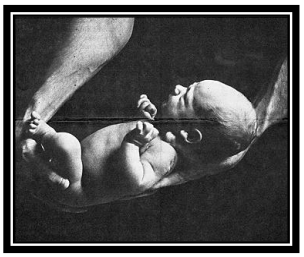
“What Child is This?”

("What God SAID about His Son")
Hebrews 1:4-14
12-19-2020



Realize how great Jesus Christ really is!
(He is infinitely superior to even Angels!)

See what God the Father said about His Son, Jesus Christ in comparison to Angels...

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

I. In <u>NAME</u>, He is my <u>"SON"</u>: *Honor Him!* (v.4-5)



Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

II. In <u>NATURE</u>, He is <u>GOD</u>: *Worship Him!* (v.6-9)

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

III. In <u>WORK</u>, He is <u>CREATOR</u>: *Thank Him!* (v.10)

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

IV. In <u>EXISTENCE</u>, He is <u>ETERNAL</u>: *Trust Him!* (v.11-12)

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

V. In <u>POSITION</u>, He is <u>RULER</u>: *Submit to Him!* (v.13-14)

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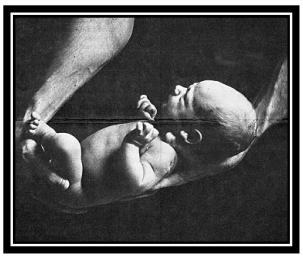

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Most of the world is totally ignorant as to who Jesus Christ really is. Some view Him as a great teacher; to others He is a holy man (guru), to others a prophet like Moses, to others a misguided troublemaker, to others an incarnate angel (J.W.'s).

It does not matter what men say about Christ. What matters is what God the Father says about Him.

Satan's main goal and mission is to blind people's minds as to who Jesus really is.

He will constantly question the nature and work of Jesus Christ (cp. Mt. 3:17 - God the Father said, *"This is my beloved Son"* . . . Satan replied, *"If thou be the Son of God . . ."* (4:3).)

In verses 1 - 3, the greatness of Jesus Christ is seen by what God the Father DID through the Son.

I. God SPOKE to us in His Son (v. 1-2a)
II. God RULES the universe via His Son (v. 2b)
III. God CREATED all things through His Son (v. 2c)
IV. God REVEALED Himself in His Son (v. 3a)
V. God SUSTAINS creation by His Son (v. 3b)
VI. God ATONED FOR SIN through His Son (v. 3c)

Now in verses 4 - 14, the greatness of Jesus Christ is seen by what God the Father SAID about the Son.

In verses 5 - 14, the writer of Hebrews demonstrates the superiority of Jesus Christ over angels. He does this by comparing and contrasting statements God the Father made about both.

By beginning the Epistle to the Hebrews with a comparison of Christ to angels, the writer (under God's inspiration), is demonstrating the superiority of Christ over everyone and everything. In that he is comparing Christ to the highest class of created beings in the universe, it naturally proves that Christ is also superior to everything under angels.

Realize how great Jesus Christ really is!

(He is infinitely superior to even Angels!)

See what God the Father said about His Son, Jesus Christ in comparison to Angels...

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

I. In NAME, He is my "SON": *Honor Him!* (v.4-5)

V. 4

"Being made" - not *poieo* (to create), but *ginomai* (to become).

Jesus eternally existed supreme over angels, but during His humble incarnation He had been lower than the angels (Heb. 2:9). However, after His resurrection and exaltation, He *"became"* better again, in the sense that He now reigns as heir of all things and has an exalted name to prove it!

Christ as *"heir of all things"* (v. 2) also has a corresponding title: ***"Son of God."***

The phrase *"son of God"* does not imply that God had offspring. The phrase is a Hebraism meaning "one identified with."

In Hebrew understanding the term "son" could include the idea of physical generation (i.e. male offspring) but that is not the fundamental idea. Rather, the basic idea is identity. A "son" is one who partakes of the qualities and characteristics of that person of which he is said to be a son.

The term "son" does not necessarily mean "offspring" or "progeny" but specifically refers to being "one with" or being "one identified with" someone or something

Examples:

I Tim. 1:12 -	Paul called Timothy "My own son in the faith.") (cp. Jn. 5:18).
John 17:12 -	Judas is identified with perdition (the "son of perdition")
Acts 4:36 -	Barnabas is identified with consolation ("son of consolation")
Jonah 4:10 -	The Gourd is identified with Night ("son of a night" ie. here today & gone tomorrow)

People don't put much thought into the significance of names today, as they did in Bible days. A name back then often reflected the person's character or personality. So it is with Christ's excellent name.

V. 5

God never called an angel His son, but He referred to Jesus Christ as "Son."

"While the angels collectively may be termed *"the sons of God"* (Job 1:6), no angel would be given this title individually. It belongs uniquely to our Lord Jesus Christ" (Wiersbe, p. 22).

Christ has eternally held the position of "Son of God" as evident by the Old Testament references to His Sonship.

Psalm 2:12 - "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Prov. 30:4 - "Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His son's name, if thou canst tell."

Daniel 3:25 - "The form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Nebuchadnezzar clearly saw a divine being who appeared different than the other three men in the furnace).

". . . This day have I begotten Thee" - A quote of Psalm 2:7.

This Messianic psalm anticipated the Father begetting His Son from the grave.

The term *"begotten"* is not describing His origin, but His authority, as proven by His resurrection.

> Acts 13:33-34 - *"God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David."*
>
> Rom. 1:4 - *"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*

"I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son" - A quote of II Samuel 7:14, which was a statement to King Solomon and Israel's subsequent kings, yet it had ultimate prophetic fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

II. In NATURE, He is GOD: *Worship Him!* (v.6-9)

V. 6

"Firstbegotten" - lit. "firstborn" (*prototokos*) - to the Hebrew mind, the "firstborn" was a title of preeminence, honor, high rank; one with authority.

