

**Jesus Our Great High Priest Forever**  
**(Week 2)**  
**Hebrews 1:4-14**  
**“Jesus, He’s no angel!”**

**Introduction**

Just imagine that you are a first century Jew. Your entire life has been filled with the teachings of The Law of Moses. You have committed the teachings of *The Old Testament* to memory and have tried as hard as you can to live according to them. But, try as you might, you still fall short of their standard of perfection every single day. To pretend that you are able to live up to the full measure of The Law is to only be fooling yourself. You look at the Pharisees as they preen and swagger, proclaiming themselves to be perfect keepers of The Law, and it only makes you feel worse. You are depressed and disillusioned almost to the point of giving up, when you hear the message of a Savior who died on a cross to pay for all your shortcomings and failures. A man who claimed to be God Himself, in the flesh. His followers seem to possess something that you have never had... real joy and indescribable peace. You listen to their testimonies of how this Jesus of Nazareth was so much more than an ordinary man, and so much more than a prophet. He was the long awaited Messiah, whose coming had been foretold by the prophets. But, even they had not fully understood just who this man truly was. He was God Himself, come to set His people free! What a message of hope. If only you could believe, if only you could exchange your feelings of guilt and shame for lasting joy. You are so close to accepting this new message of the gospel, but you have so many questions...

You do what every good Jew would be expected to do. You go to have a meeting with your Rabbi at the synagog. You ask him if it could be possible for God to become a man, for God to actually lower Himself in such a way as this Jesus claims to have done. Does God really love mankind so much that He would torture Himself and die in their stead? How can this be? The Rabbi opens the *Book of Psalms*, and he reads this passage:

**“What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor.”**  
**Psalms 8:4-5**

The Rabbi finishes his reading, and looks up at you and says, “My son, this *Psalms* clearly teaches that man is lower than God, and he is even lower than the angels. So how could a mere man claim to be not only greater than the angels, but equal to God Himself? You then walk away even more confused than before, but this gnawing at your soul simply will not go away. You do not understand it at this moment, but the Rabbi has actually proven the message of the gospel without even realizing it himself! The Holy Spirit is drawing you closer and closer to the truth. You’re so close, you’re almost there! You’re getting warmer and warmer. Don’t stop searching... *The Book of Hebrews* was written... Just for YOU!

You see, everyone in the first century knew that angels were mightier than men, and God, well, He created the angels, so He has no equal. What was difficult for the Jewish mind to comprehend was **that God so loved the world (John 3:16)**, that He was willing to make Himself “lower than the angels” in order to redeem sinful mankind! It was a truth so amazing that it was almost unbelievable. Yet, many Jews were in fact becoming “believers”, and they seemed so much happier! The writer of *Hebrews* needed to be able to convey with clarity that Jesus was in fact God, and therefore superior to the angels, and that the scriptures had themselves spoken of a time when He would “humble” Himself to become a man. The promised Messiah was not only a man, but He was also fully God! This God/Man had indeed come as promised, and His Name was Jesus! And **whosoever believed in Him would not perish but would have everlasting life**. The three key words in the *Book of Hebrews* are: Better, Perfect, and Heaven. Jesus is God, and therefore, BETTER than anything in creation. He is God, so He has PERFECTED the teachings of The Law. He is from HEAVEN, so therefore, He is above all earthly things! Jesus is ALL that we need to be forgiven and have everlasting life! Let us look closely at **Hebrews 1:4-14** this morning as the writer makes his wonderful argument, using *The Old Testament* as proof for who Jesus truly is!

**His Inherited Name (Vs 4)**

Many scoffers have tried to use this difficult passage of scripture to “prove” that Jesus is subordinate or “less than” God, Himself. NOTHING could be farther from the truth. Jesus, according to **verse three**, is the EXACT representation of God, and therefore, He is nothing less than God. The Jehovah’s Witness and The Mormon Church have long taught that Christ is “less” than God, but this blasphemy can be found NOWHERE in the Holy Scriptures. In fact the *Word of God* emphatically declares that The Christ is equal to God in every way, because He IS God.

