

- Last week we saw the opening passage which laid out the premise of the whole book of Hebrews; Jesus, (& His New Covenant), is superior to Judaism & the Old Covenant, (The Law).
 - The purpose of that realization is that the readers would turn from Jewish traditions, to Jesus.
- The rest of chapter one & chapter two will compare Jesus with the highest beings in God's creation; the angels.
 - We'll begin reading verse three again to give us the context for verse four.

Heb 1:3-4 who (Jesus), being the brightness of His (The Father's), glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He (Jesus), had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high ...

OLD covenant	For	NEW Covenant
RIGHTEOUSNESS of LAW	if the first covenant had been faultless then should no place have been sought for the second.	RIGHTEOUSNESS of CHRIST
1. Blood of animals		1. Blood of Christ
2. Written on stone		2. Written on hearts
3. Shadow		3. Substance
4. Glorious		4. More Glorious
5. Had an end		5. Has no end
6. Law of Moses		6. Law of Messiah
7. Law of works		7. Law of faith
8. Law of sin and death		8. Law of Spirit of Life
9. Many sacrifices		9. One Sacrifices
10. Powerless to save		10. Powerful to save
11. Annual atonement		11. Eternal atonement
12. Earthly tabernacle		12. Heavenly tabernacle
13. Ministry of death		13. Ministry of life
14. Outer form - flesh		14. Inner reality - spirit
15. Ministry of condemnation		15. Ministry of reconciliation
1st Covenant	Hebrews 8:7	2nd Covenant

Heb 1:4a having become so much better than the angels ...

- Angels were prominent in Jewish culture & religion because they were powerful supernatural beings who served God & protected Israel.
 - The Law was given by angels; *Gal 3:19*; & Jesus speaking to pharisees in *Acts 7:53* said:

Acts 7:53 ... [the Jews] have received the law by the direction of angels, and have not kept it.
 - Angels are mentioned 114 times in the OT, & this is the first mention of angels in Hebrews.
 - From *Heb 1:4* to *Heb 2:18*, Paul is going to lay out his argument that Jesus, & His name are superior in every way to the angels.
 - When he's finished with Jesus' superiority of the angels, he moves on to His superiority to Moses, the Levitical priesthood, & all former aspects of Jewish religion & tradition.
- How is it that Jesus, *became better than the angels*; Wasn't He always better?
 - Our study today of the rest of this chapter will help us understand this statement better.

Heb 1:4b as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

- Names & reputations are important; So many people want to be famous, even in some little way.
 - Those who've achieved some public notoriety are said to have "made a **name** for themselves".
 - Our name is the outward expression of who we are as a person, or what we've achieved.
 - In life we earn our *name* by our actions & character; Can people trust you; if so, you've earned a good name & reputation; if not, your name will be tarnished.
 - That name or reputation, whether good or bad, is often passed down to our children.
 - This says Jesus has inherited a name from His Father, but He also earned His reputation by the way He lived & died.
 - This passage says: *He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they ...*
 - We think of Jesus as having a better name than the angels because He is the Son of God, but that's only partly true.



- He obtained a more excellent name than angels, because of His actions & character as a man. *Phil 2:8-11* And being found in appearance **as a man**, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him **THE NAME** which is above every name ...

- Jesus has a name that's superior to all others, not just because He's God, but just as importantly because he came to earth as a man & lived a selfless life, & died in our place.
- Even though Jesus has always existed, co-equal with the Father & the Spirit, He is unique in the Trinity because He alone became a man & died on the earth.

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me **a Son**"?

