



SERIES- **BETTER- Hope from the book of Hebrews**

Diving into the deep end- wherever you walk with/to Jesus, you can handle it

HOOK: Bluey-Ariel-Video Game (she wasn't a gamer, but she became one....hooked!)

"Daddy, did I beat the game or did the game beat me?"

Q: What impresses you? (Your devotion will be lured there)

Ex: new relationship, new car/ house, money, traveling, etc.

Q: What distracts you? (that's what will demand your devotion)

Ex. addiction, coping mechanism, streaming series, etc.

Dilemma- Too often we are impressed or distracted by pleasures, people, possessions, and positions that don't deliver on their promises.

Eventually Ariel is just doing the same missions over & over trying to relive some of the initial joy of it

TITLE: **Don't Be Impressed With Less**

TEXT: **Hebrews 1: 4-14**

Christianity ultimately comes down to 3 questions (which the writer of the book of Hebrews addresses):

1 Who is Jesus Christ (Ontological Christology)

2 What has He done? (Functional Christology)

3 What is the significance for us? (Practical Christology)

If you missed last week, it might help to go watch it- we unpacked the books theme: Jesus is better

OUTLINE:

- **6 Reasons why Jesus is worthy of your devotion**
- **Summary Statement**
- **(-) Implication**
- **(+) Implication**
- **Invitation**

V1-3 = Jesus is all that and more.... V4-14 Jesus is better than angels???

Why so much emphasis on angels?

- Intertestamental period drift towards angelic amazement and adoration (*Impressed/Distracted*)
- Fits the overall argument of the book (Jesus is better than...) since angels were the mediators of the O.C./ Law (Heb. 2:2; Acts 7:53; **Gal. 3:19... The law was put into effect through angels by means of a mediator.**)

A chain of OT scriptures was used to drive home the point that Jesus is- the Davidic King and the Lord – (fulfillment of messianic promise by being human yet divine)

6 reasons why Jesus is worthy of your devotion

⁴So he became superior to the angels, just as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did he 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?**

Psalms 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14 (1 Chronicles 17:13)

1. Jesus alone is *THE* Son of God

The superior name inherited= SON; not because there was a time He had not been, but simply meant as a moment of 'appointing'

Romans 1:3-4 concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh ⁴and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead.

These passages speak of a 'moment' when Jesus of Nazareth was publicly revealed and declared to be the Son of God, second person of the trinity, God's mystery revealed.

This 'inauguration' moment would be understood by those in the Roman world, as it was common practice that when the son came of age they were formally bestowed the family name.

John 1:1-2 makes it clear that Jesus has always been God

the Father, the Son, the Spirit are equal in essence yet distinct in being

the Spirit is subject to the Son, and the Son subject to the Father,

but only in regards to the role in salvation, not in regards to nature of being

These references from the OT refer to the promised King from the line of David who would be unlike any other. How would God accomplish this? By sending His own Son!

Philippians 2:9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name

⁶Again, when he brings his firstborn into the world, he says, **And let all God's angels worship him.**

⁷And about the angels he says: **He makes his angels winds, and his servants a fiery flame,**

Deuteronomy 32:43 LXX reads *Rejoice, you heavens, along with him, and let all the sons of God worship him; rejoice, you nations, with his people, and let all the angels of God strengthen themselves in him*; DSS read *Rejoice, you heavens, along with him, and let all the angels worship him* **Psalms 97:7 LXX**, Syr read *All his angels*

Psalms 104:4

2. Those angelic beings that impress us, are not only impressed by Jesus, they serve and worship Him

"People find angels mesmerizing, but angels themselves are mesmerized by Jesus" -Michael J Kruger

Revelation 19:6a;10 Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder...

Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

What can we learn from the angels? That the theme of our lives should be to worship God and render Him His due glory

SIDE NOTE: “Angels” is a term that we in modern culture use to refer to a plethora of beings mentioned in the bible.

I won’t go into great detail, other than to say that the Bible uses “angel” as a job description more than anything else (other examples: seraphim/ cherubim= described as protectors of defilement in God’s presence {one relating to Egyptian the other Babylonian culture}, 4 Living Creatures, etc.

For the sake of our focus, I will go ahead with modern culture and bundle into the term “angel”, any morally good spiritual being that is without a body.

