

Tonight, we continue through the book of Hebrews... we don't know the author of Hebrews, but it's in the Bible!

The whole book of Hebrews is yelling one message – JESUS IS GREATER!

Last week Chris helped us see that Jesus is the greatest expression of who God is and how God loves.

Tonight, we'll continue that very thought... we'll see that Jesus is greater than angels... he is greater than angels because he is **over all things** and **he is the suffering savior** who has redeemed those who believe in him! But we also get a warning tonight... we can't forget who the author of Hebrews is writing to... He is writing to **new Jewish Christians**... Jews who just became Christians... they heard the truths of the gospel and God redeemed them!

BUT... Since they have come to faith in Christ... it hasn't been easy for them... they are suffering... they are being persecuted by others... maybe even by Jewish people...

They are ready to duce-out... they are ready to give up... give in...

Really, they are ready to turn back to being Jewish... here is what the book of Hebrews teaches us... **JESUS IS GREATER...**

****Maybe you are here... ready to give up the faith... quit following Jesus... maybe life is really tough for you right now... The book of Hebrews shows us nothing is greater than Jesus... tonight we see...*

MAIN: WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE SUFFERING SAVIOR WHO IS GREATER THAN ANGELS!

This is the question we are answering, why is Jesus greater than angels... everything?

1. **JESUS IS GREATER THAN ANGELS!** (1:4)

The author of Hebrews does some really neat stuff... the entire book of Hebrews is covered with OT references!

This is one way the author connects with his audience... He is speaking their language... he helps them reach back to things they know and helps bring their attention to Jesus instead...

This time it's all about angels...

This is one of the ways God spoke to his people... they would bring the message of God to his people...

God used them to relay a message, like he did to **Abraham... Mary... Paul...**

****You better believe when someone saw an angel coming it was a big deal it was a mixture of being scared to death and super focused... (that frightening face you make when your mom or dad walk in the house and you haven't cleaned...)*

Part of the author's message is - if we listen to God's message from the angels and were in awe by the angels, **how much more should we listen to God and be in awe of him!** His message is the good news of the gospel, that **he has come to bring hope** - these Christians need hope... you and I need hope... Knowing Jesus is greater gives us hope...

But... angels aren't just mailmen... angels also carried out God's wrath in the Old Testament...

Remember **Sodom and Gomorrah... the Passover...** and a few other times in Scripture...

Angels seem like a pretty big deal to the church then and even now people worship them... but listen to who this Jesus is... why he's greater...

(1:5) - Jesus is the son of God (Ps. 2:7, 2 Sam. 7:14)

(1:6) - Jesus is worshiped by angels (Duet. 32:43).

(1:7) - Jesus is over creation (Ps. 104:4)

(1:8-9) - Jesus is the King forever (Ps. 45:6-7)

(1:10-12) - Jesus is eternal (Is. 45:6-7)

(1:13) - Jesus' enemies are his footstool (Ps. 102:25-27)

ALL of that about Jesus... those are some big deal things – *Son of God, over everything, eternal...* **THIS IS JESUS!**

And here is what he says about the angels... (14)

Angels are created to serve... Angels are spirits created to minister...

- *Specifically, to provide service for the sake of believers...*

The author of Hebrews is painting a picture of angels and Jesus... he is saying angels are important... they are created and given by God... but they are not more important than Jesus... they are not greater than Jesus... **Jesus is greater than angels**

Angels are to serve; JESUS is to be served... the section drives us to ask what in our lives do we make more important than Jesus? For these people it seemed like their old way of life... what is greater to you?

2. **JESUS IS THE SUFFERING SAVIOR!** (2:5-18)

(5-8) The message of the end of Heb. 2 is that Jesus is over all things because *God put him over all things...*

The author quotes Ps. 8:4-6 in vv5-8... **he left nothing outside of his control...**

This is actually encouraging...

Remember... they are suffering... it would have been super comforting to read that Jesus was in charge still... that all things were under him... that he is over all... (even now... in political junk and a pandemic... Jesus is still greater...) That's who they worshipped... that's who we worship... the one whose enemies are under his feet!

Jesus saved us through his suffering... (9-18)

One of the greatest reason Jesus is greater than the angels is not only that he is over all things... but that he lowered himself... he suffered... (9)

This is the very reason he has been *crowned with the glory and honor* because of his *suffering*... He *perfected our salvation* by his suffering... he made salvation possible... we couldn't, he did it...

Listen to what he has done... (14-18)

It was through his death that he brought us life... his death that we can have hope and peace...

He was made like us so that we could be free...

He made *propitiation for our sin*... *satisfying what God required of us!*

Guys... this is the greater Jesus... he is greater than all things because he gave it all...

He gave his life so that his people could be free... that's big deal...

He is greater for us... he did all this to help to us... to save us... **let this be a big deal to you!**

Christ's work is why he is greater...

3. DON'T REJECT JESUS! (2:1-4)

Right in the middle of this section we find warning about rejecting truth, but the author gives us reasons to not give up...

Remember, the author is speaking to Jewish Christians who are thinking about checking out...

He tells them, including himself, that we should *pay much closer attention to what we have heard*, lest we drift away from it... *What is he talking about?*

It seems like he is referring to the Old things they have always known...

Remember in chapter 1... *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...*

This message from his Son... the final message from God is the greater and final message...

The author encourages them to listen carefully to it, so they don't *drift* away...

If we will listen to God, through his Word... we will find *understanding*... as we listen it drives out the desire to turn to something else... it's like blinders on our eyes... it keeps us focused!

God has revealed truth to us, it is reliable... he is faithful... and it is worth following!

God has given us evidence to prove that Jesus is the true way!

Listen to the ways the author of Hebrews lists that God has made the way to salvation known...

- *Reliable messages from angels...*
- *Signs, wonders, miracles show it...*
- *Declaration from Jesus...*
- *Gifts from the Holy Spirit prove it...*
- *Witnesses attest to what they have seen...*

All of this is true.... And Jesus is the final part of it... God has been very clear that Jesus is greater than ALL things!

The author is begging and pleading the audience to not give up...

APPLICATION:

- **Believe there is NOTHING greater than Jesus...**
 - Your freedom isn't greater... your friends aren't greater... your girlfriend isn't greater... your personal satisfaction isn't greater... baseball isn't greater... tennis isn't greater... softball isn't greater... scholarships aren't greater... school isn't greater... your parents aren't greater... this church isn't greater... politics aren't greater... your grades aren't greater... your popularity isn't greater... **JESUS IS GREATER.**
 - **This is a full commit...**
- **Keep going – don't quit!**

Quitting... that's what these Christians are considering... giving up...
You might be there... are you considering giving up because you feel like you can't handle it... you feel like following Jesus isn't worth it... the writer to the Hebrews is tell you and tell me – KEEP GOING...

Q'S?: What stood out? • What is the danger of putting things before Jesus? • What is something you struggle putting before Jesus? • What are ways we can keep Jesus greater in our hearts?

• **Pray for these things right now!**