

“Stopping Identity Theft” Hebrews 1:4-14

Context: The seven excerpts from Scripture that follow verse 4 develop the superiority of Jesus as God. The key to understanding this series of excerpts is not modern rules of rational non contradiction, but rather the focus of Christ’s superiority. The series subtly bears that focus begun in the introductory verses. The author corrects any tendency to link Jesus’ mediation with angelic mediation in the reader’s worship of God, concepts possibly brought in from an ancient Qumran community. This correction contributes to the main focus of Hebrews’ exhortation to remain faithful to Jesus and avoid apostasy. The book calls the reader to cast off any weight or entangling sin and to fix our eyes upon Jesus, who initiated our faith. Jesus empowers us to run the race until the day of our souls’ perfected transformation in eternity (cf. Hebrews 12:1-3).

Life Principle: Praise goes to none but the audience of One (cf. Hebrews 1:6).

1. Jesus superior as Son of God – Hebrews 1:5-9

A royal psalm calling for the worship of the Lord, even as Son, is attached to the citation of the Davidic covenant. These two passages show the superiority of Jesus as God’s royal Son. Quoting the LXX, the writer calls the angels to worship Jesus, as one of a kind who created them, was born a man, is raised from the dead and is ascended into heaven. He will come again anointed as God and King in royal sovereignty at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

2. Jesus superior as unchanging Creator – Hebrews 1:10-12

The author applies a prayer from the LXX to the unchanging eternal God to identify Jesus as that unchanging Creator of all. He is the initiator and perfecter of all Creation, making Him superior to all that is made and decays.

3. Jesus superior as Sovereign – Hebrews 1:13-14

The series concludes as it began, with a rhetorical question. This time the verb used in the question shows the superiority of Jesus to the angels as complete. Angels serve; Jesus rules. His sovereignty extends beyond the angels who serve to all His enemies that rebel, including angels of darkness.

For Further Study:

- As a **theological study method**, look up the word ‘immutable’ in a dictionary. Since God is immutable and Jesus is God, how is it that Jesus, being immutable, became better than the angels, having inherited a better name? Are there Biblical indications that Jesus is immutable (cp. Hebrews 1:12; 13:8)? When would Jesus have inherited this name (cf. Hebrews 1:2-4; Ephesians 1:4)? What would “today” mean to God, time-wise (<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time-experience/>; Hebrews 1:5; 2 Peter 3:8)? Why is the immutability of Jesus so important to your salvation?
- Hebrews cites *Old Testament* verses to bear out *New Testament* concepts. As a **Bible study method**, look up 2 Samuel 7:14-16 and Psalm 2. To whom are these texts referring? What place does Jesus as the initiator and perfecter of faith have in these two citations? How are they being used to show the superiority of Jesus to the angels (cf. Colossians 1:15-19)? How does the teaching of Christ’s superiority to God’s created agents affect your avoidance of false loyalties (i.e. Isaiah 31:1; Revelation 14:9-12; Revelation 22:8-9)?
- Our doctrinal statement professes that angels are created by Jesus to serve the elect and not to be worshiped; further, those that have rebelled are Jesus’ enemies destined for ultimate defeat and punishment (see our **doctrinal statement ‘On Angels’** under **what we believe**, footnotes 1-12 at [http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/Doc Stmnt.pdf](http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/Doc_Stmnt.pdf)). What is the Biblical response to temptations that come through powers of darkness (cf. Ephesians 6:12ff; Matthew 4:3-11)? What is it that these powers want (cf. Hebrews 1:5-14; Ezekiel 28:13-17; Isaiah 14:12-15)? Is God sufficient to help (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13)?

Transformation exercise:

Memorize Hebrews 12:1-3. Fix your eyes on Jesus during times of temptation this week. When He empowers you to overcome, give praise that Jesus reigns.