

HEBREWS 1:5-14

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Hebrews chapter 1 as we continue our study through this letter to the Hebrew Christians who were struggling with their faith, being drawn back to the Law.

Last week we began our study here in Hebrews and we covered the first four verses of this chapter.

And again, Paul, who I believe wrote this letter to the Hebrews, is writing to Jewish Christians who were being pulled back into Judaism, back into the Law for salvation instead of resting fully on the completed work of Jesus.

And thus, this whole letter is showing them that Jesus is superior over all, He is God and nothing else compares, not even close!

Last week, as we began our study, we saw that Jesus is superior to the prophets, and we saw that in Hebrews 1:1-3.

And we finished up last time looking at the fact that Jesus is superior to angels and that is something that Paul is going to expound upon from Hebrews 1:4 through chapter 2!

Now we might not think that angels are that big of a deal, but in the Jewish mindset, they were.

Angels assisted in the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. We see this in Deuteronomy 33:2, and this is from The Living Bible, we are told, **“The Lord came to us at Mount Sinai, And dawned upon us from Mount Seir; He shone from Mount Paran, Surrounded by ten thousands of holy angels, And with flaming fire at his right hand.”**

In the KJV and NKJV of the Bible they have “*saints*” for “*holy ones*” or “*angels*.” But, obviously, it would make no sense to have saints there and that is not what this word means.

And so angels were a big deal in Jewish minds.

Even today we have ideas about angels that many times are not according to the Scripture, but they have been brought to our mind through artwork and we tend to believe the artist instead of God’s Word!

Raphael had chubby little infants with no clothes on.

In the nineteenth century there was the girlish, soft, slim angel.

But when you look at the Scriptures, there is a completely different picture of angels. They are warriors, they share the things of God with the Jewish people, they protect the Jewish people, they bring forth God’s judgment and-so-on. Not your chubby little infants with no clothes on!

And there are even the cults like the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses who have unbiblical teachings about angels.

And keep in mind that the point that Paul is making here is that Jesus is superior to angels. Remember where we closed last week, in Hebrews 1:4, where Paul wrote, “**having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.**”

But the Mormons tell us that Jesus is the brother of Lucifer, who is a cherub or angel making Jesus an angel – wrong!

The Jehovah Witnesses believe Jesus is Michael the Archangel – wrong!

Others see angels as their savior, their protector and negate the reality of Jesus being our Lord and Savior, and they too are wrong.

So before we begin looking at these verses here in Hebrews chapter 1 this evening, I think it is important to understand what angels are all about and then we will look at the superiority of Jesus over angels.

Now, what do angels do, who are they?

First of all, angels are spirit beings, they don't have flesh or bones, but they do have bodies as we have seen in their Old Testament appearances.

In fact, in Hebrews 13:2 we are told, **"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."**

That will make you think twice as a stranger comes across your path!

Also, angels were created before the foundations of the world were created.

We see this spoken of in Job chapter 38 where we are told, **"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. . . . When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"** Job 38:4, 7.

That phrase, **"sons of God"** is used of angels. Which tells me that angels were created before the foundations of the earth were laid!

Keep in mind that in this portion of Job, God is asking Job if he was around when the earth was created. And the Lord tells Job that the angels were, and they shouted for joy at what He had done.

Angels are also ministering spirits who minister before God, they speak for God as the angel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, they are warriors and do battle against the forces of darkness, they are immortal, intelligent, and they minister to us, watch over us.

In Psalm 34:7, **"The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them."**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before Jesus was crucified, angels came and ministered to Him.

We are told of this in Luke 22:43, “**Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.**”

Also, after Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit came upon Him, as He began His ministry, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days and forty nights.

Then, at His weakest point Satan came in and tempted Him and it must have been an intense battle as Jesus defeated Satan with the Word of God, not falling for his lies, his twisting of the Scriptures.

