

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Book of Hebrews – chapter 1

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews.

As I mentioned last week –

It has been said that this is a letter, written by a Hebrew to a group of Hebrews, telling them to stop acting like a bunch of Hebrews.

It is a letter – written to a group of Jewish Christians – who because of adversity and persecution, they were seriously thinking of turning their back to Christianity (abiding in Christ) going back to the Judaism – they were thinking about going back to observing the law and traditions of the Jews as well as going back to the sacrificial system.

And so the writer of Hebrews – writes this letter to counter every possible reason that this group of believers had to going back to Judaism.

And the way he does it – is by using the Old Testament – which they were very familiar with

And uses it – to show them that Jesus is superior to what they are going back to.

That the law, the sacrificial systems, the traditions, the priests – they were all simply shadows that point to Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

Now, we left off in our study last week with the writer beginning to provide the reader with reasons why Jesus is superior to angels –

And that is what he does for the rest of the chapter -

And I pointed out that one of the reasons was that the Hebrews/Jews in their traditions, they revered angels as the messengers of God.

In their view of things, animals were the lowest form of life, then humans, then angels, and then at the top – God.

So when Jesus took on human flesh and tabernacle among us – in their view, Jesus became lower than angels.

Another reason that the writer dedicates an entire chapter to angels is that during the early church –

There was a heresy that involved the worship of angels (Paul speaks about it Col 2:10)

So there was a fascination with angels by the people – in much of the same way that there is a fascination with angels in our society from time to time.

It is cyclical – it seems like it comes and goes.

I remember growing up and watching Highway to Heaven in the 80's on TV

Then in the 90's there was "Touched by an Angel"

Show about angels -

I did a search last night on Amazon about books on angels – and I got over 4k results.

Some are legit – however, the majority of them are trash.

The bible does speak a lot about angels

They are God's messengers (that is what the word angel means)

179 times – this word "messengers" is used to describe angels

Now, this is what the bible says about angels. I picked out a few things that I felt fit in with our text this evening.

1. Angels are created beings – Psalm 104:4 – by the way, who created them?
Jesus – we saw that last week. He is the Creator of everything. Nothing was created that He did not create. **This is one of the reasons that Jesus is superior to the angels**
2. There are many angels – Heb 12:22 – says that they are an innumerable company of angels.
3. Angels are very smart and are also very powerful – Psalm 103:20, the reason that they are very smart and powerful is because they do His word.

4. Here is one that might creep us out - Angels are watching the believer –
Ephesians 3:10, angels are watching us –
and it is through the church, they are instructed in God’s Wisdom – think about it,
angels can’t be redeemed. The Creator made Himself Man in order to redeem
man – Why would God do that? That is why they watch us.
5. The bible tells us that 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God – they are now
known as demons. BTW – who created demons? Jesus

Let’s look at our text –

[Heb 1:5-14 NKJV] 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

The writes is quoting from the Old Testament

He is actually quoting from Psalm 2:7 and from 2 Samuel 7:14

The first point that the writer is making in our text is - To what angel did God the Father ever say, “You are My Son?”

Of course the answer is none!

The title "Son of God" is never given to a person in the Old Testament.

No angel has ever been given the title "Son of God" anywhere in the Bible.

The author is stressing the fact that title "Son" is applied only to Christ.

The emphasis is laid upon the "Son" who is not shared by others.

He is a unique, one of a kind, Son. "You are My Son."

No one else has that relationship with God.

Now, notice the second part of the first verse that the author quotes - "Today I have begotten You"?

I had you make a note of the word begotten

And the reason is that the word begotten speaks of men who have fathered children.

I begot Naomi

I begot Sarah

And we see examples of this in scripture

However, here it is not used to refer to Jesus being created or to His origin – because we know from scripture that Jesus is eternal

The word begotten here is used to refer to His relationship with God

Let me put it this way – when we say the Jesus is God's Son, we don't use the word "Son" to describe His origin.

As God, Jesus is eternal – He has no origin, no beginning.

The word “son” speaks of and refers to the kind of relationship between God the Father and Jesus.

When we read Psalm 2 –

It is prophetic of the Messiah’s earthly reign over all the kingdoms of the earth.

The Father is saying to the Son that on that Day, He will be placed in a position of rule and dominion.

The challenge to the readers of Hebrews is this – to what angel did God ever give the title “Son” and to what angel was there ever promised the unique position of Messianic rule over the nations?

None!!!!

The second part of verse 5 – (quoting 2 Sam 7)

You might remember in our study through 2 Sam – that David wanted to build a house for God –

So David tells Nathan to speak to God

And Nathan comes back with a word from God that David isn’t going to build God a house, but that God will build David a house – Included in God’s prophecy for David is the promise the Messiah would come from his descendants.

So, the quote from 2 Samuel is just a further affirmation of these same things.

It points to the uniqueness of the relationship between the Father and the Son.

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

I want to make sure that everyone here underlines the word firstborn here in verse 6

And here is the reason why –

On Saturday morning, the people that come knocking on your door – the first bible verse they are going to try to trip you up is going to be Heb 1:6 – and they will say, “Look – your own bible says that Jesus was the firstborn – meaning that He was the first created and therefore not God”

So, here is what to do –

Their assumption is that everytime the bible speaks of firstborn – it speaks of birth order.

