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Sermon Notes

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Christ Greater Than Angels, Part II

Hebrews 1:4-14

What is a throne?

A throne is a chair... something that someone sits on. But because of the honor and glory and position of the person sitting on it, it is not just any chair. A throne is the chair of a king, one who rules over a nation... and specifically, it is the chair he sits on when he is ruling, judging, making decisions, holding court to govern the nation

Because the throne symbolizes the authority of the King, it usually behooves the King and his court to make it as glorious as possible... imposing, to bring humble peasants to a point of awe and reverence

The most expensive, luxurious and extravagant throne in history? Perhaps it was the Peacock Throne, built for the Muslim ruler of India, Shah Jehan in 1635. A contemporary description of the construction of the throne went like this:

It was, accordingly, ordered that, in addition to the jewels in the imperial jewel house, rubies, garnets, diamonds, rich pearls and emeralds in all weighing 500 pounds should be brought for the inspection of the Emperor and they should be handed over to Bebadal Khan, the superintendent of the goldsmith's department. There was also to be given to him 2500 pounds of pure gold... The throne was to be fifteen feet in length, eight feet breadth and fifteen feet in height and was to be set with the above mentioned jewels. The outside of the canopy was to be of enamel work with occasional gems, the inside was to be thickly set with rubies, garnets and other jewels, and it was to be supported by 12 emerald columns. On the top of each pillar there were to be two peacocks, thick-set with gems and between each two peacocks a tree set with rubies and diamonds, emeralds and pearls. The ascent was to consist of three steps set with jewels of fine water". Of the 11 jeweled recesses formed around it for cushions, the middle one was intended for the seat for the Emperor. Among the historical diamonds decorating it were the famous Kohinoor (186 carats), the Akbar Shah (95 carats), the Shah (88.77 carats), the Jehangir (83 carats) and the second largest spinel ruby in the world - the Timur ruby (283 carats). A-20 couplet poem by the Mughal poet-laureate Qudsi, praising the Emperor in emerald letters was embedded in the throne. On March 12, 1635, Emperor Shah Jahan ascended for the first time the newly completed Peacock Throne.

Now... the Emperor Shah Jahan, the same one who later built the Taj Mahal in memory of his dead wife, Mumtaz, was one of the greatest Moghul rulers of India... but still a man, not a perfect king... he had arguably the most glorious physical throne any human king has ever sat upon

Isn't it amazing what earthly rulers will do to adorn their thrones and make them impressive?

King Solomon did the same thing to his throne:

1 Kings 10:18-20 Then the king made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with fine gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. ²⁰ Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom.

But in our text today, we have described the most glorious throne in the universe... that of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords... Jesus Christ

We have God the Father establishing the throne for Jesus, His only begotten Son.

And unlike Shah Jehan's diamond and ruby-studded throne, this one is bejeweled with divine beauty: it is an eternal throne, based on righteousness and justice:

Hebrews 1:8-9 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

It will radiate with the glory of God and be the centerpiece of the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 22:3-4 The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

I. Why Does This Passage Exist?

A. The Overall Purpose of Hebrews

1. Writing to Jewish people who had made some initial profession of faith in Christ
2. Now these Jewish Christians were under great pressure and persecution from unbelieving Jews, and many were being tempted to revert to Old Covenant Judaism
3. Some had forsaken Christian worship and were going back to Judaism
4. In so doing, they were repudiating Christ as Messiah... trampling Him under foot to go back to safety and comfort in their old way of life

5. The author writes Hebrews as a letter or severe warning to these Jews NOT to forsake Christ and the New Covenant, NOT to apostasize, and so to lose their souls
6. His strategy: to declare right from the beginning the greatness of Christ so they will not forsake Him
7. A superior Mediator—Christ—brings a superior Covenant—the New Covenant—resulting in a superior life... the Christian life of forgiveness and fruitfulness to God

B. How Hebrews 1:1-3 Connects with Hebrews 1:4-14

1. Last week, we saw the marvelous opening words, declaring the deity of Christ and His office as final prophet, final priest, final King of the Jews

Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

2. This week, the author extends these initial concepts and begins comparing Christ to angels

Hebrews 1:4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

3. The verse shows the clear link with verses 1-3... because Christ is God's final word to the human race, because He is God's Son, because He perfectly radiates with the glory of God and is the exact representation of His nature, because He provided purification for sins and sat down at the right hand of God in heaven, because of all this, He is SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS...