And when it was over, we are told in Matthew 4:11, “**Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.**”

We also see Paul ministered to by angels. Remember when Paul was being taken to Rome by ship as a prisoner and is in trouble as a terrible storm hit. You know the story, the weather started getting rough, the tiny ship was tossed, if not for the courage of the fearless crew, well you know the rest.

But as Paul was speaking to the crew and the rest of the prisoners, we are told in Acts 27:19-25, **“On the third day we threw the ship’s tackle overboard with our own hands. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, ‘Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.” Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.”**

As Paul looked at the situation he was in, the hopelessness of it all, an angel came and strengthened him, brought him comfort telling Paul he will make it to Rome.

And Paul took that comfort the angel brought to him and he extended it to all those who were on the ship to give them hope and God did see them safely to the island of Malta and ultimately to Rome.

And folks, God also sends His angels or ministers to us and we will see that as we come to Hebrews 1:14, which says, **“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”**

Or as The Amplified Bible puts it, **“Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?”**

And just keep this in mind, because angels are mentioned often in the Bible. In the Old Testament, we see angels mentioned over one hundred and ninety times!

And, in the New Testament we see angels mentioned over one hundred and sixty times!

Now one last point before we begin our study this evening and that is the topic of demons! Who or what are demons? I believe that demons are nothing more than fallen angels!

Remember when Lucifer fell, when he rebelled against God, he took one-third of the angels with him according to Revelation 12:4, they too rebelled against God.

In Ezekiel 28:11-17 listen to what we are told of Lucifer, this anointed cherub who was probably at one time the worship leader in heaven. We are told, **“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, “Thus says the Lord GOD: You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.””**

Pride brought him down and that is exactly what we are told in Isaiah 14:12-17, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’”**

Isn't it interesting that pride is a problem in all our lives, pride even keeps people from Jesus!

Satan uses what he knows best, what works the best to destroy people's lives just as his life was destroyed.

And thus, the demons, which can transform themselves into angels of light are here to deceive and destroy people, keep them from Jesus!

Thus, we see the battle. There are angels who minister before God and minister in our lives for good and there are those fallen angels who minister before Satan and minister in our lives to bring us down, destroy us.

But they are all ministering spirits!

Now, in spite of what people may say, we only know three angels by name. They are Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer.

With that said, let's begin reading in Hebrews chapter 1, starting in verse 5 and see what the Lord has for us this evening regarding the superiority of Jesus over angels!

HEBREWS 1**VERSE 5**

Paul pulls out the big guns here as he quotes out of the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is superior to angels, he lets God the Father speak!

Now people have so many ideas regarding Jesus, so many misconceptions of Him and if they would only listen to what the Father has to say, it would clear things up as we are going to see.

This is truly a powerful section.

Let me make one more point here and then we will look at this verse. You see, as you look at the Old Testament quotes in this letter they don't always follow exactly the reference and that is because they are being taken from the Septuagint or the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, which was completed in the middle of the second century B. C.

Now, with the 29 quotations and 53 allusions to the Old Testament here in Hebrews, 82 references, you will not find one quotation or allusion from the Apocrypha or those books written between the close of the Old Testament and the writing of the New Testament.

Why is that?

Because they are not part of the Scriptures, in fact, at the close of the Old Testament, the book of Malachi, God was silent for 400 years; there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist came on the scene.

Thus, if God was silent for 400 years, where did those books come from that are found in the Apocrypha?

Well, if it is not from God then there is only one other source, and they are thus, doctrines of demons.

Yes, there may be some historical value to some of those books, like Maccabees, but they are not inspired by God, they are not part of the Scriptures. And there are many unscriptural points that are found in them.

Now to our text here. Paul is quoting out of Psalm 2:7 and II Samuel 7:14 and the point here is the incarnation.

Please don't get the idea that the second person of the Holy Trinity didn't exist until the incarnation, He did.

But in the incarnation, He became a Son, God became flesh and dwelt among us. He is still fully God and fully human in the incarnation!