Just like Naomi is my firstborn

Turn to Jeremiah 31

[Jer 31:9 NKJV] 9 They shall come with weeping, And with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, In a straight way in which they shall not stumble; For I am a Father to Israel, **And Ephraim [is] My firstborn.**

When we look at the sons of Jacob -

Reuben was Jacob's firstborn

Ephraim – if you remember was one of Joseph's sons and he wasn't even the oldest –

Manasseh was the firstborn

In the ancient world, as well as in many cultures even today, the firstborn is the one who stands to inherit the name and wealth of the family

It doesn't always go based upon birth order – it was completely up to the will of the father if he wanted to bestow the blessing and favor of the first-born on one of the later sons or daughters.

Jacob was not the first born, Ephraim was not the first born

As a title, "First-born" refers more to pre-eminence of favor, than birth order.

[Psa 89:27 NKJV] 27 Also I will make him [My] firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.

Jesus is the firstborn because He enjoys the position of chief favor.

This is proven by the fact that the angels are told to worship Him!

Since worship is to be given only to God Himself – nothing could be more clearly indicative of Jesus' deity than this!

So Jesus is superior to the angels because He is the firstborn – He enjoys the position of chief favor or preeminence

And He is also superior because the angels worship Him

7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son [He says]: "Your throne, O God, [is] forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness [is] the scepter of Your kingdom.

It is important to understand that it is God who is speaking these quotes here in verse 7 and 8

The author of Hebrews is using two bible verses to contrast angels and Jesus Christ
In verse 7, (quoting Psalm 104:4 – which I told you to write down already)

It speaks of the angels as being His creation –

Angels are spiritual creatures who have one task and that is to serve.

So – angels are created to serve.

But the Son – was not created – He was begotten – and notice how God addresses the Son in verse 8 (Psalm 45:6-7)

God the Father addresses Jesus as God

How much clearer can the scriptures be –

It's hard to understand how the cults can deny the deity of Christ in light of such clear and striking proof.

Yet they do.

So again, as the angels are serving – because after all, that is what they were created for.

Jesus, the Son – is ruling – sitting on an eternal throne which is marked by righteousness.

That means that Jesus is righteous in all His way

His action

His thoughts

He is sinless

We can at times do right but we can also do wrong

Therefore we don't possess righteousness in of ourselves

On Sunday – I quoted

[Rom 3:23 NKJV] 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

I mentioned that the glory of God is perfection / righteousness

That is the requirement to get into His Kingdom

But if we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ – our imperfectness is exchanged for His perfection

Our wrongness is exchanged by His righteousness

Our sinfulness is exchanged by His sinlessness

If we want to spend eternity in His presence – the only way is through Jesus.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

Here is another reason that Jesus is superior to the angels

In the bible we have example after example of people being anointed by man

Moses anointed Aaron

Samuel anointed David

Elijah anointed Elisha

So, just in these three examples – we have a priest, a prince and a prophet anointed to office by another man.

But Jesus was anointed by God – not another man

And angels were never anointed

Jesus is superior because He has a unique anointing

Only Jesus came to earth to die for us and secure righteousness for us – not an angel

So we must look to Jesus for righteousness and not angels

I had you make a note that Jesus was anointed with the oil of gladness – not with the oil of sadness

