

## THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sermon Title:** *"The Son of God" - The Book of Hebrews*

**Pastor Charles R. Biggs**

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 89:19-37; Acts 2:22-36

**Scripture Text:** Hebrews 1:1-14

**Theme of Worship Service:**

**"Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?** A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,(1) who, being the eternal Son of God, became man,(2) and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.(3) (1)1 Tim. 2:5,6. (2)John 1:14; Gal. 4:4. (3)Rom. 9:5; Luke 1:35; Col. 2:9; Heb. 7:24,25." – Westminster Shorter Catechism 21.

**Hymns**

- 1. Rejoice, the Lord is King - 310**
- 2. Crown Him with Many Crowns - 295**
- 3. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - 529**
- 4. Gloria Patri - 734**

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**Theme of Worship Service:** Jesus Christ is the eternal and exalted Son of God who is superior to the angels.

God says: "As for me, **I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.**" I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "**You are my Son; today I have begotten you.** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **Kiss the Son,** lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him." – Psalm 2:6-12

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." -  
<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 110:1**

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "**What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?**" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'? **If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?**" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions." – Matthew 22:41-46

“And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "**You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.**" .....I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. **Worship God.**" – Revelation 19:9-10, 22:8-9

**“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.** The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions...” – Psalm 45:6-7

**Read Hebrews 1:1-14. Does the author of Hebrews think angels are important to redemptive-history? Why or why not? Compare and contrast Jesus with the angels.**

**Why do angels tend to be popular in both ancient and modern cultures?**

**Memorize with your family Shorter Catechism, Q&A, 21.**

## **Introduction**

Jesus Christ is the eternal and exalted Son of God who is superior to the angels.

Do you focus your thoughts on the glory of Christ? Does your life show its submission to Christ's Lordship through obedient love? Is it noticeable in your life that you serve and worship Christ alone?

Angels are glorious, and have been powerfully used as servants of God to accomplish many important things in redemptive history, but none of the angels, no matter how glorious, are equal **to the glory of the Son of God in both His glorious nature and exalted position.**

What we have learned thus far in our sermon series: God has spoken...God has spoken *progressively*...God has spoken progressively *in Christ*...God has spoken *finally in Christ*...Christ is 1. Heir of all things; 2. The one through whom God created; 3. The radiance of the glory of God; 4. The exact imprint of God's nature; 5. The one who upholds the universe by the word of His power; 6. The one who made purification-cleansing for sins; 7. He sat down in exalted glory at God's right hand.

Christ has inherited the Name of "SON" and He is much more superior than the angels!

The focus of our text will be Hebrews 1:5-14. There is an inclusion that makes a unit of thought out of Hebrews 1:5-14: Jesus is more glorious than the angels because He is the Son of God. Guthrie wrote: The author “impresses upon them the Son’s supreme, unequivocal authority.”

The congregation to whom the author wrote in Hebrews thought highly about angels, and honored them as mediators of God’s Word (Heb. 2:3; cf. Gal. 3:19; Acts 7:53).

- 1. Jesus is the unique Son: Eternal Son and Exalted Lord**
- 2. The Angels are Jesus’ Servants**
- 3. Exalt the King! He Alone is Mediator between God and Man: Let us Adore, Worship, and Obey the Only Son!**

## **1. Jesus is the unique Son: Eternal Son and Exalted Lord**

The author strings together seven quotations from the Old Covenant to prove the superiority of the Son to angels (like he listed seven glorious qualities about Jesus that make Him our Glorious Lord in Hebrews 1:1-4; see last sermon). The author is using a rabbinical practice of the time to string together “chain quotations” to make a point clear.

There are three pairs of Old Testament passages followed by a final quotation to “seal” the argument: (1) Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14 → Son’s unique relationship to the Father; (2) Psalm 97:7 and 104:4 → Positive, yet inferior position and ministry of angels; and (3) Psalm 45:6-7 and 102:25-27 → The Son’s Eternal Nature and Reign.

In the passage, we probably are witnessing verbally what was called in ancient culture a “Coronation Liturgy” (William Lane):

- \* God Almighty declares He has adopted the King as His Son, His Only Son and Heir (Heb. 1:5)
- \* The presentation of the King to the people (Heb. 1:6-12)
- \* The enthronement of the King (1:13)
- a. **ETERNAL SON**: “He will be great and will be called the ‘Son of the Most High’ (Luke 1:32); “This is My Son with whom I am well pleased” (God’s witness of His only son throughout Gospels).
- b. Christ is God- Deity of Christ from Scripture
  - i. Psalm 2:6-8
  - ii. 2 Samuel 7
  - iii. Psalm 45
  - iv. Psalm 102:25-27

v. Psalm 110

Two implications for interpreting our Bibles from the author's use of the Old Testament:

\* **Unity of Scripture: All of Scripture is Christ-centered.**

\* **Scripture interprets scripture**

vi. Contrary to heresy and cults: Arianism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Humanists

vii. "Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?!"