In fact, Jesus is never called ***"the Son"*** until His incarnation. Before that He simply bears the title of ***"eternal God"*** or ***"the Word."***

Why is this important?

Because someone is going to come to your door and tell you, **"Since Jesus is the Son of God, He is obviously inferior to God the Father. Therefore, Jesus is not God, which makes Him less than Almighty God. He is only a Son."**

Folks, before the incarnation He was eternally God, He only became a Son in the incarnation, like I have said, but He also remained fully God in the incarnation.

John makes that point in John 1:1-3, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."**

Before the incarnation He was called the Word!

Then, in John 1:14 we are told, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Again, He was a Son at birth!

Paul, in Romans 1:3-4 tells us, **“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”**

And remember what Paul wrote in Hebrews 1:4, **“having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”**

And now we are told, **“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”** He is the Son of God, the eternal God stepped into a body of flesh in the incarnation!

Thus, He has a greater name than the angels!

And then Paul quotes out of II Samuel 7:14 and says, **“I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son.”**

Here again the argument is that God never spoke of an angel in this way.

VERSES 6-7

Now we do have to deal with this idea of Jesus being the **“firstborn.”** And the reason we need to deal with this is because the cults pick-up on this idea of Jesus being the **“firstborn”** and thus He must have been created, the firstborn of all creation!

They will also quote out of Colossians 1:15 as proof text of this idea of Jesus being created and thus, not God.

In Colossians 1:15 we are told, “**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**”

And the problem for them is that they stop there. You see, if they would only read on for in Colossians 1:18 we are told, “**And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**”

What is the point? How does that prove that Jesus is not a created being, inferior to the God the Father?

Let me ask you this. Was Jesus the firstborn from the dead?

I think you know the answer to that one. Obviously Jesus was not the first person who was raised from the dead, many were raised before Him.

That tells me that this word must mean something else and it does.

This word speaks of the highest position, the preeminent one or most excellent one.

And we see this played out in the Scriptures as Esau was the firstborn in time, but Jacob was the firstborn in regard to being preeminent, receiving the blessings, the position of the firstborn.

Thus, Jesus is eternal because He is God and we will see that in a minute.

In fact, according to Rabbi Bechai, the ancient Rabbis called Yahweh Himself, “Firstborn of the world” because it was a title not a description of origin.

Also, the Rabbis used “firstborn” as a Messianic title as one ancient Rabbi wrote, “God said, As I made Jacob a first-born (exodus 4:22), so also will I make King Messiah a first-born (Psalm 89:28).”

Now listen again to what Hebrews 1:6 says, “**But when He again brings the firstborn into the world . . .**”

Did you see that. God the Father is speaking of bringing the firstborn, the Son into the world again!

Now, what is He speaking of?

I believe this can only be speaking of His Second Coming as He has already brought the Son into the world once for salvation and the next time He is coming to bring judgment upon a Christ rejecting world as He comes in a blaze of glory!

It is as Matthew 24:27 says, **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”**

We also see here in Hebrews 1:6 the worship of the Son.

Now many just read through this and don't think much about it.

But we need to, it is very important.

You see, if He was an angel or any other created being, it would be an abomination to worship Him.

In Revelation 19:10 as the angel is showing John the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we are told, **“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’”**

We are only to worship God and thus, Jesus must be superior to angels, He must be God, for we are to worship Him, and, as we see here, the angels worship Him!

And in Hebrews 1:7 we see that the angels are His servants, His ministers and once again, Jesus is superior to angels!

Now some may still be struggling with this, they don't believe that Jesus is God, even though the Scriptures are clear on this. But if you reject that Jesus is God after what Paul shares with us next, then there is nothing else to say because you have closed your eyes to the truth!

That may seem pretty harsh, but when you hear what Paul says next, you will understand what I am saying, there is no other way to look at it!

VERSES 8-9

Again, the emphasis is that God the Father says things to God the Son that is never said to angelic beings.

And I hope you are seeing how powerful this truly is in that it is a proof text that Jesus is God!

