now you might think that sounds strange. You might say, “I thought Jesus is the only Son of God”. But you would be wrong! The truth is that the Lord has many sons (hear me out before you turn me off). You saved people sitting here tonight, are you a son of God?... In John 1:12 the Bible says, “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**, even to those that believe on his name*”. 1 John 3:1 says, “*Now are we the sons of God and it doth not appear what we shall be...*”. If you’re saved, guess what? You’re a son of God!

But the angels are said to be sons of God as well. In the book of Job, we are told that “*there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord*” (Job 1:6). So, the angels are sons of God. However, there is one BIG difference between the angels sonship and Jesus Christ’s sonship.

Look there at verse 5. It says, “*For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bright in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him*”. Did you catch it?... Jesus is the only BEGOTTEN Son of God! He is the only one who came to earth and robed himself in flesh! He is the only one who is Virgin born!

John 3:16— “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only BEGOTTEN Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life*”. If you have an NIV bible, then it lies to you. It says Christ is God’s “one and only Son”. That isn’t true! Christ is the only begotten of the Father!

3. I also see that Jesus is better than the angels In His Message.

In chapter 2, verse 1, the Bible says, “*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him*”. Notice what he said there— the word spoken by angels. There were several messages that angels spoke in the Bible.

When Lord was living in Sodom, the Lord sent 2 angels by his way to tell him to repent and get out of that wicked city. That was a good message and a true message! When Mary was still a virgin, the angel Gabriel came and gave her the “glad tidings”, that she would give birth to the Christ! That was a steadfast message; it came to pass “on the money”! When Philip was sitting up in Jerusalem, the Bible says that an angel came and told him to go down to the city of Gaza so that he could lead the Ethiopian Eunuch to salvation in Christ Jesus!

But every message ever carried by an angel is nothing in comparison with the message of the Lord Jesus Christ! He said, “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*”! Jesus said, “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*”! Glory to God!

Jesus said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*”!

By the way, in verse 3, it said that it is confirmed unto us. That means we have the privilege of carrying the same message into a lost and dying world!

Jesus Christ, Better than the Angels

continued

4. Then I see that Jesus Christ is better than the angels In His Glory.

Look over at verse 5 in this same chapter. *“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownest him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things under his feet”*.

It shows us here the glory of His work. The angels saved a few people from danger, but not one did what Jesus did. On one occasion an angel slew over 185,000 soldiers in one night! That was a pretty great work. On other occasion, they would give a warning that would save a man’s life! But not one of them went to the cross for a sinner! Not one of them bore your sins and mine! In verse 14, it says, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”*. That’s Jesus, friend! His work is glorious!