

# 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