

Hebrews: a Bible Study

Lesson Three

Liberty Towers Church
Men's Bible Study
Just Larry

Better

Our Path

- Nothing inferior to Jewish religion
 - The best became better in Jesus
 - Better source of God's message 1:1-3
 - Better vehicle of God's message 1:4-2:18
 - Better leadership toward God's message 3:1-3:7
 - Better internal understanding of God's message 3:8-4:13
 - Better provider of God's message 4:14-5:10
 - Better teacher of God's message 5:11-6:12
 - Better promise of God's message 6:12-6:20
 - Better intermediary of God's message 6:20-7:28
 - Better contract of God's message 8:1-9:28
 - Better provision of God's message 10:1-18
 - Better method of God's message 11:1-40
 - Better encouragement of God's Message 12:1-13:22
- Prophets
Angels
Moses
Rest
Priests
School
Promise
High Priest
Covenant
Sacrifice
Faith
Admonitions

-Outline

-Last week Jesus superior to the prophets

-This week Jesus superior to Angels

Hebrews 1:1-4

Key
Verse

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 HAVING BECOME AS MUCH SUPERIOR TO ANGELS AS THE NAME HE HAS INHERITED IS MORE EXCELLENT THAN THEIRS.

State of the Hebrew Church- A sermon

- Hebrew first
 - The record of earthly events and methodologies
 - A method of reconciliation between a Holy God and an unholy people
- Primarily Jewish converts to Christianity
- Quick springing up
- Down on their faith
- In a time of crisis
 - The preacher was writing about an existing problem in the church
 - The people were tired and tired of being tired
 - A temptation to fall back, to let go, to give up, uncaring

This book does not read like a letter

No greeting like all the others

No sign off

No authorship

No audience called out

There is a logic to it

A SERMONIC LETTER

OR JUST A SERMONS

WHY A BIBLE STUDY ON A SERMON? Just read it.

Tonight there will be a lot of reading.....

The Jewish belief system was given by God

It was designed by God

Every principle, rule, and ritual had a wealth of meaning

It was a faithful guide for 1000s of people over 1000s of years

It was the best offered to man.

They had a history

Prophets of ages past preaching and making a difference

Angels interceding into the affairs of men when they about to go off the rails

The great redeemer Moses who called them out of Egypt and gave them the

Law

Their writings talked about a special rest of the people. A rest that would sooth all the pains of history

They has a system of priests and high priests to act as intermediary between the Holy God and the unholy people

They had a system of education and called out teachers

They had a promise for a kinsmen redeemer, a covenant between God and these special people

They had a methodology to be forgiven through a sacrificial system

They had an inner faith in all this history

All these accounts were pictures of a reconciliation between God and Man

The Hebrew Scripture is not merely a record of Israel's history;

-it is an allegory in which earthly events symbolize heavenly realities.

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A great start these Hebrew Christians

Jesus the messiah

A great spring

But now that Jesus thing was fading fast

Hebrew religion had carried on carrying on for a long time

400 years of quiet

Waiting for the messiah

-They had it all until JESUS

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Perhaps you know of someone in your life or even your family

Started well but now not so much

Seed spread on thin soil.

Spring up quickly. Shows so much promise, excitement, joy, but only
to start to loose their leaves

A dull sameness starts to steal the vigor of the plant

Given support, prayer, invitations to Bible studies. "All
the things the church should do."

Ultimately to die

OCCAM'S Razor

- All things being equal, the simplest solution is most likely the right one.
- The Hebrew religion had become a system of laws and regulations
- Interpretations of interpretations
- It required experts to meter out the will of God
- "I am a monotheist; I believe in one more God than an atheist.
- What can be explained by the assumption of fewer things is vainly explained by the assumption of more things. Aquinas

OCCAM'S RAZOR

When faced with **two opposing explanations** for the same set of evidence, our minds will naturally prefer the explanation that makes **the fewest assumptions**.

Jewish Christians were complicating their lives.

So ultimately the crisis in the Hebrew church was they were adding something more
The Hebrew God PLUS Jesus

Prophets, priests, kings, angels, Laws, sacrifices, teachers, legislation, prophecies, temples, Rabbis, tabernacles, altars, dress codes, feasts and fasts, holy and unholy foods, politics, foreign affairs; life was complicated.

Thomas Aquinas (1224-74) wrote that, "If a thing can be done adequately by means of one, it is superfluous to do it by means of several; for we observe that nature does not employ two instruments where one suffices."