How can I be so certain?

Because God the Father is calling the Son – ***GOD!***

First of all, we see the Father speak of the Son as being eternal. **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever . . .”**

That tells me that Jesus is eternal for His throne is forever and ever!

Secondly, we see the Father speak of the Son as being sovereign. **“... A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.”**

In other words, God the Son, Jesus manifests the attributes of God! And, keep in mind that angel's minister before the throne of God, they do not sit on the throne of God. Thus, Jesus is superior to angels for He sits upon the throne because He is God!

Also, as we saw back in Hebrews 1:6 that Jesus is coming again, and when He comes again He will establish His Kingdom on this earth and rule and reign for 1,000 years and He will rule and reign from the throne of David. And, after that He will create a new heaven and a new earth, and His Kingdom will be forever!

I don't know about you, but as I look at this world, as I see the violence, the injustice, the inhumanity that fills this world, I long for a day when righteousness will fill this land, and I am sure that you do as well.

And folks, it is not because we are going to make this world righteous by electing the right people in government, passing certain laws and-so-on.

But, as the Tribulation Period ends and God separates the sheep from the goats, His righteousness will flow throughout this world, there will be peace and if there is a problem, Jesus will deal with it immediately with His rod of iron.

Righteousness will flow throughout the land as Jesus loves righteousness and hates lawlessness!

In Isaiah 11:6-9 we get a glimpse of the Kingdom Age and what it will be like.

We are told, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”**

Paul has already quoted out of Psalm 2 but let's read through it because in it we see the battle that is coming against God during the Tribulation Period and as the enemies of God try to come against Him, He laughs.

Why is that?

Because the creation is rebelling against his creator and it is no contest, by the Word of His mouth the enemy is destroyed!

Starting in verse 1 of Psalm 2 we are told, **“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ‘Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.’ ‘I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.”** Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all **those who put their trust in Him.**” Psalm 2:1-12.

In this Psalm we are privy to a conversation between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

And in the end God's Kingdom will be established, righteousness will flow and, as I have said, we await that day, we long for that day!

So I think it is 100% clear, Jesus is God for Father God has established that fact, besides many, many other parts of Scripture, and thus, if you have a problem with it, then you have a problem with God the Father!

That is exactly what Jesus said in Luke 10:16, **“He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”**

Thus, Jesus is superior to angels, He is God! And that means that there is nothing superior to Jesus!

VERSES 10-12

Again, this is important showing the deity of Jesus Christ.

I want you to notice that God the Father not only calls the Son **“God”** but **“LORD”** which is in all capital letters.

When you see the word **“LORD”** all in capitals it indicates *YAHWEH* or the name of God, which in the Old Testament the Jews would not even say.

When they came to it, they would say *“the name”* and move on reading.

Also, in this section we see attributes that only God has, not man or angels!

He is the creator of all things and thus, if He created *ALL* things, He must be eternal, He must have always existed!

And to show this Paul quotes out of Psalm 102:25-27 and what Paul is doing is that he once again is showing us that Jesus is greater than the angels because He created them, He created all things!

In Colossians 1:16 we are told, **“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”**

Folks, man can't create something out of nothing all he can do is assemble things from existing materials.

But in Genesis 1:1 we are told, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

The Hebrew word for **“created”** is ***BARA*** and it speaks of creating something out of nothing, the materials, the elements God created before He started to assemble them together, thus, they were without form or void. Only God can do that, man cannot create something out of nothing! Man can assemble things from pre-existing substances, but he can't make something out of absolutely nothing!

Now, as you look at creation after the fall, after sin entered the world, the second law of thermodynamics took over or the entropy law, which speaks of things wearing down, falling apart, moving from order to disorder.

We see that as we look at this world, as we look at our own lives, we are wearing down, we are moving from order to disorder and one day this body will go back to the dust of the earth.

And the heavens and the earth are wearing down, falling apart, moving from order to disorder.

