



Hebrews 1:4-14

Jesus is Greater than Angels

February 21st, 2016

Opening: What in your life is causing you to be discouraged? Where are you turning for help? Sometimes when God's answer doesn't come right away, we're tempted to wonder if Jesus is

actually more powerful than, as Abraham Lincoln said in his First Inaugural Address, the better angels of our nature.

Introduction: The author of Hebrews spends more than 10 verses in chapter 1 explaining why Jesus is greater than the angels. Is it because he wants us to have a better grasp of the purpose of angels? Maybe. But maybe the author recognizes that there are times when we are tempted to place other things in front of Jesus when life is going well, and when we're despairing. By comparing, and elevating Jesus above the angelic hosts, Hebrews is reminding us that Jesus is above all, holding history and our lives in his hands. He also relates to us in our physical nature in going to the cross, suffering and descending into the depths—in this he knows our struggles and is with us in every circumstance.

Pray: Lord Jesus, help us to understand the significance of this passage. Show us the encouragement we need to trust you in every circumstance, and know that you hold us safely in the palm of your hand.

Read: Hebrews 1:4-14

Reflect:

1. Where in your life have you felt God's presence very near and close to you? What were the circumstances of that intimacy? And when was a time when you felt distant from God? What were the circumstances of that experience?
2. One sociologist by the name of Charles Taylor writes of our age: "the two most overarching values of our day are tolerance and individualism." What areas of our church and society might God be inviting us to place more deeply under his control?

3. Hebrews 1:4-14 quotes from the Old Testament numerous times exclaiming why Christ is higher and greater than the angels, higher and greater than the “powers and principalities.” The quotations come to a climax when he quotes Psalm 110 “to which of the angels has he ever said, ‘sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?’” What in your life can you relinquish control over and trust that Jesus is more powerful, regardless of the outcome, and Jesus holds your future in his hand?

Respond: Is there a relationship or situation in your life that is tempting you to doubt that Jesus is really in control, and really cares? Make this your prayer this week. Pray that in the face of despair, God would bring joy and encouragement; in the face of loneliness God would bring community and peace. Jesus is more powerful than the angels and the demons of our lives. Amen.

Pray: Lord Jesus you are indeed greater than the angels, greater still than the angels of our *best* natures. We praise you that when we earnestly seek you, you will make yourself known to us. Be with us and empower us to live faithfully and trustingly for you. Let this week bring a breakthrough in the strength of our faith, and joy of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord, amen.