

CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO ANGELS

Aim of the Lesson: Know that Jesus Christ is superior to angels and will make believers superior to angels.

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT PROVES CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO ANGELS – 1:4-14

A. He was Resurrected by His Father – 1:5a > PSALM 2:7

“You are My Son, this day have I begotten You” – This was spoken to Jesus by His Father when He raised Him from the dead [Act 13:33]. No angel has died and then been raised from the dead [cf Col 1:18].

Resurrection of Christ makes Him superior to angels.

B. He is Called the Son of God. – 1:5b > 2 SAMUEL 7:14

“I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to me a Son” – Spoken to David about Solomon, but in a future sense about Jesus, who was the greater Son of Solomon [Mt 12:42]. No angel was called a Son of God—only Jesus.

Distinction as a Son makes Christ superior to angels.

C. He is Adored by Angels – 1:6 > DEUTERONOMY 32:43 [Septuagint] or PSALM 97:7

“Let all the angels of God worship Him” – angels will worship Jesus at His second coming because He is God. Worship is only for God, not for any angel. Jesus is called the “first begotten,” because He is first in rank and had the privilege of leadership [Gen 37:31-32]. The first born also received a double share of all the other brothers: (1) the birthright privileges, and (2) the blessing [Gen 49:3; 27:36; 1 Chr 5:1-2].

Adoration by angels makes Him superior to angels.

D. He is Served by Angels – 1:7 > PSALM 104:4

God “makes His angels spirits (or, winds), and His ministers a flame of fire” – Angels are created to be ministers. Angels served Jesus on earth [Mt 4:11; Lk 22:43] and now they serve believers [Heb 1:14].

Ministration by angels makes Him superior to angels.

E. He is Enthroned Forever – 1:8-9 > PSALM 45:6-7

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom . . . God has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows” – the Father calls His Son, “God,” and promises Him an eternal kingdom. This kingdom is described as “the oil of gladness.” This is the joy that Jesus kept in mind when He went to the cross [12:2; Ps 16:11]. In His kingdom He will be above His “fellows” (angels and believers).

Dominion of Christ makes Him superior to angels.

F. He Created All Things – 1:10-12 > PSALM 102:25-27

Jesus “laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works” of His hands – He created all things, even angels. No angel can make this claim.

Creation by Christ makes Him superior to angels.

G. He is Seated at His Father’s Right Hand – 1:13 > PSALM 110:1

The Father told Jesus, “Sit on my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Your footstool” – Jesus has the highest seat of honor--never given to angels – Mt 22:41-45; Mk 16:19; Act 2:32-36; Rom 8:34; Col 3:1; 1 Pt 3:22.

Position of Christ makes Him superior to angels.