C. Three Goals of the Author

1. To exalt Christ as the God-Man and promote worship and obedience
2. To exalt the New Covenant (Christianity) over the Old Covenant (Judaism)
3. To exalt Christ as superior to the angels, so the people will not worship angels but will realize the greatness of Christ by comparison

II. Who Are Angels, and What Do they Do?

Hebrews 1:4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

A. Christ Compared with Angels

B. Who Are Angels? And What Do they Do?

Created beings...spiritual; able to take visible form; servants of the living God sent by Him to minister according to His purposes

C. How Are they Especially Relevant to Hebrews?

1. Because the Old Covenant was mediated to the Jews BY ANGELS
2. Jesus, the greater messenger, brings us a greater covenant

III. Christ Greater Because of His Name

A. Christ's Name Is Greater Than That of Angels

1. What name is that? SON OF GOD!!!

Hebrews 1:4-5 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵ ¶ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

2. Christ's name "SON OF GOD" perfectly sums up His transcendent greatness
3. AND He is as much exalted over the angels as His name is exalted over theirs

B. Christ's Name is the Greatest Name in History

Philippians 2:7-8... because Jesus served God and humbled Himself and was willing to die on a cross to obey His father,

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name

Jesus' GREAT NAME—SON OF GOD—is infinitely ABOVE that of all created beings

The author asks a rhetorical question:

"For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you?'"

The answer clearly is NONE!!! There are more than 100 million angels, and none of them were begotten as the Son of God.

C. TODAY He was Begotten

Hebrews 1:5 ¶ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

1. The idea in verse 5 is that, at a specific moment in time, God the Father acted in such a way to become Jesus' father
2. I believe that the word TODAY implies a decisive moment in Redemptive History in which Jesus became the begotten Son of the Father
3. I believe it refers to the INCARNATION... the fact that Jesus was fully God but also fully man... and as fully man, He needed a Father...
4. Amazingly, though, the Apostle Paul sees the fulfillment of this quote at the RESURRECTION of Jesus!!

Acts 13:32-33 "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'

5. The Sonship of Christ was established at BOTH the incarnation (His birth by the Virgin Mary) and at the resurrection
6. Both of them are related to Jesus having a human body!!! The Sonship is tied to Jesus' humanness!

IV. Christ Greater Because He Is Worshiped

Hebrews 1:6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

- A. God the Father Commands the Angels to Worship Jesus!!!

V. Christ Greater Because of His Nature

Hebrews 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

- A. Angels are Created Beings, Christ is the Creator

He MAKES His angels winds...

- B. Angels are Servants, Christ is the Ruler

Hebrews 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Hebrews 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

C. Angels are Winds and Fire, Christ is God

VI. Christ Greater Because of His Throne

Hebrews 1:8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

A. The Central Issue of the Universe: The Throne of God

1. The Psalms praise God for His exalted throne

Psalms 103:19 The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Psalms 47:7-8 For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. ⁸ God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

2. The Prophets had visions of God on His throne

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Ezekiel 1:26 Above the expanse over their heads was what looked like a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man.

3. So did John, the Apostle

Revelation 4:1-2 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

The throne of God is the central reality in the universe

When it says that God's throne rules over all, it means that nothing in the universe happens apart from the will and command of God

Matthew 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

All things depend on God, go back to God, are ruled over by God to achieve His purposes... that throne is the central reality of the universe

Amazingly, in all three visions of God on His throne, there is an image of a MAN seated on the throne...