Peter tells us that the Lord is going to discard this heavens and earth, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”** II Peter 3:10.

This whole world is going to come crashing down, the creation will be changed but not the Creator is the point.

In Hebrews 13:8 we are told, “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**” Jesus is immutable which means that He never changes.

Nations can come and go, stars will come and go, planets will come and go but Jesus is the same forever! Just ask Pluto, no longer a planet! So sad.

Even the angels, some of them have changed, they fell with Lucifer in the rebellion, but Jesus doesn't change and thus, He is superior to angels because He is immutable, He is God!

Also, in verse 11 it speaks of Jesus being sovereign, that He is in control.

Make no mistake about it, Jesus will do as He pleases since He is God but do not fear because He will do what is right, what is just, what is fair!

Paul, in I Timothy 6:13-16 tells us, “**I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.**”

That word “**potentate**” speaks of being sovereign or that Jesus is the supreme ruler, He is in control, He has supreme authority!

Again, let me read to you out of Psalm 102:25-27, and here we are told of God being sovereign, He is immutable, He is the Creator.

We are told, **“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.”**

God is eternal, He is the Creator, everything will wear out, grow old, perish, change except for God, He does not change and thus, Jesus is God!

VERSES 13-14

Paul's point is this, as he quotes out of Psalm 110:1.

No angel has ever been promised a seat before God because they are ministering spirits, they are serving the Lord, they are working. Only the Son, who is superior to the angels can sit down at the right hand of the Father and one day all the enemies will be placed at His feet.

And let me share with you the significance of this. You see, to be seated at the right hand of God signified a position of highest power and limitless power.

To have your enemies as a footstool spoke of universal subjugation or conquest and dominion.

We see this spoken of in Philippians 2:9-10 where we are told, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.”**

When does this happen?

At His second coming, when He brings the firstborn into the world again!

In Revelation 19:15-16 we are told, **“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”**

And ultimately, like I have said, He will reign over the new heavens and the new earth eternally!

Let me show you how no angel, and in fact, no one can take the place of Jesus and sit upon the throne.

“It isn’t good to be too comfortable in the presence of majesty. There is a story about a man named Lear who was hired to give Queen Victoria art lessons. Things went well, and Lear started to feel quite at home in the palace. He enjoyed standing in front of the fire, leaning on the hearth and warming himself in a relaxed manner, but every time he did one of the Queen’s attendants invited him to look at something on the other side of the room, making him move. No one explained it to him, but after a while he got the idea: good manners said it was wrong for a subject to have such a relaxed attitude in the presence of their Queen. Jesus is not a subject – He is the Sovereign, so He sits in the presence of majesty.” (David Guzik)

How true that is.

Now I spoke a little of angels and who they are as we opened up this study but let me just give you a few more examples of their work. And what I want you to see is that angels serve and Jesus rules!

- Angels are very active in the affairs of mankind.
- They delivered Lot out of Sodom before the judgment of God fell (Genesis 19).
- An angel was sent by God to shut the mouth of the lions so as to save Daniel.

- An angel took Elijah to heaven in a fiery chariot.
- An army of angels surrounded the Syrian army that had surrounded Dothan to protect Elisha.
- One delivered Peter from prison (Acts 12).
- They have been used by God to deliver many important messages to His people (Dan.9; Luke 1).
- They have fought battles for God's people in both the Old and New Testament periods.
- They protect the people of God (guardian angels).

Look at Psalm 91:11 and look at the protective work of angels in our lives, **“For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.”**

In Luke 15:10 we see angels rejoicing over those who come to know the Lord, **“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**

In Luke 16:22 we see angels carry the dead to their eternal state, **“So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.”**

In Acts 15:19 we see an angel open the prison doors for the apostles to escape, **“But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out . . .”**

You see, angels minister before God and they minister to us, watch over us, protect us, help us as God's ministers to us.