II. CHRISTIANS ARE ADMONISHED NOT TO DRIFT FROM GOD’ WORD – 2:1-4

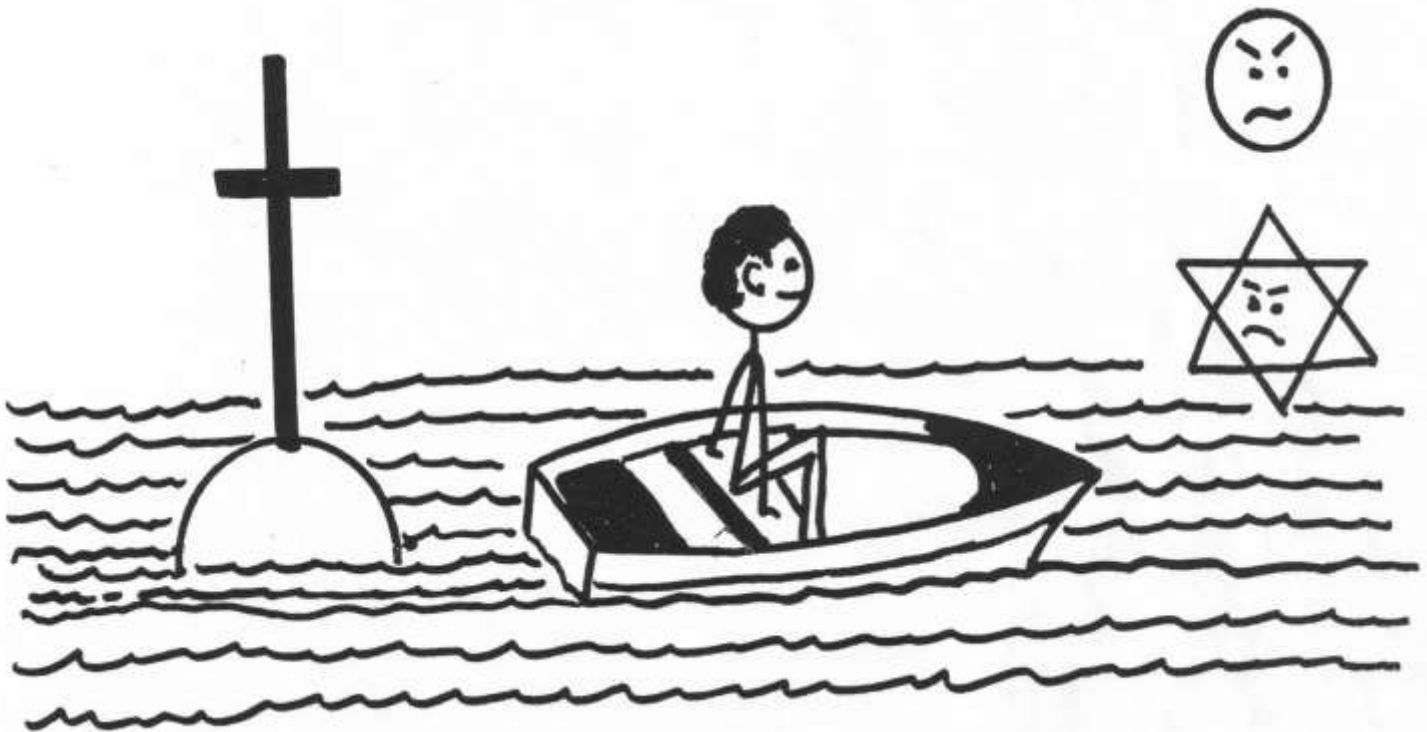
A. Caution to Christians – Pay attention [2:1].

1. "Therefore" – On the basis of Christ being greater than the prophets and even greater than the angels [Heb 1], the Christians were urged to give careful attention to the things that they had heard from Him or about Him. This was no time to act on their emotions. They needed to think clearly.
2. "Slip" or "drift" – It was not a matter that they were in danger of letting the things they had heard slip away from them, but rather, they were in danger of slipping/drifting away from the things that they had heard. They were not giving the words of Christ careful attention and were in danger of leaving the Christian fellowship by returning to Judaism. This also happens to Christian Gentiles when they drift away from Christian fellowship and return to the sinful things of the world.

FIRST APPEAL– 2:1-4: "Do not forget the blessings of God's salvation"

WE DRIFT FROM GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 2:1-4



WHEN WE FORGET THE BLESSINGS OF HIS SALVATION

A believer that forgets the blessings of his salvation will drift from God's Word back to Judaism or to the world from whichever he was saved,

B. Concern for Christians – Get serious [2:2].

1. "Steadfast" – Since the word spoken by angels was unwavering, these believers needed to give serious attention to the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ and not drift away from it
2. "Recompense" – Those who transgressed or disobeyed God's word given by angels were severely punished. That is the reward or wage for sin [cf Rom 6:23]. So it was imperative that believers not sin against God. They needed to get serious and do what is right.

C. Consequences for Christians – Consider the penalty [2:3].

1. “Escape” – Believers that are careless with God’s great salvation will discover that there is no way to escape His discipline. Therefore, they need to consider the consequences of returning to their old way of life. They need to think about the eternal consequences of their action.
2. “Spoken” – The Lord was the first to speak about God’s gracious gift of salvation, and then His disciples confirmed His message to these believers. Since the words they heard concerning this great salvation came from the Lord Himself they needed to believe them and act accordingly.