That man is God the Son, the perfect display of His Father's glory

B. Here God the Father Speaks of Christ's Throne AND His Deity

1. God the Father is NOT JEALOUS of His Son's Glory
2. Not at all! He establishes both His throne and His glory... it is BY GOD'S WILL that Jesus reigns as King

Daniel 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Jesus, the Son of Man, receives directly from the hand of God the Father the right to sit on the throne that rules the world!!

3. An astonishing glimpse at in Inter-Trinitarian Conversation
 - a. From eternity past, God has existed in three persons... whom we call Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - b. All human relationships are based on the eternal relationships of the Trinity
 - c. The three persons of the Trinity communicate with each other, love each other, relate to each other, agree with each other
 - d. God the Father thinks thoughts about God the Son; He loves Him, speaks to Him, shows Him everything He does
 - e. Here God the Father calls Jesus GOD...

"Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever..."

- f. This is a vital issue in the controversy with the Jews... the Jews consider Jesus' claim to deity BLASPHEMOUS... they think they are serving God's glory by defending Him as the only God against a MERE MAN CLAIMING TO BE GOD

John 10:31-33 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, ³² but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" ³³ "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Matthew 26:63-66 The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of

heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered.

These Jewish professors of faith in Christ were strongly tempted to abandon the Christian faith and go back to Judaism... and the centerpiece of Judaism after the coming of Christ is the rejection of the deity of Christ

These Jewish Christians were thus being tempted to DENY the deity of Christ!!! And to do it in service to God!! As though God were offended by Jesus' claims to deity!!!

But the author to Hebrews says that God speaks these words to His Son:

Hebrews 1:8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

So if Almighty God delights in calling Jesus "God", how can these people be so ashamed to call Him God? How can they think they are doing service to God by turning their backs on Jesus and denying His deity?

C. Attributes of Christ's Character and Christ's Throne

Jesus' reign is based on His attributes, not on the outward show of luxury or opulence... two are mentioned in particular: its eternity and its righteousness

This is NO DIFFERENT than the descriptions of God's throne

Psalm 9:7-8 The LORD reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. ⁸ He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.

1. An eternal throne

Hebrews 1:8 "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever

- a. This is not merely a prediction! This is a decree of the sovereign Lord about His Son

Psalm 2:6-9 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter

- b. Isaiah said it would be an eternal throne

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

c. The prophet Daniel foresaw the eternal nature of Christ's throne

Daniel 2:44 the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

d. Mary was told the same thing about her Son's rule

Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

e. Human thrones are characterized by their temporary nature

Average length of reign for a Jewish king after Solomon's death:

19 kings in Israel; they averaged 12 ½ years reign each

19 kings in Judah; they averaged 20 ½ years reign each

Overall average: 16 ½ years reign

Not a single monarch in human history has reigned one hundred years... not one! The longest undisputed reign in recorded history ended when Ngwenyama Sobhuza II of Swaziland died on August 21, 1982 after a reign of 82 years and 9 months.

Most monarchs reign a far shorter length of time than that...

The average length of reign for the English throne since the year 1000 has been a little more than 20 years.

No wonder Shakespeare said "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown"

BUT Jesus will reign forever and ever!!

2. A righteous throne

a. No different than the descriptions of God's throne

Psalm 97:2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

b. Everything Jesus does in reigning on his throne is righteous... perfectly corresponding to his own righteous character

- c. So many earthly thrones are characterized by injustice... oppression of the poor and needy; Lord Acton's famous saying so often comes true: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely"
- d. But Jesus CANNOT be corrupted by His power... He is righteous and everything He does is just

Isaiah 11:3-5 He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

D. A Display of Christ's Heart

Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness

1. This is the essence of Christ's character
2. Henry Scougal's Classic, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*

"The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love."