As we have seen, angels minister to believers protecting them from evil, defending and delivering them from harm, and bestowing divine benefits on them. What an encouragement that should be for us, knowing that God is watching over us and so are His angels!

I want to take a few minutes now to show you how we see this played out today, that there are angels watching over us you might say. And as you listen to these stories you can see God's protection upon His people by these ministering spirits, these angels.

And please understand that the Greek speaks of these angelic beings being sent out perpetually or continually, one after another to help God's people.

Again, what a comfort to know God loves us that much. Here is the first story of angles watching over God's people.

We are told,

On a dark night about a hundred years ago, a Scottish missionary couple found themselves surrounded by cannibal's intent on taking their lives. The terror-filled night they fell to their knees and prayed that God would protect them. Intermittent with their prayers, the missionaries heard the cries of the savages and expected them to come through the door at any moment. But as the sun began to rise, to their astonishment they found that the natives were retreating into the forest. The couple's hearts soared to God. It was a day of rejoicing!

The missionaries bravely continued their work. A year later the chieftain of the tribe was converted. As the missionary spoke with him, he remembered the horror of that night. He asked the chieftain why he and his men had not killed them. The chief replied, "Who were all those men who were with you?" The missionary answered, "Why, there were no men with us. There were just my wife and myself." The chieftain began to argue with him saying, "There were hundreds of tall men in shinning garments with drawn swords circling about your house, so we could not attack you." . . . This missionary was the "legendary" John G. Paton of the New Hebrides.

- R. Kent Hughes, Hebrews Volume One – An Anchor for the Soul, p.41

An amazing story and yet, we should not be amazed because we see something similar in the Scriptures, in the life of Elisha.

If God does things like that then why don't we see Him do it all the time?

That is a great question and all I can tell you is that God is Sovereign, and He does what is best.

Why some are protected, and some are not is in God's hands and I trust Him totally that in any given situation He will do what is right! For John Paton and his wife, there were cannibals that needed to be converted and they were!

Not only is that an amazing story but listen to what Elisabeth Elliot wrote,

In *A Slow and Certain Light*, Elisabeth Elliot told about her father's experiences with angelic helpers:

"My father, when he was a small boy, was climbing on an upper story of a house that was being built. He walked to the end of a board that was not nailed at the other end, and it slowly began to tip. He knew that he was doomed, but inexplicably the board began to tip the other way, as though a hand had pushed it down again. He always wondered if it was an angel's hand."

- Billy Graham, *Angels God's Secret Agents*, pp. 15-16

Again, God is Sovereign, and he can save some from death and He can allow others to come home to be with Him. But He does send His angels to watch over us and as I have said, the idea is one after another coming to our aid! And when I am working with power tools, there are probably myriads of angels being sent!

Corrie Ten Boom writes of a remarkable experience at the terrible Nazi Ravensbruck prison camp. She tells us,

Together we entered the terrifying building. At a table were women who took away all our possessions. Everyone had to undress completely and then go to a room where her hair was checked.

I asked a woman who was busy checking the possessions of the new arrivals if I might use the toilet. She pointed to a door, and I discovered that the convenience was nothing more than a hole in the shower-room floor. Betsie, [her sister], stayed close beside me all the time. Suddenly I had an inspiration, 'Quick, take off your woolen underwear,' I whispered to her. I rolled it up with mine and laid the bundle in a corner with my little Bible. The spot was alive with cockroaches, but I didn't worry about that. I felt wonderfully relieved and happy. 'The Lord is busy answering our prayers, Betsie,' I whispered. 'We shall not have to make the sacrifice of all our clothes.'

We hurried back to the row of women waiting to be undressed. A little later, after we had had our showers and put on our shirts and shabby dresses, I hid the roll of underwear and my Bible under my dress. It did bulge out obviously through my dress; but I prayed, 'Lord, cause now Thine angels to surround me; and let them not be transparent today, for the guards must not see me.' I felt perfectly at ease. Calmly I passed the guards. Everyone was checked, from the front, the sides, the back. Not a bulge escaped the eyes of the guard. The women just in front of me had hidden a woolen vest under her dress; it was taken from her. They let me pass, for they did not see me. Betsie, right behind me, was searched.