"...That people often say about Jesus: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." – **C. S. Lewis, 'Mere Christianity'**

*Christ is superior to angels as Eternal Son of God.*

c. **EXALTED LORD**: Christ is exalted Lord- Jesus Christ is Messianic King

- i. WSC, Q&A: *The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the Eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.*"
- ii. Emphasis on Christ's exaltation is emphasis on the outcome and goal of His incarnation- **death and resurrection-exaltation** (Rom. 1:3-4).
- iii. Christ's Name (Heb. 1:4) is "Son"- THE Son, not merely "sons of God" as used of angels in the Old Covenant.
- iv. He is called "protokos" or "firstborn"- "Firstborn is a title used of Christ-Messiah as the "Preeminent One"; "Heir of all things" (Heb. 1:3); "He holds a special place in the heart of the Father because He is God's ONLY begotten Son:

1. Romans 8:29; Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 1:5

d. Implications:

- i. "Lordship controversy"
- ii. Gospel Transformed obedience...

- iii. Let us recognize Jesus' supremacy because of Who he is and what He has accomplished for us in our flesh.
- iv. Let us recognize Jesus' sovereignty because the Christ who cares for you, also rules over all!
- v. Christ will defend, protect us, and judge the wicked!
- vi. Let us be patient and wait upon Him; hope in Him alone.
- vii. Let us serve the Son with fear and trembling because He is the Son.

Christ is superior to angels because Christ is Exalted Lord.

## 2. The Angels are Jesus's Servants

**Calvin wrote:** "The angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence towards us; they regard our safety, undertake our defense, direct our ways, and exercise a constant solicitude that no evil befall us" (Inst. I; cf. WCOF, chap. 3: III-IV for our confessional belief in angels).

- a. *"To which of the angels did God every say...?"* (Heb. 1:5, 13)
- b. Angels are important throughout redemptive-history, but they are God's servants.
  - i. Deut. 32:43; Psalm 104
- c. The Bible makes a distinction between the Son and Angels (as in Heb. 1:5-14):

What can we know biblically about angels?

- i. They are eternal, supernatural spirit-beings created by God for service and worship.
- ii. Gen. 19; Exodus 3:2-6; Judges 2:1-5; Matt. 1:20-24. Sometimes God the Son took the appearance of an angel, and was called 'The Angel of the LORD' but this was only a temporal appearance, but He was treated as God, and not as a mere angel.
- iii. Angels appear in human form (Gen. 19; 28:12).
- iv. They are abundantly faithful in revealing God's message to His people when redemptive-history is moving forward (as in the time of the Incarnation: Luke 1-2). They are at empty tomb, ascension of Jesus, in glory worshipping Jesus (Heb. 12:22ff).
- v. They are Jesus the Messiah's servants:
  1. Protection or "Guardians" of God's people: Exodus 14:19-20; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Psalm 91:11.
  2. They manifest God's wrath (Psa. 78:49).
  3. They are obedient to God's Word and worship God (Psa. 148; Heb. 12:22).
  4. They specially tended to Christ in His incarnation (Matt. 4:11; 24-26).

5. They are court attendants of the Exalted Christ (Matt. 16:27).
6. Angels watch over Christ's dear ones (Matt. 18:10).
7. Angles rejoice over the repentance of sinners (Luke 15:10).

d. Why do angels tend to be so popular in ancient and modern cultures?

- i. Some folks in the ancient world worshipped angels (Col. 2:18).
- ii. Angels were regarded as God's glorious servants throughout scripture. There was much interest in angels at this time in redemptive-history, and even temptation to angelic worship.
- iii. Many books today written speculatively on the subject of angels—immensely popular. Many popular songs are about angels: "Send Me an Angel"; "Angel Eyes"; "Johnny Angel" (It is estimated that one in ten pop songs have angels in their lyrics; their existence is assumed).
- iv. One important reason why sinners like angels is that they can have their spirituality without revealed religion in the Bible! Angel worship and a life "with angels" can promise a form of spirituality that doesn't involve commitment to God nor obedience to His commands.
- v. God has provided only Mediator in Christ; angels can be a strong temptation to approach God on a sinners' own terms apart from Christ (another way sinful man tries to avoid Christ the Way, the Truth, and Life).
- vi. Speculative, experiential, and mystically subjective reasons angels are popular.
  1. "A spirituality without objective Biblical revelation, and without Jesus Christ." "A spirituality without religion."
  2. To say it in a different way using Dorothy Sayer's famous line: "The Dogma is the Drama." "The Drama is the Dogma" (experience supersedes and takes priority over revelation in an unbiblical manner).

### **3. Exalt the King! He Alone is Mediator between God and Man: Let us Adore, Worship, and Obey the Only Son!**

- a. All authority has been given to Jesus.
- b. All we need for life and godliness are found in Jesus.
- c. Jesus has been given the right to judge the world.
  - i. Let us bow before Him alone.
  - ii. Let us worship Him alone.
  - iii. Let us obey Him (Heb. 2:1-3)
  - iv. Let us honor Him as Lord and King of our lives.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Biggs