



# Angels

Psalm 91 Hebrews 1:1-14

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Pastor Dave Bolte

The book of Hebrews begins in a *grand and majestic way* by describing our Lord Jesus Christ with **10 DIVINE DESCRIPTIONS**:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these Last Days He has spoken to us by his Son, whom He appointed the Heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world. He is the Radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the Word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the Name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Hebrews 1:1-4

These verses set Jesus over all things as the One God sent for us to be our Savior. There is no one like Jesus; there is no one else who is described in these grand and majestic ways. This is just the first four verses of Hebrews! The rest of Hebrews chapter 1 will show us how *Jesus is far superior to ALL THE ANGELS in heaven.*

Angels are created beings that serve God and His People. They were created *good, pure and holy*. They are *spirits*; they do not have bodies like we do. They are *personal beings* with names, such as Gabriel and Michael – which are mentioned in Scripture. They are able to move in a different ways than we can; they have different powers than we do, and they possess knowledge and wisdom. There are differing ranks of Angels: the Bible speaks of Cherubim, Seraphim, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers, and Archangels<sup>1</sup>.

The word “**angel**” in the New Testament means “*messenger, sent one.*”<sup>2</sup> God sends His angels to serve His people.

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<sup>1</sup> The Devil and his demons are “fallen angels” – created good and holy; however, after day 6 of Creation, and before the temptation of Adam and Eve, they fell into sin and God sealed them in evil forever.

<sup>2</sup> If you want to study the doctrine of angels in more detail, I have 3 excellent articles that I can email you. Send me an email (dbolte@trinitylcs.org) and I will get those to you.

Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14

In the Bible there are many examples of God sending angels to help His people. God sent Gabriel to Mary and Joseph in the Christmas story; Angels helped both St. Peter and St. Paul; Abraham was visited by Angels; Lot was rescued by Angels; and Isaiah saw the Angels of heaven! Angels protect, guide, and encourage God's people. Sometimes God chooses to send Angels to rescue, empower, and help us. We never know when we are in the presence of an Angel; but there is a good chance that at some point in your life, God has sent Angels to help you!<sup>3</sup> Later in the Book of Hebrews it says this about Angels:

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

For He will command His Angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11-12

I bet we all have stories we could tell. Something has happened in your life where you think you may have “*entertained Angels unaware.*” Maybe you have had some unexplainable experiences happen to you in your life, for instance:

- † Have you ever had a “*close call*”?
- † Have *words ever just come to* you when you needed them?
- † Have you felt a *strange peace* in the midst of trial?
- † Did you “*just know*” that you had to do something?
- † Hear a *soft voice* telling you to do something immediately?
- † Have you ever had *unbelievable “coincidences”*
- † Or been a part of some *unexplainable circumstances*?

Who knows? All these things **COULD BE** Angels at work in your life. The bottom line though is that *you just never know.* But what we **do know** is that **the Lord sends His Angels to help you, to take care of you, and to serve you.** Angels fascinate us, don't they? And not just us, but people throughout history as well. That's why the bulk of Hebrews chapter 1 talks about Angles; and specifically, that our Lord Jesus Christ is **far superior to every single Angel in Heaven above!**

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<sup>3</sup> As to the question whether each believer and especially each Christian child has a special *Guardian Angel*, Scripture does not answer with sufficient clearness. (See Matthew 18:10, Acts 12:15). “The Doctrine of Angels” J.T. Mueller

[Jesus has] become as much superior to angels as the Name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Hebrews 1:4

Angels might be fascinating, and we have a lot of questions about them, **but the WARNING in Hebrews is**

- † Make sure that you don't get misled with thoughts and fantasies about Angels.
- † Don't get fixated on Angels<sup>4</sup>
- † Don't get wrapped up in them
- † Don't look for Angels behind every tree and around every corner of your life
- † Don't pray to them or offer any type of worship to them
- † Your loved ones do NOT turn into Angels when they die!
- † There is no such thing as a "angel guide".

Angels are simply created beings that praise God and help His people. Don't let them distract you from your Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is far superior to all the Angels in heaven. That's the point of Hebrews chapter 1. **Fix your eyes on Jesus, not on Angels.** Think about Christ and His word, rather than dreaming about Angels. Listen to the Word of God rather than stories about angels. Angels might be fascinating, and we have a lot of questions about them, **but the WARNING in Hebrews is focus on Christ, not angels!**

As important and powerful and intriguing as Angels may be, the Son of God is superior to them.  
Hebrews, C. Swindoll, p.8

Hebrews chapter 1 gives Jesus three divine names and titles to show that He is far superior to Angels:

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my **Son**, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? Hebrews 1:5

Of the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O **God**, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your Kingdom." Hebrews 1:7-8

"You, **Lord**, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; Hebrews 1:10

<sup>4</sup> Much of the "New Age" movement and mystical, misguided Christianity is fixated on Angels. This always leads to minimizing Christ and His work of salvation. This is why Hebrews starts off with such a strong warning about Angels, and such a powerful statement about Christ and His Divinity!

Jesus is *Son, God, and Lord*. Not even an Archangel is given those Names! *Son, God, and Lord* is reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ and sets Him apart from every other created being in Heaven or on earth!

- † Jesus is the *Son of God* – the One God sent to take your place in death; the One who was sacrificed to make purification for your sins! You are cleansed of sin and guilt because of the Son of God; and in His resurrection, God powerfully proves that Jesus is His Son, the Savior of the World!
- † Jesus is *God*; the Second person of the Holy Trinity. He is Creator of the world; and He upholds and sustains the universe with His powerful Word. His mighty miracles displayed His divinity; and His death and resurrection destroyed the devil and gives life to the world.
- † Jesus is *Lord*; He is Yahweh – the God of the Old Testament who saves His People. Jesus speaks the very words of God and He uses His Mighty Word sustain our faith.

Jesus is *Son, God, and Lord*. We trust in Him alone! We worship Him! We serve Him! And we obey His Word! Angels are not even a part of this conversation, *Angels are simply created beings that praise God and help His people.*

This is really a **First Commandment** issue. *We fear, love and trust in God alone.* Just as we would never trust or worship other people in the place of God; nor would we bow down to an idol made of stone; so too, we would never trust in nor worship angels in any way.

Hebrews starts with grand and majestic first chapter! Our Lord Jesus Christ – His Person and His Word -- is described in 4 verses with **10 DIVINE DESCRIPTIONS!** And then we learn that He is *Son, God, and Lord* ---> far superior to all the Angels in Heaven! Be sure that you have put your faith in Christ alone! He is *Son, God, and Lord!* That is why we fear, love and trust in Him alone! Amen!