But outside awaited another danger. On each side of the door were women who looked everyone over for a second time. They felt over the body of each one who passed. I knew they would not see me, for the angels were still surrounding me. I was not even surprised when they passed me by; but within me rose the jubilant cry, 'O Lord, if Thou dost so answer prayer, I can face even Ravensbruck unafraid.'

- Billy Graham, *Angels God's Secret Agents*, pp. 75-76

Here is another amazing story of God's angels protecting God's people. We are told, In 1956 during the Mau Mau uprisings in East Africa, a band of roving Mau Maus came to the village of Lauri, surrounded it, and killed every inhabitant including women and children, 300 in all. Not more than three miles away was the Rift Valley Academy, a private school where missionary children were being educated. Immediately upon leaving the carnage of Lauri the natives came with spears, bows and arrows, clubs, and torches to the school with violent intentions.

In the darkness lighted torches were seen coming toward the school. Soon there was a complete ring of terrorists around the academy, cutting off all avenues of escape. Shouts and curses could be heard coming from the Mau Maus. They began to advance on the school, tightening the circle, shouting louder and louder, coming closer. Then inexplicably, when they were close enough to throw spears, they stopped. They began retreating and soon were running into the jungle.

The army was called out and fortunately captured the entire band of raiders. Later, at their trial, the leader was called to the witness stand. The judge questioned him: “On this particular night, did you kill the inhabitants of Lauri?” “Yes.” “Well, then, why did you not complete the mission? Why didn’t you attack the school?”

The leader of the Mau Maus answered, “We were on our way to attack and destroy all the people and the school . . . but as we came closer, all of a sudden, between us and the school there were many huge men, dressed in white with flaming swords and we became afraid and ran to hide!”

- R. Kent Hughes, Hebrews Volume One – An Anchor for the Soul, p.42

Again, we see these stories that are very similar and very powerful. The testimony of terrorists and what they saw that prevented them from attacking the school is hard to deny when he was in a court room and had nothing to gain by recanting this story. It was not a story by the ones who were saved through it but by the attackers themselves who were prevented from completing their murderous rampage!

I think we would be blown away if we really knew all that was going on in the spirit world, how God’s angels have protected us from all kinds of disasters that may have come our way without their protection, without them watching over us.

These are amazing stories as I have said but it is just as Paul reminds us here, “**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**”

Hebrews 1:14.

That should be very encouraging to us as Christians knowing that God has sent forth His angels to watch over us. That means He can deliver you anytime and anywhere He wishes but it is all according to His will, His plans and purposes for us.

Let me sum this chapter up like this. One writer put it like this for us as he wrote,

So we find that the Son of God is superior to angels in every way, with each of His superiorities having been described in the Old Testament.

Jesus is the Messiah.

He is God in the flesh.

He is the Mediator of a New Covenant, a covenant better than the Old.

In this brief fourteen-verse chapter, we see the deity of Jesus Christ established by divine names. He is called Son, Lord, and God.

By divine works He creates, sustains, governs, redeems, and purges sin.

By divine worth He is the one to be worshiped by the angels and all other creatures in the universe.

By divine attributes He is omniscient, omnipotent, unchanging, and eternal.

In all these ways the superiority of Jesus Christ is proclaimed.

Why are these truths so important?

The next passage gives the answer.

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Heb. 2:1-3).

If God expected such a positive response to the law, which came through the angels, what response does He expect concerning the gospel, which came through Jesus Christ?

- John MacArthur

As we get into Hebrews chapter 2 next week, we are going to finish up on this section showing the superiority of Jesus over the angels. And how important this was for these Jewish Christians who were being pulled back into the Law for their salvation and away from the grace that is found in Jesus.

And I will close with this from Paul in Romans 6:14, “**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**”