"Let all the angels of God worship him" - A reference to the LXX Psalm 97:7, where God calls on all of the strong ones (*Elohim* - Heb.) to worship Him.

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the Bible says, "*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* (Luke 2:13-14).

For an angel to worship the Christ child would be the height of blasphemy if that child was not God (deity) who came to earth in the flesh.

Sacred Scripture forbids the worship of anyone or anything apart from God (Deut. 6:13, 10:20).

Jesus receives worship (Ps. 2:8, 12; Mt. 8:2, 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 28:9, 17; Jn. 9:35, 38; 20:28, 29; Lk. 24:51, 52; by angels - Heb. 1:6; by all men - Phil. 2:10.

[Note: Peter (Acts 10:25, 26), Paul (Acts 14:11-18) and angels (Rev. 19:10 refused to be worshipped.]

Angels also worshipped Christ by serving Him when He was on earth (Mt. 4:11; Lk. 22:43).

V. 7

God ***"maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire."***

The most God said of his angelic messengers (in Psalm 104:4) is that they are as the wind: free floating invisible spirit beings. And some are as burning fire (EX: the Seraphim = from a verb meaning "to burn"; Is. 6:2; cp. with Num. 21:6).

V. 8

In verse 8, God the Father refers to His Son as "*God."* (a quote of Ps. 45:6-7). Several times Jesus referred to the Father as "God" But now the Father calls his Son *"God."*

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus Christ is specifically identified as *"God."*

Jesus is Directly Called "God."

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Mt. 1:23).

1. He is called God by John.

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (the "Word" refers to Jesus - v. 14).
I Jn. 5:20 - "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."
Rev. 21:7 - "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

2. He is called God by Thomas.
Jn. 20:27-29 - "...and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus said, Because ye have seen me, thou hast believed..."
If Thomas erred so seriously in addressing Jesus as God, why was there no correction by Jesus? And why did Jesus commend his faith?

3. Jesus refers to Himself as God.
John 5:17-18 - "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."
John 10:30 - "I and my Father are one." [Note the reaction of the Jews (v. 33) - "...Thou, being a man, makest thyself God." jesus shortly after this said, "...that ye may know and believe that the Father is in me,a nd I in him. Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand" (v. 38, 39).
John 14:9 - "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father..."

4. He is called God by the writer of Hebrews.
Heb. 1:3 - "His Son...who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person..."

5. He is called God by the Apostle Paul.
"Israelites...whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, Who is over all God blessed for ever. Amen." (Rom.9:5)
Acts 20:28 (Luke quoting Paul) - "...Feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood."
Phil. 2:6 - "Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."
Col. 1:15 - "Who is the image of the invisible God."
Col. 2:9 - "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." ("fullness" = completeness or perfection; "Godhead" = to have the same essence as God)
I Tim. 3:16 - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."
Titus 2:13 - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." (cp. I Jn. 5:20; Rev. 21:7; Is. 9:6)

To call Him God but not mean it is to take the name of God in vain, and to share God's glory with another.

V. 9

"Fellows" - fellow heirs; colleagues; believers, who as joint heirs will rule and reign with Christ.

Christ stands unique because He is the only one who perfectly and consistently loved right and hated wrong. Even the best believers have sometimes wavered between the two.

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

III. In <u>WORK</u>, He is <u>CREATOR</u>: *Thank Him!* (v.10)

Life did <u>not</u> <u>evolve</u>. It was supernaturally and instantly created.

The writer now quotes Psalm 102:25-27, and under inspiration applies it to Christ. Jesus is the Lord (*kurios*) God, who "in the beginning . . . created the Heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

Jn. 1:3 - *"All things were made by Him: and without Him was not any thing made that was made."*

Col. 1:15-16 - *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."*

Note: Hebrews 1:2

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

IV. In EXISTENCE, He is ETERNAL: *Trust Him!* (v.11-12)

V. 11

"They shall perish" - The earth and Heavens will be brought to ruin by God.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away. . ."

"But thou remainest" - *"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever." "I the Lord change not."*

"They all shall wax old" - The earth and heavens (sky and outer space) deteriorate with time. It is a scientific law that the earth does not improve in complexity with time, but in actuality is deteriorating with time, leading to entropy. The sun emits tons of irreplaceable energy every day, and eventually will burn out.

We often live our lives as if the things on this earth were permanent (one day, all will be burned up - II Pet. 3:10).

V. 12

"Creation is like an old garment, which will one day be discarded in favor of a new one" (Wiersbe, p. 24).

"A new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 22:1).

God will roll it all up one day (Rev. 6:14 - *"as a scroll"*), or here, as a garment. But Jesus Christ remains the same. After the Millennium, the heavens and earth will flee away (Rev. 21:11). But His years will never end.

"Thou art the same" - Jesus today is just as kind and compassionate as when He said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Mt. 11:28-30)*

Jesus Christ is superior to Angels...

V. In POSITION, He is RULER: *Submit to Him!* (v.13-14)

V. 13

"Right hand" - The place of honor and power (authority)

Jesus as king of kings and Lord of lords is sitting on His throne and one day all who hate Him, deny Him, blaspheme Him, etc., will be subjected under His feet.

V. 14

Christ is reigning from Heaven, while the angels are out working for Him by serving the saints.

Everyone who is saved and will inherit salvation has at least one "guardian" angel, who serves us in ways we can't imagine.

They serve us under Christ's jurisdiction and command. He gives the orders and they obey.