

Hebrews 1:4-14 – Superior to Angels and All Things – Lesson Summary

I often ask my kids “what were you thinking” when they do something foolish. In my mind, climbing onto the mailbox post and dancing seems a bit abnormal. However, when I consider the story of my son’s life it begins to make sense. One of my sons was born with a desire to test his physical limits. At age 2 he could already climb out of his crib. Soon after, he would stand on the arm of a sofa and fall backwards onto the cushions and laugh hysterically. His fearlessness has been a part of him from the beginning. When I step back and think about it, of course dancing on a mail post makes sense!

In a far more serious way, the author of Hebrews is primarily concerned about introducing us to Christ and who He is before He talks about what Christ has done. He does so in the first chapter by making connections and declarations. In the first three verses we are told that the following belong to God. The inheritance of all things is His. The world, future kingdom, and power to create are His. The manifested glory of God, power to sustain the universe, work of redemption, and reigning exalted majesty are all His! In three verses we are immediately confronted by the awesome truths of the glory of Christ.

The following verses are the author’s attempt to connect Christ’s story in both the Old and New Testament. He does so in order to look back and then look forward as he declares Christ’s superiority over all things. Because he is writing to an audience of Christ following Jews he intentionally connects his description of Christ to the Hebrew Scriptures. In doing so, he references verses from all three major divisions. His quotes from Psalms represent the Writings. Referencing 2 Samuel is a reference to the Prophets. And finally, by quoting Deuteronomy the author addresses the Law. He’s intentionally preaching the WHOLE Bible in order to show that all of Scripture is moving to or through Christ.

In connecting Christ throughout all of Scripture the author declares 5 things that the Hebrew Scriptures testified about Christ, their coming Messiah.

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| 1) Jesus is the Son of God (vs. 4-5) | 4) Jesus is Creator (vs. 10-12) |
| 2) Jesus is the Master of angels (vs. 6-7) | 5) Jesus is LORD (vs. 13-14) |
| 3) Jesus is the Ruler of the Kingdom (vs. 8-9) | |

Throughout this passage the author continually references Christ’s superiority to the angels. While this may seem a bit displaced he does so in order to emphasize his point. Angels are simply the example he uses to challenge the reader to elevate Christ’s position in their lives.

Culturally, the author’s audience is being presented with a belief that angels are to be worshipped. While this may seem ridiculous to us, it’s not that uncommon within our culture. We often hear people speak of guardian angels or talk about how loved ones who’ve died are angels looking down from above. This view certainly diminishes Christ’s roll of upholding the universe. All throughout Scripture angels are directed by Christ to declare His glory, reveal His character, and minister to His Saints. When we elevate angels, or anyone or anything else above Christ, we are neglecting who Christ is, always was, and always will be.

The author’s entire message is centered around a challenge to remember and respond to the call to elevate and glorify Christ in our lives. When we allow Christ to become an afterthought, a good luck charm around our neck, a genie in a bottle, a punching bag, or a liar, we are diminishing Christ’s deserved Lordship in our lives. Are you diminishing Christ in your life? It’s not just angels that are less than Christ, it’s all things.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) The author of Hebrews takes the first part of his letter to describe who Christ is rather than what He’s done. How does the author describe Christ in Heb. 1:1-14?
- 2) The audience that the author is addressing in the letter are being encouraged to place too much importance on angels. What are some things today’s culture emphasizes that draws our attention away from Christ?
- 3) What are some ways that you have deemphasized Christ in your life? How has He become lesser than other things you are pursuing?