D. Confidence for Christians – Believe it [2:4].

1. “Witness” – God Himself gave witness to the truth about His generous offer of salvation, so Christians could have absolute confidence it was true and believe it without reservation. His witness included four displays of His power to prove that this marvelous message came from Him.

“Signs” – These pointed believers to the truth.

“Wonders” – These drew attention to the signs by adding to them an element of astonishment.

“Miracles” – These were supernatural demonstrations of divine power through human agents.

“Gifts of the Holy Spirit” – These enabled believers to perform beyond their ordinary abilities.

2. “Will” – This great salvation was according to God’s own will. It was His sovereign plan. God gave this message of salvation to man, solemnly attested it and attached great significance to it. So no Christian should doubt the validity of His great salvation and neglect it.

III. CHRIST BECAME A MAN FOR SEVEN REASONS – 2:5-18**A. To Rule the World to Come for His Father – 2:5-9a**

The “world to come” seems to have reference to the Millennial Kingdom of Christ (2:5; Rev 20). God gave the world to Adam (man) to rule it for Him (2:7-8; Gen 1:28; Ps 8:4-8). However, he lost control of it when he yielded to Satan’s temptation. Satan (angel) usurped control of the world for his own benefit and took its glory away from God. But God’s plan has not changed. He will not let Satan, an angel, rule the world forever, but will remove him from the world and give it to Jesus Christ. He became a man, suffered the agony of death and was crowned with glory and honor in His resurrection (2:9).

B. To Taste Death for Every Sinner – 2:9b

Christ had to become a man to taste death for every man and pay the penalty for their sins.

C. To Be Made Perfect through Suffering – 2:10

Christ had to suffer as a man to be perfected as the author of our salvation.

D. To Be One with Believers – 2:11-13

Christ became a man so He could identify Himself with all believers.

E. To Destroy the Devil thru Death – 2:14

Christ became a man so He could die and destroy the devil that had the power of death.

F. To Free Believers from Bondage – 2:15-16

Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection with glory delivers believers from the fear of death.

G. To Be a Merciful and Faithful High Priest – 2:17-18

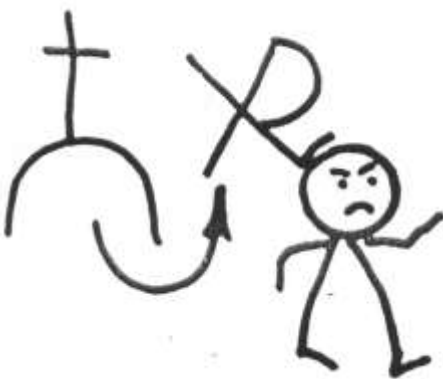
Christ became a man to experience the suffering of temptations, so He could help those who were suffer in their time of need.

IV. HIS DEATH AND LIFE ENABLES HIM TO DO MORE FOR BELIEVERS THAN ANGELS – 2:9b-18**A. He Will Bring His Brethren to Glory – 2:9b-13**

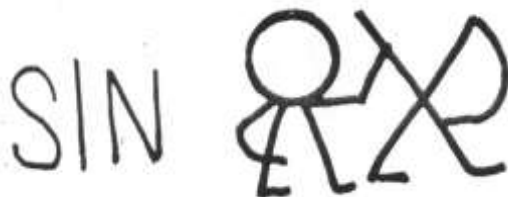
SALVATION PROVIDED – we are delivered from the penalty of sin.

**HE IS A GLORIOUS SAVIOR****B. He Has Defeated Satan and Will Deliver Believers from Bondage – 2:14-16**

SATAN DEFEATED – we are delivered from the power of sin.

**HE IS A VICTORIOUS SAVIOR****C. He is a Merciful and Faithful High Priest – 2:17-18**

SYMPATHY ASSURED – we are delivered from the guilt of sin.

**HE IS A MERCIFUL SAVIOR: He reconciles sinners to God – 2:17****HE IS A FAITHFUL SAVIOR; He helps believers not to sin – 2:18**