

HEBREWS

A BETTER HOPE



SUPPLEMENTAL VERSES

Matt 16: 13-16

Luke 2: 8-14

Isaiah 6: 1-4

Rev 5:11-12

2 Chron 18:18

Daniel 9:20-23

Rev 5: 11-12

Gen 24:12-15

Rev 19:9-10

Psalms 103:20-21

Luke 1:29-33

Daniel 7:13-14

Phillipians 2: 9-11

Eph 1:18-22

Exodus 25:17-22

JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS

What are Angels?

Angels are spiritual beings created by God that have their own individuality & names. They seem to possess intellect, emotions & will. Although spiritual beings, some have been able to take on human form at various times. At times we see them endowed with supernatural power.

We see them in scripture around the throne praising God, delivering messages from God, executing God's judgement, engaged in spiritual battle, serving God, & ministering to God's people.

Scripture makes a distinction between "Holy Angels" & "Fallen Angels". Satan was once a Holy Angel who rebelled against God and led 1/3 of the Angels with him. Fallen angels are also referred to as demons.

The word Angel in Hebrew is: Mal'akh which literally translated means "one who is sent" or "messenger"

There are countless numbers of Angels who occupy the spiritual realm. Some are endowed with great power. Some possess positions of authority over other Angels.

WHY ANGELS?

Why do you think the Author of Hebrews wants to make this point that Jesus is superior to the Angels?

At the time, many people acknowledged that Jesus was a great man who did all kinds of miracles. There was a debate about who He exactly was. This prompted Jesus to ask the disciples this question: Who do the people say that I am?

Matt: 16:13 – 16 Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

There was a sect of Jews located near Qumran who taught that the Archangel Michael's power & authority rivaled or surpassed that of the Messiah.

Throughout scripture there are incidents of Angels wielding great power:

God uses Angels to destroy Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19:12-13)

An angel strikes down 70k people (2 Sam 24:15-17)

An angel destroyed all of the fighting men (2 Chron 32:20-21)

WHY ANGELS

Angels were also part of major events in scripture:

Angles were there at the giving of the ten commandments. Myriads of Holy Ones means around 10 thousand angels (Deut 33:1-4)

God sent angels to guard the Garden of Eden so that Adam and Eve could not re-enter (Gen 3:23-24)

Ex 25: 17-22 Angels were commanded by God to be inscribed on the Cover of the Arc of the Covenant. On the cover there were two angels facing each other and the mercy seat was in between them. When God came down, his glory rested above the mercy seat between the cherubim.

What is the significance of angels on the ARC of the Covenant? Why did God want them depicted there?

SCENES OF THE THRONE ROOM & ANGELS

Isaiah 6: 1-4: They were calling out to each other “Holy Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty and the whole earth is full of his glory” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke

2 Chron 18:18 I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing on his right and on his left.

Rev 5: 11- 12 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels numbering thousands upon thousands and then thousand times ten thousand . They encircled the throne and in a loud voice they sang “ Worthy is the Lamb...”

Angels are mentioned in almost every scene of the Throne room of God. They are there worshiping Him and are ready to serve him.

ANGEL EXALTATION

There are many more scriptures that can be looked at regarding angels in Scripture.

Angelic beings are mentioned 273 times in 34 different books of the Bible

Angel exaltation and worship became common in different sects of Judaism.

One sect of Judaism located near Qumram taught that the Archangel Michael's power and authority rivaled and even surpassed that of the Messiah.

This teaching may have inspired Jehovah Witnesses who believe that Jesus is the Archangel Michael.

In the Book of Revelation, John actually falls down to worship an Angel!

Rev: 19: 9-10 I fell down at his feet to worship & the angel said "do not do it, I am a fellow servant"

JESUS IS NOT AN ANGEL...HE IS GOD!

The author of Hebrews wants to make it very clear and plain that Jesus is not an angel...that He is God. There should be no comparison!

While this doesn't seem like a relevant issue for us...it was for some back then...and obviously still is for some today...ie Jehovah Witnesses.

The author of Hebrews is going to make his case about why Jesus is greater than the angels and take us through 7 OT Scriptures to argue his 5 points:

1. His name is Superior, it is above every name
2. The angels worship Him
3. Angels are servants, but Jesus is King
4. Jesus is Eternal
5. Jesus sits at God's right hand, a place of Honor and Power

HIS NAME: JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD

Lets read Hebrews 1: 4-14

Who gave Jesus his name? The Father did.