For greater study I recommend these books all by Dr. Michael Heisser:

The Unseen Realm; Supernatural; Angels; Demons

⁸but to the Son: **Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.** ⁹**You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; this is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.**

Psalm 45:6-7

3. Jesus is the greatest King that could ever possibly rule

Angels may surround the throne of God, but it’s the Son who sits on the throne

The quotation is from a royal wedding song, honoring the inauguration of the new King

His kingdom is: Stable (forever); Fair & Just (scepter of justice);

Good (loved righteousness hated lawlessness); Divine (God anointed)

¹⁰And: **In the beginning, Lord, you established the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands;** ¹¹**they will perish, but you remain. They will all wear out like clothing;** ¹²**you will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed like clothing. But you are the same, and your years will never end.**

Psalm 102:25-27

4. Jesus is the eternal creator; unbound to, yet invested in, His creation

The reference quoted, like most of the references used, refers to YAHWEH (the LORD);

the Holy Spirit, through the writer of the book of Hebrews is identifying the Son with YAHWEH.

The only explanation for this logic is trinitarian theology

He remains the same, He does not grow old or tired- He is God 3 in 1

The emphasis on the temporal nature of our world points to the promise of a new creation
(Rev. 21:1-22:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Heb. 13:14) He will renew this broken world

¹³ Now to which of the angels has he ever said: **Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool?**

Psalm 110:1

5. Jesus is a victorious warrior

Is this what we think of when we think of Jesus?

Psalm 110:5-6 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his anger.

⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses; he will crush leaders over the entire world.

He declared war on our greatest enemies

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?

6. Jesus is a considerate redeemer

He has his servants (angels) serving us

How? Guardian angels? The reality is, that scripture doesn't say how

(Thomas R Schreiner's commentary on Hebrews goes into detail of some possible ways according to scripture, all having to do with moving God's plan of salvation along)

**Summary Statement- Since Jesus holds the highest honor,
He deserves our deepest devotion**

Angels are indeed remarkable, but there is only one Redeemer.

It is Christ, and Him alone, who should captivate our hearts.

**The (-) Implication- When our deepest devotion is directed at distractions,
we will find to our surprise, disappointment.**

Has all the money we spent on vices paid off; have all the hours we gave to our jobs or passions been worth it; are we really better off chasing every thing that lures our hearts?

**The (+) Implication- When our deepest devotion is directed at Jesus the Son,
we will find to our amazement, satisfaction.**

Jesus is truly better; He made us, He knows us, He sympathizes with us

I've never met a person who regretted devoting it all to Christ

Invitation- Identify what most impresses/ distracts you- (if you can't tell, ask those closest to you)
Share with someone you trust and ask them to remind you regularly how Jesus is Better

BULLPEN-

If you want to dive deeper, here are some of the resources I use in my study (*the first listed going deep into exegetical work*):

- Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary on Hebrews by Thomas R Schreiner
- Christ Centered Exposition on Hebrews by Albert Mohler Jr.
- Hebrews for You by Michael J Kruger
- The Basker Illustrated Bible Background Commentary
- The Moody Bible Commentary
- The Complete Biblical Library Commentary on Hebrews
- The Believers Bible Commentary by William MacDonald
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary by John F. Walvoord & Roy B. Zuck (Dallas Seminary)
- Biblehub.com (lexicon)
- Biblegateway.com (cross referencing)

Luke 24:27 Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:3 Don't you know that we will judge angels—how much more matters of this life?

The angels are glorious...but like us, they only reflect God's glory. They, like us, reveal something of God. He ultimately is the Glorious one.

So Jesus is superior to all prophets and angels because while they were only messengers; He was the message. They gave the word of God; He was the word of God. They were the servants; he was the heir; they told us what the Creator wanted; He was the Creator Himself. - JD Gear

The Old Testament passages quoted are taken from each of the major divisions in Hebrew scriptures: the Writings, the Prophets, the Law

V7- the OT reference is speaking of physical forces of nature, yet the writer here ascribes them as angels- in essence saying that the angels, as the forces of nature, move at God's personal direction

Isaiah 6:2-4 Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth.

⁴The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.

If sinless beings cover their faces to shield them from the glory of God, and if they dare not touch the ground He rests upon, what does that say about sinful beings like us (which is why Isaiah in v6 thought he was a dead man). If we can't look directly at the son, much less approach it and get near, what do you think the one who made the sun is like?

John 12:41 tells us that the one Isaiah was talking about was in fact Jesus

Revelation 4:6b-8 Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Michael Heisser on Angels: <https://youtu.be/7YjQbhA9Qvw?si=KI7oTCXvsGAmmiYs>