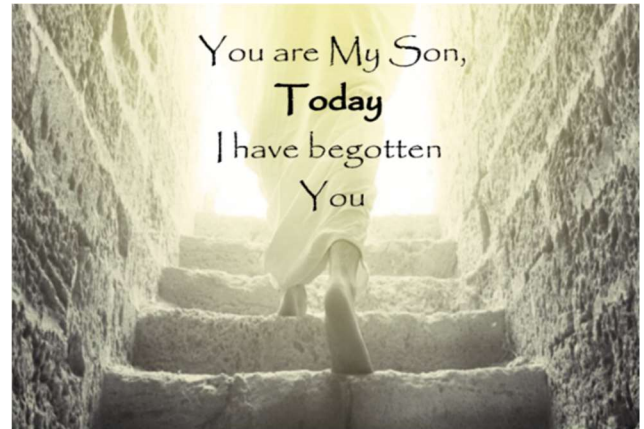
- ° This is quoted from *Psalm 2*, but notice that Paul wants the readers to try to think about these OT scriptures they already know so well.
- He's saying; judge for yourselves whether what I say is true; where in the scripture is there any record of God addressing an angel as His "Son"?
- The answer is: Nowhere; God never has addressed an angel as "My Son."
 - In *Job 38:7* the angels are called "sons of God," but this is simply a reference to their creation, not their birthright; they are not heirs.
- Believers in Jesus are called "sons of God"; & that's only by virtue of the new creation.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- In *Acts 13:30-33*, Paul was preaching to Jews, & he said *Psalm 2* refers to the resurrection of Jesus, not His birth in Bethlehem.

Acts 13:33 ...God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

- Paul says Jesus was begotten of the Father the day He was resurrected from the dead; not when He was born in Bethlehem.



⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

- ° This is quoted from *Psalm 97:7* (the Septuagint) which says: "worship Him all you, His angels".
- He's called *the firstborn* because Jesus is the first man to be resurrected to eternal life.
- The title *firstborn* is used as a position of preeminence & authority because of this fact.
- The fact that angels are commanded to worship Jesus is proof of His superiority to angels.

⁷ And of the angels He says:

"Who (Jesus), makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire."

- ° This is quoted from *Psalm 104:4*, which is talking about the greatness of God, & the angels are simply His servants.
- Jesus is the creator & the angels are created beings, made to serve their creator.
- Angels are much stronger than men, but inferior to Jesus, & are not on the same level as God.

⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore

God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

- This is quoted from *Psalms 45:6-7*, & it is God The Father calling the Son, God, so everyone will know His Son Jesus is indeed God.
 - Since Jesus is God, He obviously is greater than the angels; but that's not the only reason.
- *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;*
 - Nowhere does the bible say angels have their own thrones.
 - Jesus will have His throne, & believers will sit on thrones ruling with Him in His kingdom.
- The Father is talking about the kingdom of Jesus; (the millennial kingdom), & that it is a kingdom of righteousness because His Son is ruling it.
 - Because Jesus loves righteousness, this kingdom will be known as a kingdom of gladness more than any other kingdom ruled by men.
 - The kingdom of Jesus begins on this earth & lasts 1000 years, & then, after the new earth is created, His kingdom will continue on forever as an eternal kingdom.
- *Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You ...*
 - This creates a question; How can God have a God?
 - The very definition of God is one who is supreme in all things, so how can God The Father be dominant over God The Son?
 - The problem comes from our misunderstanding of the person of Jesus.
 - He is both God & man; As God He is co-equal with the Father, but in His humanity He is subservient to the One who sent Him to earth as a man; *Jn 4:34*.

¹⁰ *And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹²Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."*

- The "And" tells us this is a continuation of the argument made in v4 that Jesus has a name which is superior to the angels.
 - These OT scriptures have given us that name: **My Son** v5; **God** v8; **Lord** v10.
- This OT quote is from *Psalms 102* which is a very special prayer, with an answer from the Father.
 - This Psalm is the cry of someone in despair of their very life, & it may be the prayer Jesus Himself prayed in Gethsemane the night He was arrested, or prayed on the cross.

Psalms 102:2-4 Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

Psalms 102:5 Because of the sound of my groaning My bones cling to my skin.

Psalms 102:7-9 I lie awake and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. ⁸My enemies reproach me all day long, Those who deride me swear an oath against me. ⁹For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping ...

