

Jesus Better Than Angels

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Married Couples Retreat: 2 open spots, go to info booth after.
- B. Next Foyer Art Exhibit: *Holy Hands*, many diff mediums.
- C. Sanct Chairs & Carpet (19 yrs old): See chairs on back wall. Priorities/roof over S.S. & day school. Speed up process if each family helped with \$100 (for chair & carpet) we can jump on this.
- D. Pray for those who work in Education: University, college, High school, private, public, as professors, teachers, admin, support staff, aides.
- E. Slide#2 Luciani Interview: (Paul & Suzanne. Raquel & Gabe (John Brown Univ) Priscilla) [Barcelona strategic]
 1. What have been some of your biggest challenges?
 2. What are some of your experiences that have surprised you?
 3. Are you looking forward to going back?

II. Slide#3 Intro:

- A. Slide#4 The *Ishihara Color Test* (named after its designer, #12 & #74) is an example of a color perception test for red-green color deficiencies. Each of these plates contains a circle of dots appearing randomized in color and size. Within the pattern are dots which form a number or shape clearly visible to those with normal color vision, and invisible, or difficult to see, to those with a red-green color vision defect, or the other way around.
 1. We realize just because a person doesn't see something doesn't mean its not there.
 2. Color blindness, or better yet, **color vision deficiency** (There is **no actual blindness** but there is a **deficiency of color vision**).
 3. Slide#5 In 2 Kings 6:8-23 Elisha was able to see the normally unseen beings but his servant couldn't.
 - a) (see vs.15-19) In Dothan. Elisha & servant. Syrian army surrounded them. Gods heavenly host surrounded them. *Open his eyes that he may see.*
 - b) Why God gives some special glasses at times to be able to see them? so we'll believe?
 4. We are going to talk this morning about **Angels** which are: *created, spiritual beings with moral judgment & high intelligence, but w/o physical bodies.*¹
- B. Slide#6 Read vs.4 to understand the rest of this chapter & our Title: *Jesus Better Than Angels*
- C. Slide#7 ANGELIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS
 1. Slide#8 1st, which Angels are we talking about? Not the *LA Angels of Anaheim*, though leading *the American League West*.

¹ Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, pg.397

2. Distorted pictures of angels have been passed down thru religious art over the yrs.
 - a) **Slide#9** From *chubby nude Infants, toting bow & arrow's to soft, slim, girlish soothing angels.*
3. **Slide#10** In Scripture the visitation of an angel was always alarming. *Fear not!*
4. **Angels do** take a prominent place in the Bible. **Mentioned over 100x's** in OT. **160+ x's** in NT.
5. **Some Christians** have been influenced to believe we should **pray to or venerate** angels in some way.
6. **Some believe** that when we die we become angels (not true). *Death is a relocation of the same person from one place to another.* Randy Alcorn, Heaven, pg.275
7. **Of course** we are never to **worship** or to **pray to** angels.

D. **Slide#11** BIBLICAL VIEW OF ANGELOLOGY

- E. **Angel means messenger.** They were created before man. They were created simultaneously (they don't procreate). They are innumerable. Have personality. Great intelligence. Moral responsibility. Sensibility. Emotions. Can render intelligent worship...**Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts.** Ps.148:2
- F. Angels is always in the *masculine* in Scripture.
- G. Their nature **doesn't** include bodies (they are spirits), **though** they may be seen in bodies & appear as men.
- H. They do not experience phys. death or cessation of existence.

I. **Slide#12** 2 CATEGORIES OF ANGELS

- J. **Slide#13** UNFALLEN - *Remained, & will remain holy through their existence.*
 1. **Michael** – Arch-angel. **Head of all holy angels.**
 2. **Gabriel** – 1 of the principle messengers of God (to Daniel, Zacharias, & Mary).
 3. **Elect Angels** – are also called **elect, holy angels.**
 4. **Principalities & powers** – Probably included all angels (fallen & not fallen).
 5. **Cherubim** – **Living creatures who defend God's holiness** (i.e. flaming sword in garden of Eden; 2 made of gold overshadowed the ark)
 6. **Seraphim** – Only in Is.6:2-7. **3 pairs of wings.** They have the function of **praising God.**
- K. **Slide#14** FALLEN - *Didn't maintain their holiness.*
 1. Fallen from their 1st estate. **Led by Satan, defected & rebelled against God.** They became sinful in their nature & work.
 2. **2 Classes: Free & Bound.**
 - a) **Free** – Are **demons** or **devils.** They are Satan's servants in all his undertakings & share his doom.

b) **Bound** – Are reserved in chains unto judgment.

L. **Slide#15 THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS**

M. **Given to worshiping God.**

N. Some, **do not rest day or night, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come.** Rev.4:8

O. **They were present at: creation** (Job 38:7); At the giving of the **law**; At the **birth** of Christ (Lk. 2:13); At His **temptation** (Mt.4:11); At the **garden** (Lk.22:43); At the **Res.** (Mt.28:2); At the **ascension** (Acts 1:10); & will be at the **2nd coming** of Christ, **When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.** Mt.25:31

P. They also seem to carry believers to heaven. Lk.16:22 **So it was that the beggar/Lazarus died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.**

Q. **And, they minister to us** (believers) – though **unseen** we should recognize their ministry which is **constant & effective.**

R. **Examples:**

1. **They delivered** Peter from prison.
2. **They watch** our lives w/interest. 1 Cor.4:9 **we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.**
3. **They watched** over Paul in Acts 27 regarding the shipwreck near Malta, **there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve.**
4. **They guide** us to *those who need conversion* like Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch, **Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.**
5. **They guide** the sinners to the **believers** (Cornelius to peter)
6. **They are interested** in our conversions, Lk.15:10 **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.**
7. **They cheer & strengthen** Gods people.
8. **They defend, protect, & deliver** God's servants.

