

**I. Introduction and review.**

A. What is the big deal about angels? Acts 23:8 Col. 2:18

B. A crash course in angelology.

1. Their nature.

- a. They are created. Col. 1:16-17 Ezek. 28:15
- b. They are spirit beings, but can take human form. 1:14 13:2 Mt. 28:2f
- c. They have names and are organized into ranks. Luke 1:19 Jude 1:9 Co. 2:16
- d. They do not marry or procreate. Mt. 22:30
- e. They possess intellect, will, and emotions. Luke 15:10
- f. They are powerful. Eph. 3:10
- g. Some, including Satan, fell and rebelled against God and ultimately will be judged. Mt. 25:41 5:7 II Cor. 12:7 II Pet. 2:4 Jude 1:6 Rev. 12:4(?)
- h. A great multitude are elect. 12:22 I Tim. 5:21 Rev. 5:11 Dan. 7:10

2. Their function.

- a. They bring revelation from God to mankind. 2:2 Gen. 28:12 Ex. 3:2 Nu. 20:16 22:22 Judges 6:11 I Kings 19:5f II Ki. 19:35 Lu. 1:11,26 Mt. 1:20 2:13 28:5 Acts 7:30,51-53 8:26 10:3 Ga. 3:19
- b. They are instruments of God's judgment. Ps. 78:49 II Ki. 19:3 II Chr. 32:21 Mt. 13:39 16:27 24:31 25:31 Acts 12:23 II Th. 1:7 Rev. 9:1f .
- c. They help God's people. 1:14 Ge. 19:15 24:15 Ps. 34:7 Isa. 63:9 Dan. 3:28 6:22 Mt. 18:10 4:11 26:53 Jo. 5:4 Acts 5:19 12:7 Rev. 2:1f
- d. They worship God. 12:22 Ps. 148:2 Rev. 5:11 8:3-4 Luke 2:11,14 Is. 6:1f
- e. They observe us. I Co. 4:6 11:10 I Pe. 1:12

C. Our author demonstrates the Son's superiority to angels by citing seven Old Testament texts: A Christological Feast! I Pe. 1:10-12 Luke 24:27

**II. Christ has been given a better name than the angels. v. 5**

A. The Father calls His chosen King, Son. v. 5a Psalm. 2:7

1. Psalm 2 describes the enthronement of the Lord's King in spite of opposition.
2. God declares Christ to be His Son. Acts 4:25-28 13:32-33 Rom. 1:3-4
  - a. He reigns at the Father's right hand and will judge the nations. v. 3d Ps. 2:8-9
  - b. All people must make peace with Him (or else). Ps. 2:12 Rom. 8:1
3. No angel is called a son in this sense. Job 1:6 2:1 Ps. 29:1 *Sit; God's Right Hand.*

B. The exaltation of the Son fulfills the LORD's covenant promise to David. II Sa. 7:14

1. God promised David an everlasting dynasty. II Sam. 7:16 II Chr. 7:13-14
2. God's promise is partially fulfilled through Solomon and his descendants.
3. God's people were longing for David's true son who would deliver them. Jer. 23:5 33:14f Ezek. 11:14f 34:24 Isa. 7:14 9:6f 11:1f
4. Jesus will reign on David's throne forever. Mark 1:11 Mt. 4:8-9 Luke 1:32

**III. Christ receives worship from the angels. v. 6**

A. The Firstborn has been brought into the inhabited world. v. 6a

1. In what sense is Jesus the *Firstborn*? Ps. 89:27 Col. 1:15,18 Rom. 8:29 Rev. 1:5
2. *Firstborn* refers, not to birth order, but to status as the heir. 12:23 I Chr. 5:1-2
3. When is the *Firstborn* brought into the world?