- In the midst of His anguish, Jesus knows that this suffering is directed by the Father;

Psalms 102:10 Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; For You have lifted me up and cast me away. ¹¹My days are like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass.



- Jesus knows that this sacrifice of His is for more than the Jews;

Psalm 102:18 This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

- The people *yet to be created* are born again believers; the Church; & He knows the Gentiles will believe in His sacrifice.
- Jesus is facing this execution as a man, not as God; He has desires for a long & full life like every other man, & so He cries out to God:

Psalm 102:23-24a He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days. ²⁴I said, "O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days ...

Mt 26:39 adds to this prayer; "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- At this point in the prayer, when Jesus is at the point of His deepest despair, The Father answers the Son & gives Him words of hope & promise to endure this ordeal.

Psalm 102:24b-25 Your years are throughout all generations. ²⁵Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶They 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. ²⁷But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.



- In His darkest hour, Jesus was reminded by the Father that He has always been, & He will always be; this isn't the end, & He will get thru it.
- This creation was formed by Jesus' hands, & when it's time for it to be remade, Jesus will be the one to do that also.
- The Father wants Jesus to know His years will never end, even though His mortal life does.
 - That promise applies to us also; we consist of much more than this mortal life, & when This life is over, our new life in the very presence of Jesus will just be beginning.

The writer isn't done with his evidence, but goes on to add even more OT proofs.

¹³ *But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?*

- ° This is quoted from *Ps 110:1*; It's a Psalm that refers to the millennial reign of Jesus, which is a reminder to these Jews that Jesus is indeed their long awaited & promised Messiah.

¹⁴ *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

- ° It is the job of angels to be sent out by God, & minister on the behalf of believing mankind.
 - Angels are simply servants who obey the commands of Jesus, who has earned the right to rule over them & the world.
- ° All of these OT verses are given as proof of the statements of *Heb 1:4: Jesus has become so much better than the angels, & He has obtained a more excellent name than they ...*
 - Angels, though used mightily by God, will never be worthy of the honor Jesus has earned.

The following are some beautiful words from Adolph Saphir, a bible scholar who died in 1891.

Is it more wonderful to see the Son of God in Bethlehem as a little babe, or to see the Son of man at the right hand of the Father? Is it more marvelous to see the Counselor, the Wonderful, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, as a child born unto us and a son given to us; or to see the Son of man, and in Him the dust of the earth, seated at the right hand of God? The high priest entered once a year into the Holy of Holies, but who would have dared to live where the glory of the Most High was revealed? But Jesus, the Son of man, ascended, and by His own power, and in His own right, as well as by the appointment of the Father, He is enthroned, crowned with glory and majesty. On the wings of omnipotent love He came down from heaven; but to return to heaven, omnipotence and love were not sufficient. It was comparatively easy (if I may use this expression of the most stupendous miracle) for the Son of God to humble Himself and to come down to this earth; but to return to heaven, it was necessary for Him to endure the baptism of suffering, and to die the death upon that accursed tree. Not as He came down did He ascend again; for it was necessary that He, who in infinite grace had taken our position, should bow and remove our burden and overcome our enemies. Therefore, from the first moment He appeared in Jerusalem, He knew that the temple of His sacred body was to be broken, and He looked forward to the death which He should accomplish on that mount. Not as He came down did He ascend again; for He came as the Son of God; but He returned not merely as the Son of God, but as the son of David, our brother and our Lord. Not as He came down did He ascend again; for He came alone, the Good Shepherd, moved with boundless compassion, when He thought of the lost and perishing sheep in the wilderness; but He returned with the saved sheep upon His shoulders, rejoicing and bringing it to a heavenly and eternal home. It was when He had by Himself purged our sins that He sat down at the right hand of God; by the power of His blood He entered into the Holy of Holies; as the Lamb slain, God exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above every name.



- ° Paul will go on in chapter two, to warn his readers not to neglect this salvation which was delivered to them by Jesus, their great Savior.