

# 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

# 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, **f**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 HHE 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

# 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.

# 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)

# 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



# 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. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> 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"?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

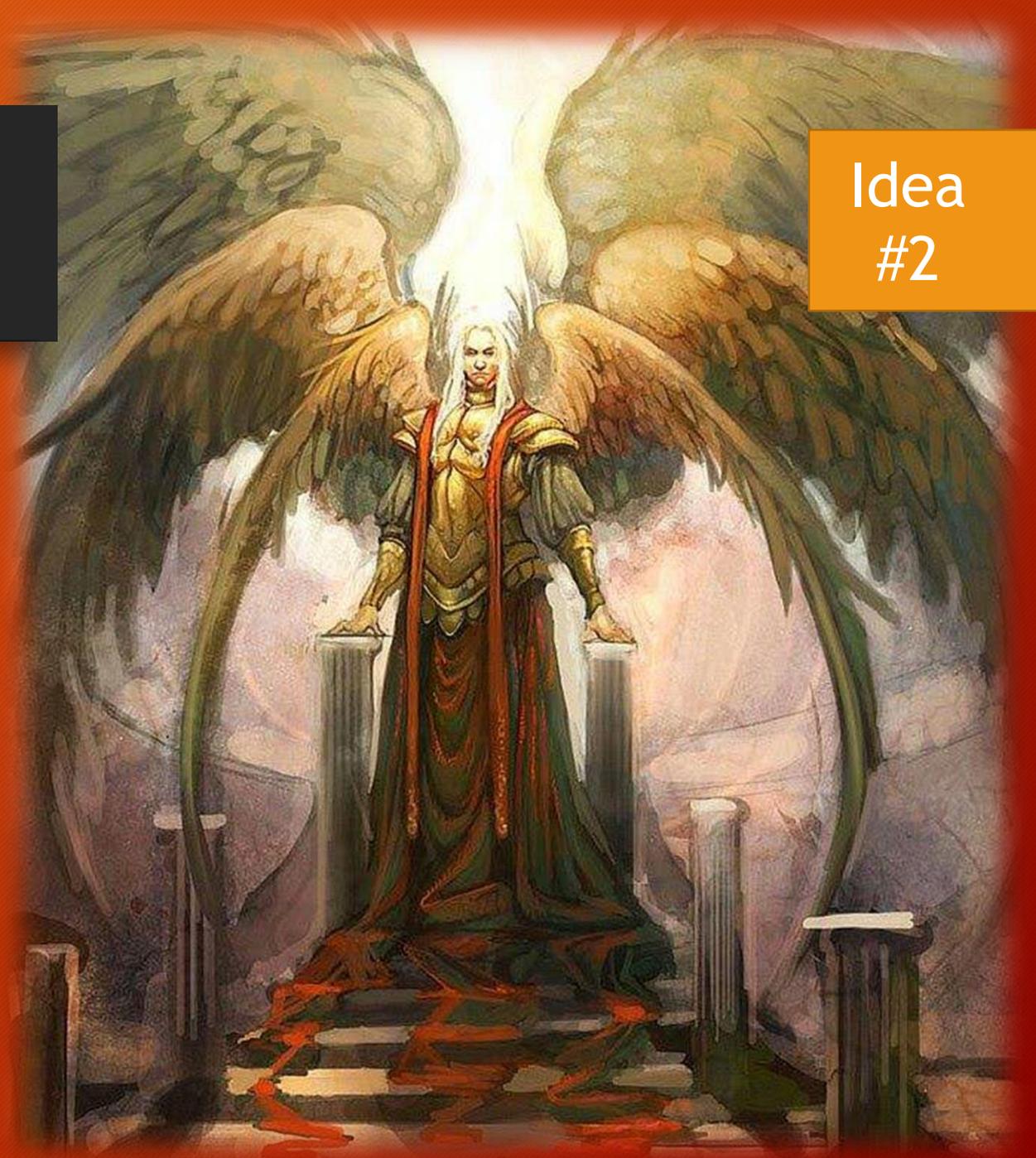
<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits, and his servants, 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



# 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

# 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 Angels

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

# 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.”<sup>[</sup>

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

# 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. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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 snuffing 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...