Ockham advanced the discussion with, "Plurality should not be posited without necessity" and also, "What can be explained by the assumption of fewer things is vainly explained by the assumption of more things." But the phrase 'Ockham's razor' did not arise till 1852.

Although the term is used to advance atheism, Ockham (being a Christian) believed in God as Creator. And Genesis 1:1 posits the singular explanation that, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." So, yes, this idea has everything to do with theists and theology! 0 commandments

Angels - what is the big deal

Idea
#1

- Risk of worshipping angels
 - Common understandings and misunderstandings
- Angel *MALAKH* - OT 213 times *aggeloi* - NT 156 times
- Archangels Michael (Daniel 10:21) Gabriel (Daniel 8:16, Luke 1:19)
 - Evil angels who controlled Greece and Persia (Daniel 10:20)
 - An angel destroys Jerusalem (2 Sam 24)
 - Cherubim (Ezekiel 10, Genesis 3:24)
 - Seraphim (Isaiah 6:6)
 - Guardian angels (Matthew 18:10)
 - Satan is a "fallen angel"?
 - Myriads upon myriads... (Daniel 7:10)

Angels are real and Jesus is better

Spectrum

Skeptic – don't see any proof in my life. "How many angels on a head of a pin type.

FAN- They attribute everything to angels . Protection. Grace, joy, angels all around. "I have a personal angel, Just for me"

There in the middle. It is all about me. What have angels done for me. They are out there but mine is pretty lazy.

John in Revelation. Angel. John bowing down in an effort to worship the angel. "Don't do it, I am just a servant"

Even a number of religions based upon the manifestation of an angel

Even today there is an ever growing belief in the spirit world

Occult, witches, zombies, warlocks, exorcist, the dark side of the force.

What is an angel?

- They were part of creation
- They have specific duties and tasks
 - Created to serve
 - More than a beautiful postman
- They are unique
- There seems to be an angelic hierarchy
- They have powers given to them by God
- They have intellect
- They have free will
- They were created Holy



They were part of creation ===== Created before man

They have specific duties and tasks

Created to serve

More than a beautiful postman

They are unique

There seems to be an angelic hierarchy

They have powers given to them by God

They have intellect

They have free will

They were created Holy

They are invisible to man unless part of the task requires visibility

They do not procreate or create

They are limited in space, power, authority, intellect, holiness

They are responsible for their actions and attitudes

Hebrews 1:3-8

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits, and his servants, flames of fire."

Invariably when ever an Angel showed up what was the reaction?

FEAR NOT

BE NOT AFRAID

Not some sweet little cherub with glossimer wings

Powerful and fearsome

Flames of Fire.....

Better Name than Angels

Idea #2

- Confusion between a title and a job
- Angels are servants of God
 - They convey a messages to Man
 - They worship God
 - They guide people to the better result
 - They announce great events
 - They protect the entrance to the Garden of Eden
 - Only concerned with the living



Last week we discovered the message was still the same
In Jesus that perfect message from God was made clear in on time.
All old was poured into the new.

Angels conger up visions of wings, voices, clouds
GOOGLE 76 million 700 thousand entries.
Images

Confusion between a title and a job

Titles can be confining, they Pidgeon hole you into specific tasks

“I am not a receptionist; I am the director of first impressions and routing”

“I am not a garbage man; I am a sanitation engineer with direct oversight of collections, distribution and quality analysis.”

“I am not a Bible teacher: I am a knowledge interactor with an emphasis on navigation and behavioral modification facilitated by ancient texts.”

“I am not bald; I am folicly challenged.”

Jesus is better because of his name, His inheritance.

Because of his name

He is SON

*****First born. Larry. Held in my arms.... I love my wife.

But given a choice in a life raft push her out to save that little baby or better yet throw my self out.

SON That is how God the father feels about the SON

Hebrews 1:8-9

But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Better Place than Angels

Idea
#3

- Hebrew Prayers
- Line of David
- The great throne
- Scepter of righteousness

All the prayers from history of the Jews since DAVID was that there was going to be someone to fill that throne

From the line of David

To reign on high over the promised land and its people

A descendant of the line of David

Every day was a day of expectation that their kinsmen redeemer would come

Hebrews 1:10-14

He also says,

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

To which of the angels did God ever say,

"Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Better Existence than Angles

Idea
#4

- Angels are created
- Will come to an end as a part of creation
- Will never know victory
- They are not human
 - Can never know salvation
 - Can never be redeemed
- Created by Jesus the creator
- The creator becomes part of the creation.
- An angle can not provide for salvation
 - We a little lower than the angels
 - Jesus, for a time a part of our existence
 - To suffer and die

There is a joy in overcoming adversity. Angels will never know that emotion.

