

“Jesus is Superior to the Angels” (Heb 2:5–18)
GCC, Sunday School, 9/10/23

Introduction–Jesus is better than the angels. But who’s doubting this?

- I. **The Historical and Theological Background that unlocks the message of Hebrews**
 - A. The book of Hebrews is targeting predominantly Jewish Christians who converted from a subset of Judaism called the Essenes.
 - B. Who were the Essenes and what were they all about?
 - C. Essene’s view on The Coming Prophet
 - D. Essenes view on Priesthood and Restored Temple
 - E. Essenes view on Moses
 - F. The Essenes view of the Old Covenant
 - G. The Essenes view of the Wilderness and eschatology
 - H. The Essenes View on Messiahs, Angels, and the world to Come

- II. **God has promised to subject the world to come to the God-man Jesus, not the angels (2:5–9)**
 - A. Jesus IS the Ruler *as* the Messiah
 - B. Made lower than the *angels* or *gods*? (2:7)
 - C. Tension of the already/not yet (2:8)

- III. **Jesus redeems mankind by dying for the new humanity (2:10–13)**
 - A. Angels as intermediators
 - B. Jesus as Angel of the Lord
 - C. Therefore, Jesus as *both* witness of the law *and* fulfiller of the law
 - D. Three ways in which it is fitting that Jesus is the “Founder” of our salvation
 1. It is fitting because sanctification for both head and covenant members is through *suffering*
 2. It is fitting that having *one* source, the sons of God shall be sons of glory through the same mediator (v. 11)
 3. It is fitting that Jesus came to redeem *humans*, not *angels*.
Implications

- IV. **The Incarnation, therefore, was for mankind, not angels (2:14–18)**
 - A. Jesus partook of the *same things* (v. 14).
 - B. He came to give freedom from the fear of death (v. 15)
 - C. He came to help the offspring of Abraham (v. 16)
 - D. Because Christ took on flesh, he can sympathize with, understand, and most importantly, *help* those who are being tempted (2:17–18)