**“...Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature GOD, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**  
**Philippians 2:6-8**

So, how can “The Son of God... BE GOD? You see, Jesus MADE HIMSELF a man in order to take our punishment for sin upon Himself. He was always equal to God, for He was God. So what does the writer of *Hebrews* mean, when he speaks of **“the name that Jesus inherited” (vs 4)**? You see, a “name” in scripture is reference to ones character or nature. Although Jesus has always been and will always be God, when He came to earth to be born of a virgin, He “became” The “Son of Man”. When He was born of a woman descended from the line of king David, He “became” The “Son of David”, and The Apostle Paul tells us that when God raised Jesus from the dead He “Became” The “Son of God” (**Acts 13:32-33**). He “became” all the things that The Old Testament prophets had prophesied that He would be. You see, it is Jesus’ “inherited name” that tells of what He had done to save us. He was always Almighty, Everlasting God, but when He came to earth to live and die as a man He “became” The “Son of Man”, “The Son of David” and “The Son of God”!

**“Today I have ‘become’ Your Father” (vs 5)**

In **verse 5** of the text the writer of *Hebrews* begins to quote from *Old Testament* passages in order to prove *New Testament* truths about Christ. Jesus, although He made Himself less than the angels, is and always was superior to the angelic hosts. The first quatrain is from *Psalms* 2 which has long been regarded as a “Messianic Psalm” (song that speaks of the coming Messiah). **Psalms 2:7** says:

**“You are My Son; today I have become your Father.”**

As we explained earlier, this was given in regards to Christ’s resurrection from the dead. When God raised Him from the dead, He became the “firstborn from among the dead” (**Colossians 1:18**). Jesus wasn’t the first person to ever be raised from the dead. Old Elisha the prophet raised a young man from the dead way back in *The Old Testament* (**2 Kings 4:18-37**), and there were others that Jesus Himself raised from the dead, such as Lazarus (**John 11:38-44**). So why is Jesus called “The Firstborn” from among the dead? Because He is God that’s why! If the dead are to be raised, it is only through Him that it will happen. Even Elisha couldn’t have done it without HIM! The best part is, because Christ was raised from the dead, WE too shall be raised. When Jesus walked out of that tomb my friends, He did it for ALL of us. He is The Firstborn Son of God... raised from the dead! Because He lives, WE shall live.

Even though angels were often referred to in scriptures as “the sons of God” (**Job 1:6**), no angel will ever be given the awesome title of “THE Son of God”. He earned that name when he walked out of that tomb! Jesus is far BETTER than the angels in Heaven. To further emphasize this truth, the writer of *Hebrews* quotes yet another *Old Testament* scripture from **2 Samuel 7:14**:

**“I will be His Father, and He will be My Son.”**

This was a promise that God gave to David regarding the Messiah King, that would one day come from among his descendants. It was a prophecy that was fulfilled in the “short term” with Solomon, but it had a future fulfillment in Christ, who was “The Son of David” who would reign upon David’s throne FOREVER.

Jesus is “The Promised Son” of David. And when He returns to this earth He will reign over it as His promised inheritance (**vs.2**). No mere angel will ever be able to claim David’s throne. Only the first born Son of God shall have claim to this as His rightful inheritance.

### **The angels worship Him (vs. 6)**

In **verse six** the writer of *Hebrews* quotes a verse from **Deuteronomy 32:43**, as translated in The Septuagint (Greek version of *The Old Testament*):

**“Let all God’s angels worship Him.”**

Many Jews in those days used the Septuagint as their primary translation of The Bible, for many of them spoke and read the Greek language. This particular phrase is not found in the older *Hebrew* texts, but the writer here uses the words from “Their very own Bible”, as it were, to convince the Jews of his day that Jesus The Son of God would Himself be worshipped by the angels in Heaven. If the angels worship Him, then He must be superior to them.

