

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon Title: Jesus' Supremacy over the Angels (and Everything Else), Hebrews 1:1-4

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**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:1-4 <sup>1</sup>*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,* <sup>2</sup>*but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* <sup>3</sup>*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* <sup>4</sup>*So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

**INTRODUCTION:** We have a lot of misunderstanding in our world of angels and things in the spiritual realm. Even among Christians, there is a lot of misunderstanding. It's easy to rely on traditions, myths, or just plain old misinformation to form ideas about some spiritual things.

**ILLUSTRATION:** On Friday night, I walked into a convenience store and heard the cashier talking to a customer about American politics and the end times. She said, "The Bible says...." and then she rambled on about some weird, twisted misquote of the Bible. I was not so inclined to ask her where exactly the Bible says what she quoted. I just bought my diet coke and snack and eavesdropped for a few seconds. It was apparent the cashier thought she was an expert on the Bible, and the man listening to her agreed with her. It was truly ignorance on fire.

I coined a phrase in my head, and here it is: "convenience store theology." You go into a convenience store because you want something quick, even though you pay a bit more than you would normally pay. It's the easy way out. With convenience store theology, people ignorantly quote, misquote, and misunderstand the Bible. It's the easy way out.

One thing which is misunderstood is angels. Who are these creatures, and what is their role?

**ILLUSTRATION:** I visited a church in South Dakota once, and the pastor had a prayer time and asked if anyone wanted to pray. A woman sitting in the congregation began praying and said, “Dear Angels...” I was shocked, and the hair on my head probably stood up more than it normally does. Since it was in the summer, it was high season for tourism, and I think the woman was a tourist passing through.

So, the thought hit me, here is a woman who is a Christian, visiting a Baptist church where the Bible is taught, so where in the world did she pick up the idea of praying to angels? I have an answer: convenience store theology.

Now, all around the world, there are two universal images of angels. The first image is attractive humans with wings. And, for whatever reason in most pictures, they have blond hair. The second image is babies with wings, who are always naked. They are little cupids. Where in the world do these images come from? The first image of adult humans with wings, I assume, comes from simplistic minds. The little naked, chubby babies with wings, however, come from Cupid, the Roman mythological god of love. He was depicted as a boy with a bow and arrows, and whoever his target was fell in love.

**BACKGROUND:** Now, the Bible describes Cherubim and Seraphim. They are not little babies. In fact, they don’t even look human at all. They are two particular types of beings, which have specific purposes. They have several faces, six wings, and eyes all over them. Really, it sounds bizarre.

So, as I understand it, there are Cherubim, Seraphim, and angels. We do not know how many there are. We do not know what they do all the time. Much of all of this is a mystery. In fact, if you are hearing this for the first time, you may wonder what I smoked on the way to church this morning.

I say all this to say angels are God’s messengers. We do not pray to them. We do not worship them. If anyone here ever says, “Dear Angels...” at the beginning of the prayer, I will be quick to say: We do not pray to angels.

There is a lot more which could be said about angels, and you can study it yourself. But, for the sake of today's message, I've said enough about them. Now let's take a look at Hebrews, where the supremacy of Christ over angels, as well as everything else, is addressed.

If you have a King James translation, you'll see this book is attributed to the apostle Paul. However, this authorship was inserted by the King James translators. Most people attribute the letter to Paul for several reasons, but there is a bit of a stylistic difference in this book of the Bible and the books where Paul identifies himself as the author. A few noted people through the centuries have questioned Paul's authorship, but it does seem the overwhelming majority of Christendom believes Paul is the writer.

What we do know, however, is the writer of Hebrews was a well-educated, Greek-speaking Jew who became a Christian, who would have been very familiar with the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which is called the Septuagint.

Regardless of who the author is, we know it was no mistake this book was included in the Bible. It is a powerful book.

Today, let's look at four specific thoughts from Hebrews about Jesus' supremacy over the angels:

1. In the past, God spoke through the prophets.
2. In the past, God also spoke in different ways.
3. Now, God speaks through His Son.
4. Jesus is superior to the angels.