Luke 1: 29-33 You shall call his name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High.

Phillipians 2: 9-11 God exalted him and God gave him the name that is above every name.

The author of Hebrews quotes two OT Messianic scriptures:

Psalms 2:7 You are my Son, today I have become your father

2 Sam 7:14 I will be His father and He will be my Son.

The authors point: God has never referred to an angel as “His firstborn” or as “His Son”

NAMES ARE SIGNIFICANT IN SCRIPTURE

In the OT...your name was everything. It helped described who you are as a person. It was your identity. God even changed the names of several prominent people in Scripture to signify a spiritual change in them. A few examples:

Abram (High Father) to Abraham (Father of a multitude/many nations)

Sarai (my princess) to Sarah (mother of nations)

Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (having power with God)

Simon (God has heard) to Peter (Rock) on this rock I will build my church.

Names in Scripture are significant. The author of Hebrews is saying that Jesus name is God's Son!

THE ANGELS WORSHIP JESUS

The author's 2nd point is: Jesus is greater than the angels because they worship Him.

The author quotes: Deut 32:43 Rejoice O Heavens, with him, and let the angels of God worship him. Rejoice O nations with his people and let all of the angels of God prevail for him...

In the book of Luke, the birth of Jesus is announced by an angel to the shepherds and we see a great company of angels worshipping.

Luke 2:8-14

In Revelations we see another picture of the angels worshipping Jesus:

Rev 5: 11-12 Thousands of Angels singing Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

ANGELS ARE SERVANTS, BUT JESUS IS KING

The author of Hebrews quotes 2 OT verses to make his point.

The first verse is concerning angels and their role.

Psalm 104:4 He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.

What is his point? Angels are ministering servants. They can also move very quickly!

Daniel 9:20-23 As soon as you began to pray, and answer was given which I have come to tell you!

Here we see: an angel...a messenger...being dispatched by God...serving God doing his bidding.

Question...what initiated this dispatch? Notice...before he finished praying...an angel was dispatched!!! We see the same thing in Gen 24: 12-15. Before the servant finished praying, Rebecca came out!

If you could see what was happening in the Heavenly realm when you prayed...do you think it would impact your prayer life?

ANGELS ARE SERVANTS BY JESUS IS KING

Matt 4:11 After the temptation of Jesus, angels ministered to Him.

Luke 22:43 In the Garden of Gethsemane an angel appeared to Jesus and strengthened Him.

After Jesus rose from the dead...and angel appeared at the Tomb telling everyone He is not here, He is Risen.

Psalms 103: 20-21 Praise the Lord you his angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord all His heavenly hosts you his servants, who do his will.

Angels are servants who do God's bidding and serve him but Jesus is God's Son and He is King who is ruling and reigning.

The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 45:6 -7 Your throne O God will last forever and a scepter of justice will be your kingdom...God has set you above your companions.

God set you above your companions...He made you King! And he anointed you with the oil of Joy!

The oil of Joy refers to the Jesus role as Savior and bringing "the year of Jubilee" Sins forgiven, debts cancelled, God's grace to men

Jesus is the King who is ruling and reigning and who has conquered sin and death bringing God's mercy and grace & joy to all who follow him.

JESUS IS GREATER THAN THE ANGELS BECAUSE HE IS ETERNAL

The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 102: 25-27

Notice: The created things...Heaven and Earth will perish and pass away...But you O God remain!

This world is like a garment, it's going to wear out. Like a robe, the heavens and the earth are going to be "rolled up" like a robe.

But Jesus will remain the same.

Jesus remains unchanged...He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is eternal.

JESUS IS AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND, A PLACE OF HONOR & POWER

The author of Hebrews says: To which of the angels did God ever say sit at my right hand? The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 110:1

In ancient times, sitting at the right hand of the King meant that you had a highly exalted position in the King's Kingdom.

It meant that you were in the number 1 position. The place of Honor and Authority. The place of Power to Rule and to Reign.

Daniel 7: 13-14: there before me was one like the son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power: all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and His kingdom will never be destroyed.

Ephesians 1: 18-22 God has seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority, power, & dominion and every title that can be given...God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him head over everything.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The author of Hebrews concludes with this statement:

A quote from Psalm 103: 20-21: Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Why do you think he concludes with this thought?

Jesus is greater than the angels because:

1. His name is Superior, it is above every name
2. The Angels worship Him
3. Angels are servants, but Jesus is King
4. Jesus is Eternal
5. Jesus is at God's right hand, a place of Honor & Power