## Hebrews 2:1-4

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup> For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> God 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

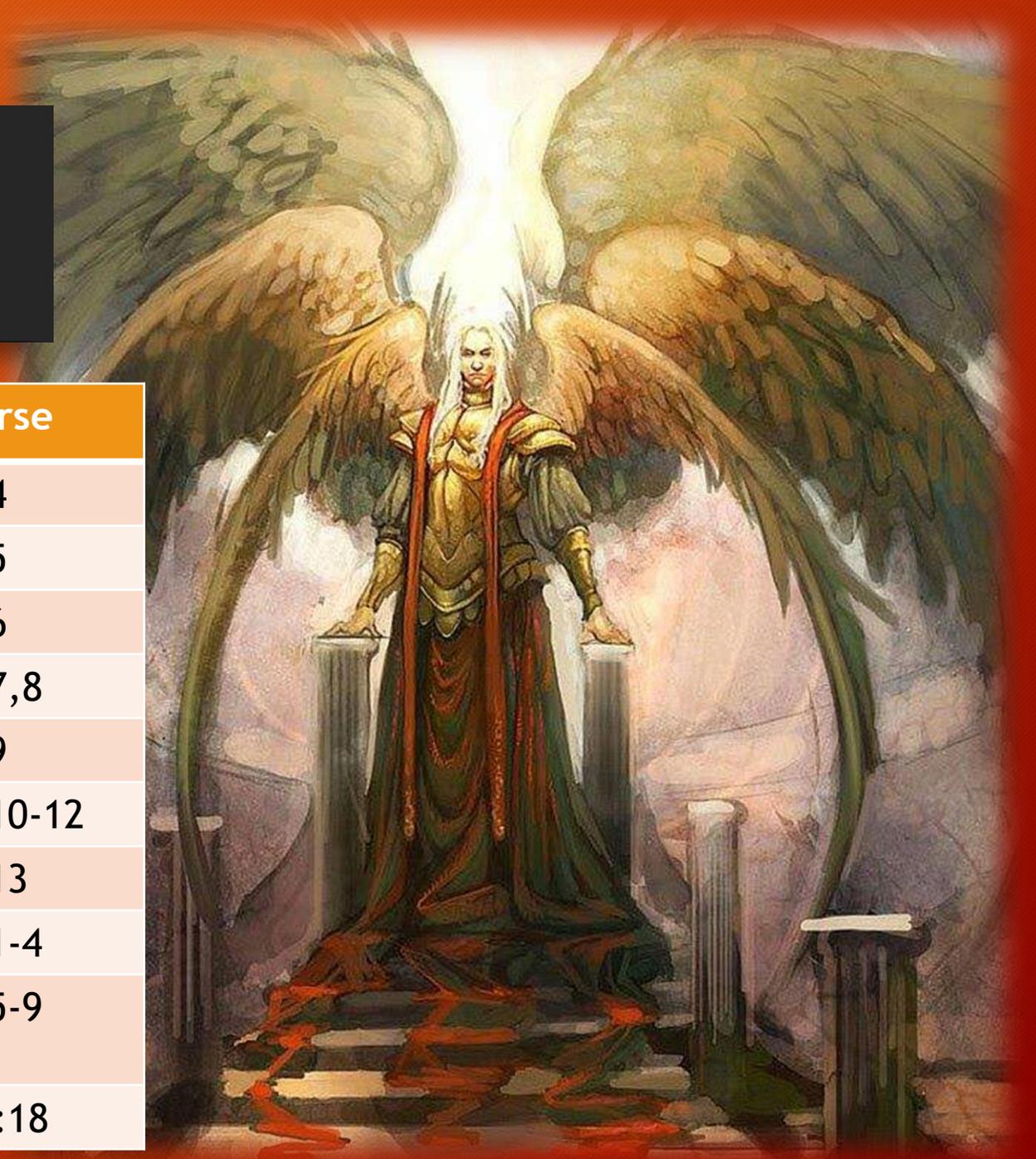
- It is not enough to have the title without the task.
- The fact is Jesus is greater than the angels
- The fact is Jesus brings the same message but better
- The fact is Jesus is the best
- The transition is what are you going to do about it
- Application
  - Pay close attention
  - Laser focus of your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

# 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

# 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