S. **Slide#16 SO, WHAT'S BETTER THAN ANGELS?**

T. **Slide#17** Here, the writer of Hebrews, proves **Jesus is better than the angels.**

U. **Why is this an important argument?** – Angels played a vital role in Jewish religion.

1. **The Law** was given through the ministry of angels, **What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.** Gal.3:19

2. Acts 7:53 **who have received the law** by the direction of **angels** and have not kept it.
 3. Slide#18 What awesome beings angels are. They are intelligent, powerful, & wonderful beings...**BUT** *they pale in comparison to Christ*.
- V. Slide#19 The writer now shows **5 ways Christ is Superior** to them. (using 7 OT vss.)
1. **Through: Sonship, Worship, Service, Existence, & Vocation.**

III. Slide#20 **SONSHIP ISSUE (4,5)**

- A. (4) **Better** – (13 x's) better in **power & superiority**, **not** in goodness.
- B. (5) **Son vs. sons** – Though sometimes angels are referred to *generically* as *sons*...
 1. **Now there was a day when *the sons of God* came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.** Job 1:6
 2. **But No angel** has had the title **Son**.

IV. Slide#21 **WORSHIP ISSUE (6)**

- A. These are the final lines of **the Song of Moses** in Deut.32:43, **not** in the Hebrew, **but** in the **LXX** (Sept.) that read, *Let all the angels of God worship Him*.
 1. **Where do we have examples of angels worshipping Jesus?**
 - a) **At His incarnation** - Lk.2:13,14a **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest.**
 - b) Jesus undoubtedly was **worshiped in eternity past**.
 - c) He was **worshiped during his 33 years on earth**.
 - d) Is **worshiped in eternity present** (Rev.5:11-13)
- B. **Firstborn** - The title is one of **rank and honor**, for the firstborn receives the **inheritance** and the **special blessing**.
 1. **Isaac** was called the 1st born, even though his brother **Ishmael** was 13 years older than he.
 2. **Esau** was born before **Jacob**, yet **Jacob** becomes the **firstborn**.
 3. **Then Jacob** transfers the right of firstborn to **Ephraim** though he is the younger than his brother **Mannaseh**.
 - a) **Thus** the J.W.'s are wrong in their interpretation of *firstborn* in saying Jesus was the 1st **created** being.

V. Slide#22 **SERVICE ISSUE (7-9)**

- A. Angels are **Servants** & the Son is **Sovereign**.
- B. **Spirits/winds** & **Flames of fire** –

1. **Wind** – Maybe the image of an angels *swiftness*, & their *secretive work*. (Of course we can't see wind but see its effects)
 2. **Flames of fire** – Convey their *purity*.
 3. **Flickering flame** & the *shifting of a breeze* could also speak of their *changing ministries* (*in contrast to Jesus' permanent position at the Fathers right hand*)
- C. His **Throne, Scepter, & Anointing** all point to **His Sovereignty**.
1. **Throne** – His **rule** will never end.
 2. **Scepter** – His **authority** will be executed in righteousness.
 3. **Anointing** – His Anointing w/the oil of gladness was truly *the joy that was set b4 Him*.
- D. “It is impossible to logically think of **Christ & angels** as *peers*, any more than we could of a **sovereign & his slaves** as *equals*.” Kent Hughes, Hebrews, pg.39
- E. Don't miss **The Father** calling the Son **God** in vs.8.

VI. Slide#23 **EXISTENCE ISSUE (10-12)**

- A. **Key here**, is that *His creation* will change like an old worn out garment, **but He** will **never change**. It is the **Creator vs. the created**.
1. Heb.13:8 **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

VII. Slide#24 **VOCATION ISSUE (13,14)**

- A. Christ rules (13) & Angels serve (14).
- B. **CHRIST RULING** (13)
- C. Ps.110 is quoted more often in the NT than any other Psalm.
1. The answer to the question in vs.13 is a resounding, **None, not one!**
- D. **Enemies your footstool?** – **Absolute rulership** is seen here.
1. **Slide#25** The Custom was for defeated kings to prostrate themselves & kiss his conquerors feet. **Then** the victor would **put his feet on the captive's neck** so that the captive became *his footstool*.
 - a) This has been often found on **Egyptian & Assyrian monuments**.
 - b) Joshua 10:24 **So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings."** And they drew near and put their feet on their necks.
 - c) This was a symbol of the **complete subjugation** of the defeated enemy.
 - (1) Phil.2:10,11 **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

E. ANGELS SERVING (14)

F. In contrast to *Christ Ruling*, the angel's vocation is that of *servicing*.

1. This doesn't make theirs a disgraceful vocation, **no way!** It is simply *inferior* to the Son's vocation of *ruling the universe*.

G. Slide#26 As wonderful as Angels are...*they can't compare to Jesus*.

H. Slide#27 Our *Superior Christ* has assigned His angels to minister to **you**.

1. And if He wills, He can **deliver you** anytime & anywhere He wishes.
2. Christ is Superior to everything.
3. He is adequate in *your hour of need*.
4. You must **believe it & trust Him** w/all you are & have. (Kent Hughes)

I. 3rd ONLY - Slide#28 pic of grandma's 100th.