A better translation of **verse six** would actually read:

**“When God brings His Firstborn into the world again. He says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship Him.’”**

This is a reference to the second coming of Christ, when we shall all behold the angels in Heaven worshipping Him for Who He is (**Revelation 5:11-14**). One day the whole world will see the angels and every created thing bowing before The LORD Jesus. It is far better to believe it and bow before Him now than to wait until you have no other choice! The angels worshiped Christ at His birth (**Matthew 2:12-14**). They attended to Him after He was tempted in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:11**). They were there to proclaim the triumph of His resurrection (**Matthew 28:2-7**), and they will certainly worship Him when He comes again!

### **He is The Creator of angels (vs.7)**

**“He makes His angels spirits and His servants flames of fire.”** **Psalms 104:4**

The angels serve and worship Him, for it is He that created them for His own purposes. Jesus is therefore greater than the angles.

### **He is the Everlasting and Anointed One (vs.8-9)**

Here once again, the writer quotes from the Psalms:

**“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by ANOINTING you with the oil of joy.”** **Psalms 45:6-7**

Jesus is above all the angelic heavenly hosts (companions) for He is the Everlasting God. His holy love of righteousness is unequalled, as is His holy hatred of wickedness. These attributes make Him uniquely qualified to be the “Anointed One”. The word “*Messiah*” in the Hebrew actually means the “*Anointed One*”. The writer of *Hebrews* is making sure that his readers understand that Jesus is in fact that promised Messiah, and being Himself God, He is far superior than all the hosts of Heaven. He shall reign for all eternity over not only mankind, but also the angels of Heaven. He lowered himself to lowly humanity, but for the express purpose of saving those that He will one day return to rule.

### **He shall outlast the heavens and the earth (vs. 10-12)**

**"In the beginning, Lord you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but You remain: they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe: like a garment, they will be changed, but you remain the same, and your years will never end."**

**Psalms 102:25-27**

Here the writer explains that Jesus created the heavens and the earth, and one day, even they shall pass away. They will be exchanged for new ones (**2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 6:14, 21:1-2**), being changed as one would put on a change of clothes. But Christ endures beyond the heavens and the earth. What an awesome verse. Jesus will change all of creation with the same effortlessness as we would need to put on a change of clothes! What a mighty God He is! He is the eternal one. He is The Great I AM, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega, The One who Was and Is, and Is yet to come. He can and will sweep away all of His creation in a moment, but He, The Creator God, shall endure forever!

### **He shall reign (vs 13)**

**To which of the angels did God ever say:  
"Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."**

**Psalms 110:1**

God has promised that Christ shall reign. He is now seated at the right hand of God, awaiting the day The Father tells Him to return to the earth to claim it, along with His Bride (The Church), as His rightful inheritance. He came the first time as The Son of Man, The Son of David, and The Son of God, but He will come again as conquering King upon a white horse leading the armies of Heaven to rule the nations with a rod of iron (**Revelation 19:11-16**). Those who have denied Him will be destroyed once and for all in this great and mighty charge of Heavens calvary, led by The King of Kings and Lord of Lords Himself! God The Father will see to it that the enemies of His Only Begotten Son will be trampled under His feet.

### **The angels serve Him and His people (vs 14)**

The angels are mere servants to this Great and mighty king. They were created and exist only to do His bidding. They are dispatched by Him to serve as ministers to those wise enough not to neglect this great salvation that He has provided for us. Jesus is more than a "messenger". He is God delivering His message in person. He is more than a priest. He is the great High Priest, Who made the sacrifice once and for all to save mankind. He is more than an angel. He is the one who created all things, including the angels of heaven. According to the scriptures, the angels number in the trillions! They are wise and powerful, and far superior to man. They are swift and mighty, and no mortal man can match them in battle. But Christ is no mortal. He is The Almighty, Omnipotent, Omniscient, God, Creator of the heavens and the earth. And He became The Son of Man, The Son of David, and The Son of God to die on a rugged cross... For YOU! And the name that He inherited there on Calvary's cross, for me, is the most wonderful name of all... SAVIOR. He died and rose again to become our Savior! And what a great Savior He is!

And let ALL of God's people say... TRUTH!!!