Hebrews 2:5-9

It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?
You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor
and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Angels are part of Creation

Idea
#5

- Angels will not have dominion of the new world to come
- Speaking of Jesus
 - Humans are below angels in this present earth
 - Jesus had to become a little lower than angels to be crowned
- New world is to be ruled by the Son of Man

Hebrews 2:10-13

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”¹

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

Jesus the humble

Idea
#6

- Satan's sin was pride
 - I am number one
 - I am worthy to be praised
 - I am greater than God
- Jesus was humbled to become as a man and willing to do so.
- A Brother helper

Son in the end we have a brother
Scared Call the brother helper
Tired Call the brother helper
Drifting Call the brother helper
Persecuted Call the brother helper
Disillusioned Call the brother helper

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Angels and fear

Idea
#7

- Little girl and wanting to die
- Death is an unknown to most
 - A sniffing out of a once bright candle
 - Reaching higher plane of existence Nirvana
 - There is no heaven
 - So heavenly minded no earthly good.
- Devil is the one who is the author of our fear of death.
- Jesus no comes to release us from that fear

Jesus is better than the Angels

Therefore...

Conclusion

Play most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

For since the message spoken through the angles was binding and every violation and disobedience

Received its just punishment,

HOW shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord,

Was confirmed to us by those who heard Him

God also testified to it by signs and wonders and various miracles,

And by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Do not admire the messenger, admire the sender of the message; Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:1-4

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Pay close attention

Idea
#8

- It is not enough to have the title without the task.
- The fact is Jesus is greater than the angels
- The fact is Jesus brings the same message but better
- The fact is Jesus is the best
- The transition is what are you going to do about it
- Application
 - Pay close attention
 - Laser focus of your life is Jesus
 - Lest you drift away

Pay close attention

Assumptions:

This thing exists, not a figment of my or your imagination

You already know something about it

You have experienced it, you have heard it

If you do not, we can drift away

Inattention to the ropes will allow the tide to take you away

The angels who are just pointers to this thing is binding. It is tied up

All violations and disobedience deserves just punishment

How can we escape this punishment if we ignore, this great salvation.

Announced by God

We heard it

God testified about it in signs wonders and miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How many people do you know who give serious attention to their salvation?

How many people do you know who love Jesus Christ?

How many people do you know who think about, meditate, feel continual gratitude for the gift of eternal life?

How many people do you know who drift into sin?

How many do you know who day by day drift farther and farther away from Jesus Christ?

We must pay our closest attention to the saving gospel.

"For this reason we must pay closer attention to what we have heard" (Hebrews 2:1b). The idea is "to keep holding the mind to something," "to give heed to." It is exceedingly necessary that we give close attention to Jesus the Word of God. The author pleads with his readers to continue to keep on holding

Christian response to Angels

Idea
#9

- Be aware of the reality of angels
- Don't hesitate to call on Jesus to send an angel
- Celebrate our humanity and future glory

Be aware of the reality of angels

They are real

They perform services to us the living

They provide support in our bad times and our good

But we have to be very careful in attribution

Careful to know the prompting is from Good or BAD

Don't hesitate to call on Jesus to send an angel

In times of trouble we need a physical obstacle to be removed. Ask our

Brother to send an angel

Angels in the outfield.. Wave your wings

Angels are not for us to interact with. They just do. We ask Jesus, send an angel. His will is done.

Celebrate our humanity and future glory

When we die we don't become angels

When it is all over here we will become greater than the angels

And when creation is done. We will do the same thing angels

do now

Worship, Joy, honor, glorify,

Sing HOLY HOLY HOLY HOLY

We become the truest version of our selves than ever.

Better vehicle of God's message 1:4-2:18

Angel	Jesus	Verse
Inferior	Superior	1:4
Created	God the Father	1:5
Worship Jesus	Is being worshiped	1:6
Temporary	Eternal	1:7,8
Some turned	Loved holiness forever	1:9
Perishable	Eternal	1:10-12
No place of honor	Right hand of the Father	1:13
Can deserve punishment	Is righteous	2:1-4
World does not belong	The creator, becomes like the created	2:5-9
No help for angels	Help for Mankind	16:18

