

Jesus is best! (The Book of Hebrews)

Week 1: Jesus is superior to the Angels

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

According to legend, John Chrysostom, bishop of Constantinople (d. 407), was summoned by the ruler and threatened with banishment if he did not renounce Jesus Christ. Chrysostom responded, “You cannot banish me, for the whole world is my Father’s kingdom.”

“Then I will take away your life,” said the emperor.

“You cannot,” answered Chrysostom, “for my life is hid with Christ in God.”

“I will take away your treasure” roared the emperor.

“You can’t,” replied Chrysostom, “for my treasure is in heaven, where my heart is.”

“Then I will drive you away from all your friends,” the emperor said.

“You cannot, for I have one friend from whom you can never separate me. I defy you,” said Chrysostom, “because you can do me no harm.”

Such conviction comes from a firm grasp of who Jesus Christ really is.

Icebreaker: If someone says to you, “Christ, Buddha, Muhammad, they’re all alike.”, what do you say?

WORSHIP

Read Hebrews 1.1-3 and use it to lift up prayer and praise!



WORD

1. How has God spoken in the past and now? (vv1-2)

2. What difference does it make to you that God “has spoken to you by his Son.”? (v2)

3. The main theme of the Book of Hebrews is the superiority and pre-eminence of Jesus Christ. In introducing this theme, the author lists reasons in verses 1-3 to substantiate this claim.

The first is that “God now speaks through his Son.” Christ is supreme because the Old Testament prophets were sent by God to prepare the way for Christ, but Jesus is the incarnate Messiah. So, Jesus surpasses the earlier mediators between God and people.

What are the others and how do they substantiate the author’s claim? (vv2-3)

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Read Hebrews 1.4-2.9

4. Why do you think the author turns to contrasting angels with Jesus to make a point about Jesus' superiority?

WHAT NEXT?

The author starts off by proving that Jesus is superior to angels. Western culture now has a certain infatuation with angels. Many people collect angel figurines. People are fascinated with the concept of guardian angels. In history and at various times, people have paid a lot of attention to angels.

Angels are amazing. In the Bible we see that angels have great power. One angel killed 185,000 trained soldiers in one night (2 Kings 19:35). Another time, an angel killed every firstborn child in Egypt. Angels are fearsome. Most of the time when an angel appears, the person he appears to is frightened and even falls down to worship the angel (e.g. Revelation 22.8-9). Angels can appear and then disappear. They can even appear as ordinary people (Hebrews 13:2). They fight God's battles. They are in the very throne room of God.

What is more, angels are still very active in this world fulfilling God's plans, protecting His people, fighting off demons, being used by God to answer prayer, etc. We should not, however become pre-occupied with angels. The angels that truly serve God often reminded people of this when they told people not to worship them, but instead, to worship God alone. Yet it is still a fact that they are one of the most amazing parts of all of God's creation. If Jesus is greater than the most powerful thing in creation, then it would stand to reason that only He can be the Supreme Creator.

Growth Group Notes

Summer 2024



What can we do?

- Plan to spend time thinking through the implications of Christ's supremacy in the context of our society's "anything goes if you think it is good".
- Take every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with those on your frontlines.