### **First, IN THE PAST, GOD SPOKE THROUGH THE PROPHETS.**

**SCRIPTURE** Hebrews 1:1 *<sup>1</sup>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ...*

**EXPLANATION:** Verse 1 references the prophets. God spoke through these people. There were three groups of them: **The first group** was: Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, and Nahum. One writer said these men covered a little over 100 years. Then there was a gap of 70 years.

Then followed **the second group**: Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Daniel, Joel, Ezekiel, and Obadiah who covered about 94 years, followed by a gap of 14 years.

And, then **the third group**: Haggai and Zechariah, covering a period of 7 years and then a 29 year gap.

Then **Malachi closes out the prophets**, followed by a 400 year period of silence.

## **Second, IN THE PAST, GOD ALSO SPOKE IN DIFFERENT WAYS.**

In several passages God spoke through angels, God spoke through dreams, and God spoke through visions.

God also spoke through two items called the Urim and the Thummin. We do not know much about this other than it was a form of divination that God allowed. These were items which priests carried with them, either rocks or sticks—we do not know for sure—which allowed people to know the will of God.

I've often thought of the Urim and the Thummin as the "God rocks." Probably some shyster will market a type of dice to know God's will for \$19.99, *and if you call now, we'll throw in some extra rocks.*

And, in the Old Testament, God spoke through miraculous actions, like the writing on the wall, the fire which fell during Elijah's contest with Baal, and so on. **The Old Testament is chocked full of many ways God spoke.** And, sometimes God's voice actually spoke. This would actually be a great study some time, to examine all the ways that God spoke.

## **Third, NOW, GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS SON.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:2-4 <sup>2</sup> *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.* <sup>3</sup> *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* <sup>4</sup> *So he*

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

**EXPLANATION:** Now what we have here is a clear indicator of the supremacy of Christ as God’s spokesman, but he doesn’t stop there. I’d like you to note verses 1-3 and read them over and over. There is a whole lot of information condensed right there.

What the writer of Hebrews said is: At one time, God spoke through many different ways, but now he speaks to us in one way: through Jesus. We no longer need the prophets. We no longer need dreams and visions. We no longer need miraculous signs, and we definitely no longer need the Urim and the Thummin. These were things God used at a previous time, but Hebrews now tells us there is a new way: through Jesus, who is the exact representation of his being.

Now can God speak in the old ways? Can he speak through visions and dreams? Sure he can. And, I believe he may do that when he cannot get our attention any other way.

**SCRIPTURE:** Verse 4 says: <sup>4</sup> *So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

#### **Fourth, JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:5 <sup>5</sup> *For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father?”*

God never said that to any angels!

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Samuel 7:14 and 1 Chronicles 17:13 Or, *“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son?”*

God never said that to any angels!

And, now we have the superiority of Jesus—

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:6 <sup>6</sup> *And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”* [Quote from Deuteronomy 32:43]

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:7 <sup>7</sup> *In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.”* [Quote from Psalm 104:4]

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:8-9 <sup>8</sup> *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* <sup>9</sup> *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.”* [Quote from Psalm 45:6-7]

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:10-12 <sup>10</sup> *He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.* <sup>11</sup> *They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.* <sup>12</sup> *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.”* [Quote from Psalm 102:25-27]

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:13 <sup>13</sup> *To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?* [Quote from Psalm 110:1]

God never said that to any angels!

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 1:14 <sup>14</sup> *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

**CALL TO ACTION:** Now, as we come to our invitation time today, you must decide: Is Jesus Christ Lord of all? Is he Lord of the angels? Is he Lord of the universe? Is he the heir of all things? Yes, he is, and if you agree with this, then you need to make him Lord of your life this morning.

The Bible says in Matthew 7:21, *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

If you want to know God's plan for your life, you must first repent of sin and choose on this day to become a disciple of Jesus.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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