



Open it

1. When you think of angels, what comes to your mind? What do you picture?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 1:4-14

2. How many times does the author of Hebrews quote the Old Testament in this passage?
3. In verses 5-6, why does the author say that Jesus is greater than angels?
4. In verses 7-13, why does the author say that Jesus is greater than angels?
5. According to verse 14, what is the main role or purpose of angels?

Day 2

Today's Theme: Why Angels?

Read Hebrews 1:4–5

Jesus is clearly the main focus of the whole book of Hebrews, especially the opening verses. Throughout the book, it will be talked about over and over that Jesus is greater than people and things that the early Jewish Christians believed to be great. But why does the author start by talking about how Jesus is greater than angels? It seems a bit strange....

Well, for us, when we think of angels we think of cute, sometimes chubby people who have pretty little wings and fly. But the reality of angels is far greater than that. As a matter of fact, most times in the Bible, when an angel showed up people would fall down and be terrified! One of the most common phrases angels would say is, "Don't be afraid!" Angels are intense creatures, and it was believed by the Jewish people that angels served as God's messengers. The Jews believed that when they showed up, they came on direct orders from God with a message straight from God to them! For that reason, the Jews placed a high value on angelic appearances because they didn't happen often, so when they did it must have been noteworthy.

6. **How does our culture portray angels through movies, TV shows, music, etc.?**

7. **According to verse 14, angels serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation—us! Even though we don't always see angels serving, how does it make you feel to know that they are serving us?**

Day 3

Today's Theme: Servant vs. Son

Read Hebrews 1:5–6

Hebrews quotes the Old Testament A LOT! The reason for this is that Hebrews was written to Hebrew people who had become Christians but were struggling with the temptation to turn back to simply following the Jewish faith and stop following Jesus.

In this section of Hebrews, these Christians are being challenged to believe that Jesus is greater than the angels themselves, and that the first mark of difference isn't in what they look like or what they do, but in who they are. The author asks the question, "To which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you?'" This is kind of a rhetorical question because God didn't say that about any of the angels, but He did say that about Jesus.

The whole point here is one of identity and status. The angels are simply servants in the house of God. They are messengers and ministers of God's work, sent by God to do what God wants them to do. But Jesus, on the other hand, is greater than a servant because He is a Son. As Son, He is the heir of all that the Father owns, which in this case would be the whole universe.

It's interesting too, that verse 6 quotes Deuteronomy 32:43 from the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament), which talks about the angels bowing down to worship Yahweh, which the Hebrews author connects to Jesus, essentially claiming that Jesus is Yahweh ... or God!

Reason #1 Jesus is greater than angels: Angels are servants of God, but Jesus is the Son of God!

8. The first reason Jesus is greater than angels doesn't have to do with anything that Jesus has done, but with who Jesus is. What is the difference between who Jesus is and what He has done?

9. If Jesus is superior to angels, what does that tell us about how great He is compared to us (read Psalm 8:4–5)? What should our attitudes and actions look like to reflect this?

Day 4

Today's Theme: Great vs. God

Read Hebrews 1:7–14

In these final verses of this passage, we are reminded of the second reason that Jesus is greater than angels. Verse 7 quotes a Psalm as it speaks of angels as being made great by God. They become like wind and flames of fire. That's pretty intense stuff. But the contrast here between Jesus and the angels is that Jesus is the one seated on the throne forever and ever, the one who makes them great! As a matter of fact, it points out that Jesus was the one who created all things (v. 10) which includes angels and recognizes that creation is temporal (v. 11-12), it's passing away. But Jesus will go on forever! His throne will never be shaken.

When Hebrews quotes in verse 13 that Jesus has been seated at God's right hand, our understanding is that Jesus has now been seated in a place of authority and power. He is a ruler with ultimate authority. Even the angels answer to Jesus; He is greater than them!

Reason #2 Jesus is greater than angels: While the angels are great creatures, Jesus isn't just a great creature; He is God, and as God He rules all things—including the angels.

10. Think of the people in your life that have authority over you. Put together a "chain of command" in your life. Who ends up having the ultimate authority over your life?

Ex: Me > My parents > Who has authority over my parents? > Who has authority over that person?

11. If Jesus holds supreme authority over ALL the universe, how does it make you feel that He has given you the gift to come directly to Him?