Themes in Hebrews

Jesus is Better Than ...

I. Who is Jesus Better Than?

- Angels Heb 1:4-14, Heb 2:1-18
- Moses Heb 3:1-6
- High Priest Heb 4:14-5:10

II. Better Than Angels - Heb 1:4-14, Heb 2:1-18

A. The Greatness of Angels



Angels Are Awesome!

1. Angels Are awesome

angels delivered the law
angels spoke to Moses - Acts 7:38
law delivered by angels - Acts 7:53
law put in place through angels - Gal 3:19
angels are awe/fear inspiring
fear not - Luke 1:13, 2:10
angels have direct access to God
Isa 6:2-3, 6
Rev 4:8-9
people were tempted to worship angels
Rev 19:10, 22:8 Col 2:18

2. Angels in Hebrew Eschatology

Some believed Michael the archangel would be the supreme figure in the Messianic kingdom.

- B. But the Son is Better Than Angels
 - 1. He has a more excellent name, Son Heb 1:4-6, Psalm 2:7, 2 Sam 7:14
 - 2. He has a more excellent function
 - i. Angels are ministers Heb 1:7, Psalm 104:4
 - ii. The Son is King Heb 1:8-9, Psalm 45:6,7
 - 3. He has a more excellent being Heb 1:10-12, Psalm 102:25-27
 - i. Angels are created
 - ii. The Son is Creator

- 4. He has a more excellent station
 - i. The angels are minions Heb 1:14
 - ii. The Son has dominion Heb 1:13, Psalm 110:1
- So the Son is Better Than Angels

III. Better Than Moses - Heb 3:1-6

A. The Greatness of Moses



Moses Was Awesome!

Moses was awesome

Moses appeared before Pharaoh - Exo 7:1-2

Moses led Israel out of bondage - Exo 12:50-51

Moses met God on Mt. Sinai - Exo 24:12-18

Moses interceded for the people - Exo 32:30-32

The people were frightened by Moses' glowing face - Exo 34:29-35

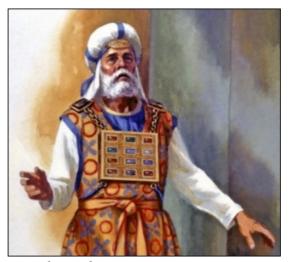
God exalted Moses - Num 12:6-8

Moses was one of the two OT figures on the Mt. of Transfiguration - Matt 17:1-3 Moses was revered in NT times - Jhn 9:28, Acts 6:11, Acts 7:20-44, Acts 21:21

- B. But the Son is Better Than Moses
 - 1. Notable Things v1
 - a. Jesus is Apostle and High Priest
 - b. The readers have confessed this "our confession"
 - c. The readers are "holy brothers", "share in a heavenly calling"
 - 2. Jesus and Moses vv 2-6
 - a. Likenesses Between Jesus and Moses
 - i. Both were appointed v2 Jesus, Moses
 - ii. Both were messengers v1 Jesus Apostle, v5 Moses testimony
 - iii. Both were faithful v2 Jesus, v2 Moses
 - b. Jesus is more excellent than Moses in ...
 - i. Function
 - a. Jesus is builder v3
 - b. Moses was house v3
 - ii. Glory
 - a. Jesus as builder v3
 - b. Moses as house v3
 - iii. Station
 - a. Jesus is Son v6
 - b. Moses was servant v5
- So the Son is Better Than Moses

IV. Better Than The High Priest - Heb 4:14-5:10

A. The Greatness of the High Priest



The High Priests Were Awesome!

The high priests were awesome

The high priest entered the holy of holies - Lev 16:1-28, Heb 9:7

The high priest interceded for the people - Lev 16:1-28

The high priest ruled the people - Acts 4:5-6

B. But the Son is Better Than The High Priest

- 1. Notable Things
 - a. Similarities and differences between 4:14 and 3:1
 - i. Jesus is High Priest
 - ii. Jesus passed through the heavens vs. you share in a heavenly calling
 - iii. Jesus is Son of God vs. Apostle
 - iv. "our confession"
 - b. "In the days of His flesh" 5:7
- 2. Jesus and the High Priest
 - a. Likenesses Between Jesus and the High Priest
 - i. Both were called or appointed 5:5,10 Jesus, 5:1,4 high priest
 - ii. Both were/are mediators between God and man 8:6 9:15 Jesus, 5:1 high priest
 - iii. Both atoned for sin 5:9 9:12 Jesus, 5:1-3 9:7 high priest
 - iv. Both interceded for the people 7:25
 - b. Jesus is more excellent than the high priest in ...
 - i. Sympathy
 - a. Jesus was tempted in every way as we are 4:15
 - b. The high priest was like us but not like us
 - ii. Holiness
 - a. Jesus without sin 4:15, 7:26
 - b. The high priest with sin 5:3, 7:27
 - iii. Eternal priesthood
 - a. Jesus' priesthood is eternal 5:6, 7:24-25
 - b. The high priest had a limited, temporal priesthood 7:23, 9:25
 - iv. Place of ministry
 - a. Jesus' ministry in the true heavenly tabernacle 4:14, 8:1-2
 - b. The high priest's ministry in the earthly model 9:23
 - v. Effective sacrifice
 - a. Jesus provided the perfect, eternal sacrifice 5:9
 - b. The high priest's sacrifice required repetition 10:2
 - vi. Appointment by oath
 - a. Jesus by oath of God 7:20-21
 - b. The high priest without an oath 7:21
 - vii. Effectiveness 7:28
 - a. Jesus perfect forever
 - b. The high priest had human weakness
- So the Son is Better Than The High Priest

V. Conclusion

Jesus is better than ...

- Angels
- Moses
- High Priests

The writer makes it clear that a retreat from Christ is a retreat from true faith.

A retreat from ...

- the Son to the servant
- the Creator to the creature
- the great to the ordinary
- the perfect to the flawed
- life to death
- the eternal to the temporal
- the heavenly to the earthly
- builder to the house
- favor to wrath