- B. God declares that all His angels should worship the Son. v. 6b Ps. 97:7 Dt. 32:43
  - 1. Which verse is the author quoting? Ps. 97:7 Deut. 32:43
  - 2. It is wrong to worship angels (or any other creature). Re. 22:8-9 Co. 2:18 Mt. 4:10
  - 3. What should we conclude from the fact that the Son receives worship from angels (and men)? Lu. 2:11,1 Jo. 20:28 5:23 Phil. 2:9-11 Rev. 5:11-14

#### IV. Christ is God. v. 7-9

- A. The angels are servants of God. v. 7 Ps. 104:4 II Th. 1:8
- B. Christ is the Divine King. v. 8-9 Ps. 45:6-7 Rev. 11:15 7:17 22:16
  - 1. His reign is everlasting. v. 8a 5:6 II Sam. 7:16 II Chr. 7:13-14 Ps. 89:4 Isa. 9:7a
  - 2. His reign is perfectly righteous. v. 8b-9a 2:14 5:8 Ps. 89:14 97:10 Is. 9:7b 11:5
  - 3. His righteousness is demonstrated on the cross. I Pe. 3:18 Rom. 3:26
  - 4. He is exalted as a result of His faithfulness. 8:1 Rev. 7:11 22:3 Mt. 19:28 25:31
  - 5. His reign brings great joy. Heb. 12:2 Luke 1:14 Rev. 19:7 Isa. 53:11 61:1-3
  - 6. Who are His companions? 2:11,14 3:14
- C. The whole Bible declares the deity of Christ. 1:2f Isa. 9:6-7 Jer. 23:5-6 I Pe. 1:10-12 John 1:1f 5:18 10:30,33 Col. 2:9 Rom. 9:30 I Tim. 3:16 Titus 2:13 I John 5:20
  - 1. This author applies Old Testament texts which speak of God, to the Son. v. 7f
  - 2. Many things said of the Messiah couldn't possibly apply to a mere human king.
  - 3. Jesus explained how the Old Testament reveals His deity. Mk. 12:35-37 Ps. 110:1
  - 4. God addresses the Son as God: The mystery of the Trinity. v. 8a,9b John 20:17

#### V. Christ is the eternal, immutable Creator of all things (including angels). v. 10-12

- A. The Psalmist finds comfort in the LORD. Ps. 102:25-27
  - 1. He cries out in distress. Ps. 102:1-11
  - 2. He is reassured when he remembers the LORD's eternity and immutability.
- B. Our author ascribes these attributes of the LORD to the Son. 13:8
  - 1. He is Creator. v. 10 1:2b John 1:1
  - 2. He is eternal and unchanging, in contrast to this creation. v. 11-12 13:8 6:19-20

#### VI. Jesus is King who reigns in power. v. 13-14

- A. He is enthroned at the right hand of God the Father. v. 13 Ps. 110:1
  - 1. This is one of many allusions to Psalm 110. Heb. 1:3 5:6,10 6:20 7:3,11,17,21 8:1 10:12-13 12:2 Mark 12:35-37 14:64 Luke 20:41-44 Mt. 22:41f Acts 2:34-36
  - 2. What is the significance of His position? 8:1 12:2 Eph. 1:20-21
  - 3. What is the significance of His posture? 10:11-14 Rom. 8:34
  - 4. His enemies will all be brought low. Psalm 2 I Co. 15:25-27 Rev. 19:5f I Pe. 3:22
- B. In contrast the angels are sent out by Him to serve us. v. 14
  - 1. They stand (not sit) in God's presence. Luke 1:19
  - 2. They are servants, not rulers. 2:5 Ps. 103:20 I Cor. 5:3
  - 3. How have angels served God's people? II Ki. 6:15-17 Gen. 19:1f Dan. 3:28 6:22
  - 4. How do angels render service to us? Ps. 91:11 I Pe. 1:4-5 Mt. 18:10 Rev. 2:1f
  - 5. Should we enlist angelic help, or seek to perceive them? Dt. 29:29 II Co. 11:14
  - 6. Why hasn't God told us more about the role of angels in our lives?

#### VII. Concluding applications. John 8:24 Phil. 2:9-11

### Discussion questions

1. Why does our author make such a big deal about angels?
2. What can we know about angels?
3. How does our author go about proving the superiority of Christ to the angels?
4. What do we learn about the Old Testament from this passage?
5. When is Christ Jesus declared Son and why? v. 5
6. What attributes of the Son are proclaimed in this text?
7. How can you prove the deity of Christ from the Old Testament?
8. How is the Davidic covenant fulfilled through Christ?
9. What is the role of angels in our lives?
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