

Hebrews

Jesus is Superior to the Angels

The Old Testament attests to this fact

Chapter 1:5-14

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- After having said in verse 4 “having become so much better than the angels” the writer solidifies God's never changing view of His Son...
 - “For to which of the angels did He ever say...”
 - NONE!
 - It was the writer's intention to prevent the Jews from being drawn back to Judaism by showing not only was Jesus greater than the prophets, but is above the angels as well – Jesus IS God – the Father's Son!

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “...YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE FATHERED YOU”

- Psalm 2:7

- A messianic Psalm in which God calls Messiah His Son
- Other passages call angels (Job 1:6), Israel (Exodus 4:22-23) or even Solomon (2 Samuel 7:14-15), sons of God, but they are never given the status of “My Son”
- We are all adopted sons of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus but Jesus is God's Son – His heir – His equal.

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “...and again ““I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM, AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME”?”
 - 2 Samuel 7:14
 - This verse obviously has a double prophecy – near term of Solomon, and future Messianic of Jesus.
 - The Father is a father to all His creation, and we as adopted sons are granted the privilege of calling him so, but Jesus IS His Son, in eternity, then for a short time on this earth, then again in heaven for all eternity.

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “And when He again brings the firstborn into the world...” or the footnoted “and again when He...”
 - The latter is the most likely, better translation, referring to another quotation of Jesus being born and the angels rejoicing.
 - Firstborn could mean first in time or first in position.
 - First in time contradicts scripture of Jesus being eternal
 - Primacy in position is the most likely meaning describing Jesus as superior in the Father's eyes.

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “...AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM”
 - We find no exact verse that this verse refers to.
 - In the Septuagint Deuteronomy 32:43 reads exactly as this verse, and Psalms 97:7 is the closest in the Hebrew text. In the Septuagint, 97:7 translates “gods” as “angels”
 - In the Hebrew bible there is no verse that corresponds precisely to this verse

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “And of the angels He says...”
 - Verses 7,8 and 9 are to be read as one thought
 - The writer quotes Psalm 104:4 and Psalm 45:6-7
 - Verse 7 quotes Psalms 104:4 and verses 8 and 9 quote Psalm 45:6-7 both sets of verses contrasting what God says about angels vs. what God says about His Son.
 - Vs 7 discusses the angel's place in the administration of the universe – it makes it sound that they are on par with the Son
 - **BUT** Vs 8-9 show just how much higher the Son is than the angels – Jesus is immeasurably higher than the angels

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- And “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS...”
 - Psalm 102:25-27 – Again the Father speaking to Jesus
 - Jesus was the agent of creation – He was/is eternal
 - Jesus will be the agent of change for all things created – not that they will be annihilated, but rather changed, rolled up like a garment and renovated. (Rev 6:14, 21:1)
 - Jesus will not change – He is ETERNAL – No angel will bring about this consummation – it will be only JESUS!

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “But to which of the angels has He ever said, ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET’?”
 - Psalm 110:1
 - Jesus recognized this Psalm as Messianic (Mat 22:41-46, Mark 14:62)
 - No angel has had this honor! Angels may stand before God (Luke 1:19, Rev 8:2) but do not sit at His right hand
 - He is there until His enemy is defeated (1 Cor 15:25-28)

The Son's superiority asserted in times past

- “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to provide service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”
 - YES! – Angels are precisely that – servants
 - Angels may appear as if they are rulers (Daniel 10:4-21) but they are just agents, messengers, servants of the King.
 - Angels are servants who do their King, Jesus, bidding. And He sends them to **HELP SAVE US!**

Next Week...

- Hebrews 2:1-18
 - 2:1-4 – Warnings
 - 2:5-9 – The Son's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His humanity
 - 2:10-18 The Son's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His suffering