

Heb 1:5-14

Part 1- The Supremacy of Jesus

We started our letter to the Hebrews journey by holding out front the question, “Is the Jesus that we profess to follow the Jesus of scripture?” To help us faithfully consider this question we unpacked the first four verses of this text, establishing who the Jesus of scripture actually is. He is the supreme One, unmatched by anyone or anything. The one who perfectly reveals God. The One who holds the universe together by the power of his word. The One who is worth our risking everything to follow. In our text of focus today, the writer moves to dispel any objections, if there be any, to the declarations of verses 1-4 by demonstrating them scripturally. To do so, he quotes from seven Old Testament texts: **Psalm 2:7, 2 Sam 7:14, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 104:4, Psalm 45:6-7, Psalm 102:25-27, and Psalm 110:1**, in that order, to contrast the Son and angels, solidifying the Son’s supremacy above that of angels, and thus, above every created being or thing.

I am going to work very hard this morning not to go down any rabbit holes regarding angels. However, I recognize that even today we hold angels in high regard. We, also, hold many false conceptions regarding their purpose. So, I briefly want to share a few things regarding angels. The bible teaches they are messengers of God, protectors, divine warriors, worshippers of God, agents of judgment, and interpreters of divine message. Angels, also, held an important place in Jewish thought, and later Jewish tradition associated them with the giving of the Law at Sinai. We see this clearly reflected in **Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19, and Hebrews 2**. Simply stated, angels worship

and serve God. They are not to be worshiped. The three contrasts we see in the text build upon this truth.

First contrast, angels worship, the Son is worshipped. V5-6 ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” Considering we are thoroughly convinced that worship is only to be given to God, we must conclude that Jesus, the Son of God, is God. Furthermore, given the fact that God’s angels are commanded to worship him, the Son can’t be anything less than God. When the writer calls Jesus the firstborn, he does not mean that Jesus was the first being God created. Firstborn is the language of rank, inheritance, and supremacy. The Son possesses the place of highest honor. He is not one among God's creatures; he is the eternal Son through whom all things were made. Human? Yes. But also fully divine. He is therefore worthy of not only our praise but also the praise of all creation.

Isa 42:8 “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.” **NIV**

Phil 2:8-11 ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **NKJV**

To worship the Son is to worship the Father. To worship the Son is to give glory to God.

Second contrast, angels serve, the Son reigns. V7-10 “⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” ¹⁰ And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” Don’t miss what the writer of Hebrews is doing here. He takes language about the Lord from Psalm 102 and attributes it to the Son. He is not simply saying Jesus is greater than angels. He is saying Jesus is God, the eternal Creator of all things, the one who reigns. As the pre-existent one, Jesus laid the foundations of the world and brought all things into existence, even the angels. **Hear me! Created things are transient but the Son’s throne is forever and ever. Don’t abandon the eternal Christ trying to hold onto temporary things. Don’t put your hope in transient things. Put your hope in the One who is eternal, Jesus.** We certainly respect angels, but we worship the Son because he alone reigns.

Rev 5:11-14 “¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and

glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

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Third and final contrast, angels are sent, the Son is enthroned. V13-14 “¹³And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”? ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?” No doubt angels are at work among us, in the seen and unseen world. But that is not the point of the writer. The point is God has set His Son on the throne. **Jesus occupies the place of authority at the Father’s right hand. Listen! The angels are sent. The Son is seated. They serve, Jesus reigns. Do we serve, do we follow this Jesus?**

Let me close. So what, right? Why does all this matter? If the Jesus we profess to follow is not this Jesus, we will eventually lapse in the faith when following him becomes costly. If the Jesus we profess to follow is not this Jesus, then we must seriously ask whether it is Jesus whom we are following at all. Church, this is the Jesus of Scripture. **Angels worship him. He reigns eternally. He sits enthroned at the right hand of God.** If you don’t know this Jesus, you can know him today. The supremacy of Jesus. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.