Gladness is one of the characteristics that is unique to the Christian

Gladness

Joy

Anybody can be happy

But only the true believer in Christ can have a true joy – a true gladness

Fruit of the Spirit – joy

The joy of the Lord is our strength

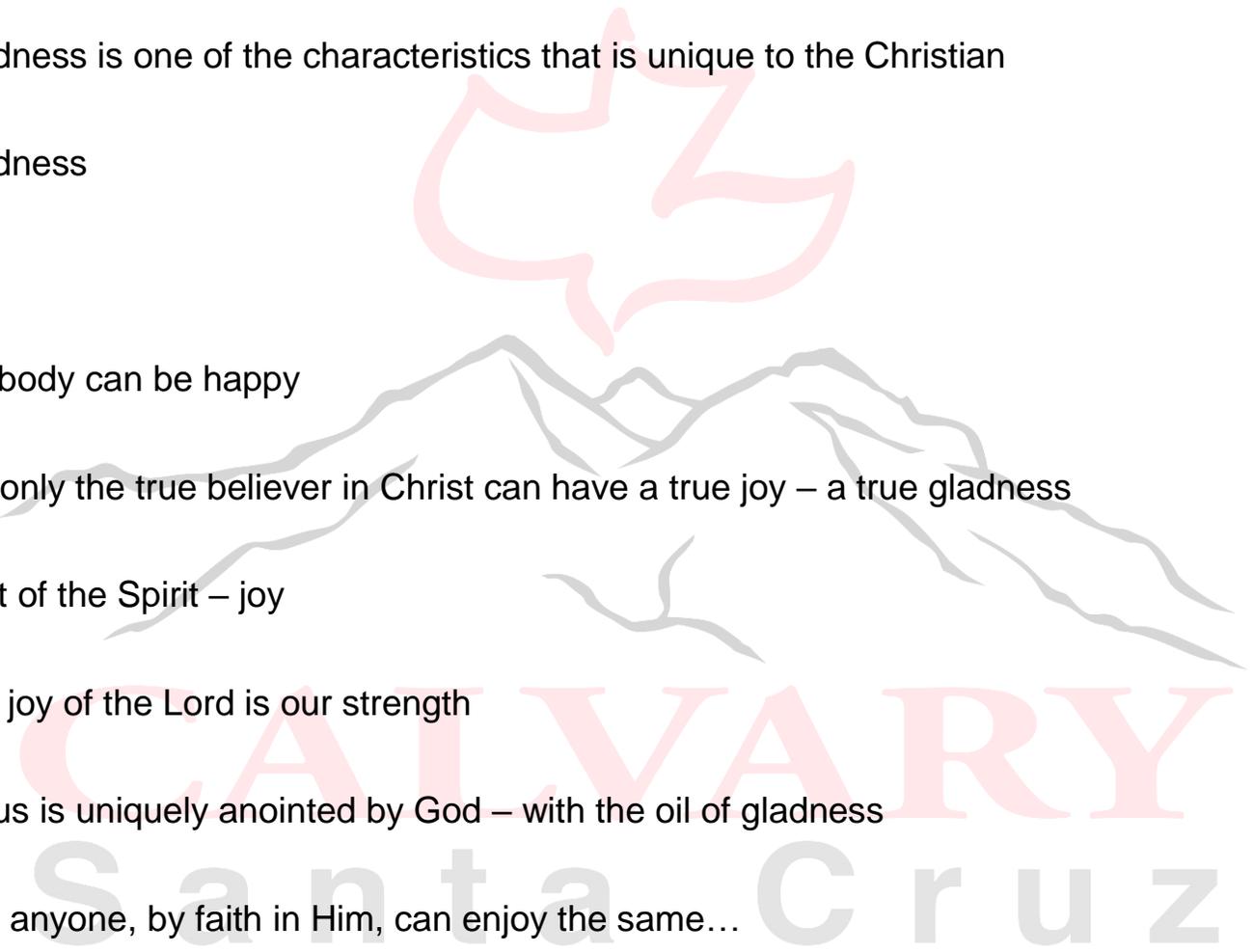
Jesus is uniquely anointed by God – with the oil of gladness

And anyone, by faith in Him, can enjoy the same...

Even when we are unhappy – we can be joyful

Even when our circumstances are all messed up – we can be joyful

We can have joy, we can have that settled peace that God is good



That He has made me glad, I will rejoice for He has made me glad (that was one of the first worship songs I learned as a believer)

[Rom 15:13 NKJV] 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

10 And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

In v. 10, the author of Hebrews gets even more specific on just who the Son is.

For here he says that the Father calls Him, "LORD."

This is the OT covenant name for God – Yahweh, or Jehovah.

If you want to make a JW angry – point to this verse.

Because they reject the deity of Jesus and demand that people refer to God by His covenant name – Jehovah

When you say that Jesus IS Jehovah, they just lose it!

The author is pointing out that Jesus is eternal

If He was already there in the beginning, then he could not have had a beginning but must be eternal.

That is precisely what v. 10 says.

V. 11 says that even when the physical creation has served its purpose (that is the they – the heavens and the earth – not the angels) and is allowed to dissolve, Christ will remain unchanged.

Everything on earth is going to burn up as we know it, however the Son will have an unending rule throughout eternally

[2Pe 3:10-13 NKJV] 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Jesus is to the Creation what a pair of clothes are to a man.

They can be put on or taken off, but the man is not changed.

Jesus is separate and distinct from His creation.

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

The point that the author is trying to make is that Jesus is superior to the angels because He has sat down.

I had you make a note of the word "sit"

Why is that important –

Jesus gets to sit down because His work is completed - on the cross!!!

However, the contrast here is that the angels – they don't get to sit down.

Because they are ministering and serving continuously.

In Revelation 4 – John gives us his vision of being in the throne room in heaven –

And you have the 24 elders that represent the church

And the 24 elders were sitting on 24 thrones and they are clothed in white and the crowns on their heads

You know who isn't sitting – the angels

It is the posture of the heavenly host to stand and bow before God, not sit!

Sitting speaks of a positions of rest and favor

The angels don't relax before God.

They stand before the Father, but the Son sits down -- because

He isn't a subject, He is the Sovereign.

As it is their chief duty to serve Jesus, He dispatches them to attend to the needs of His people

Remember that in the Jewish mind, man ranks below angels and angels below God.

Yet here in v. 14 we are told that the angels are spirits of service – and their service is to minister to those who will inherit salvation.

But what is most amazing to realize is that these majestic, glorious creatures, which rank so high above us now, will one day under rank us as we will be the glorified redeemed of heaven.

For you see, as it says in Ephesians – we are destined for the throne.

As the Bride of Christ, we will sit with Him upon His throne.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'