The worth and excellency of Jesus' soul is found in this one verse

Jesus LOVES righteousness and HATES wickedness

So the kingdom He establishes is based on perfect righteousness... and all wickedness will be removed

E. So... Christ Is Greater Than Angels Because He Rules Them with Righteousness and Justice

VII. Christ Greater Because of His Anointing

Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

A. The Anointing Ceremony: Identifying Israel's King

1. Saul, a very tall man but otherwise ordinary, a son of Kish, a Benjamite, was chosen by God to be the first King of Israel
2. Samuel the prophet was commanded by God to ANOINT him with oil, to identify him

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance?"

3. From then on, Saul was called “The Lord’s Anointed”
4. And from then on, all kings of the Jews were anointed with oil as well... like David, Saul’s successor

1 Samuel 16:12-13 So [Samuel] sent and had [David] brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." ¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.

5. The anointing symbolized the coming of the Holy Spirit on the king in power

B. Christ God’s Anointed One

1. The word “Messiah” is Hebrew for “Anointed”; “Christ” is the Greek form of the same
2. Jesus Christ means “Jesus, the Anointed One”
3. Hebrews 1 gives the basis of Jesus’ anointing

C. The Basis of Christ’s Anointing: Perfect Character

Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.

D. The “Oil of Joy”

1. The Joy is the Joy of a perfect King reigning over perfect people in a perfect world
2. It was for this joy that Jesus died on the cross

Hebrews 12:2 Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

E. The Superiority of Christ to His Companions

1. Jesus is set above every one of His companions....
2. All human beings
3. All angels
4. Jesus is firstborn (preeminent in rank) over all creation

VIII. Christ Greater Because of His Rule over Creation

Hebrews 1:10-12 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

A. Christ the Original Creator

1. We've already seen this at the beginning of the chapter...

Hebrews 1:2 through whom he made the universe.

- a. There it says that God the Father made the universe "THROUGH" the Son
 - b. It also says that Jesus UPHOLDS the universe by His powerful word (vs. 3)
2. Here, however, it ascribes to Jesus directly the creation of the earth and the heavens
 - a. The verse begins with the same formula: "He also says"... this is a statement by God the Father to God the Son
 - b. The Father tells the Son what He did "In the beginning...", language clearly reminiscent of the original creation
 - c. In the beginning, the Son "laid the foundation of the earth..."
 - i) A picture of the stability of the earth
 - ii) Described as though Jesus were a master architect and builder, a craftsman working with his hands... establishing a firm foundation for the earth

Psalm 104:5 He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.

- d. He also is credited with the crafting of the heavens, the work of Jesus' hands

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

The cosmos is immense, the stars are innumerable and mighty

Hebrews 1 ascribes the creation of everything to Jesus

B. Christ Superior to the Creation: They Are Temporary, He Is Eternal

1. This verse clearly predicts the end of the universe
2. Modern cosmologists go back and forth about the future of the cosmos... will the universe keep expanding? Will it turn back in, contract, and then oscillate? Will it double back on itself and crush back into the tiny space where they say it began in the Big Bang?
3. Bible-believing Christians already know the answer... Jesus is going to destroy the present universe to make way for the New Heavens and New Earth

Verse 11-12 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed.

C. Christ Will Dispense with the Heavens and Replace them

1. "Perish"... "wear out like a garment"... "roll them up like a robe"... "changed like a garment"
2. Many verses teach the glorious future of the universe

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:12 That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Revelation 6:13-14 the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. ¹⁴ The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

3. But the point here is Christ's POWER by contrast even to the physical universe
4. The universe doesn't HAPPEN to change... Christ Himself will bring about that change... HE will be the one to roll up the heavens like a robe

D. Christ is Unchanging and Eternal

1. You remain the same
2. Your years will never end

IX. Christ Greater Because of His Destiny

Hebrews 1:13 To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

A. God Rewards Christ With Position... Sitting at His Right Hand

1. Christ alone has this right, this privilege
2. Because of His perfect character and perfect achievement, He sits down with God on His throne ruling with God the Father
3. The image of “sitting” is that Christ’s work is finished, now God the Father will go to work on His behalf

B. God Rewards Christ With Vindication over His Enemies

1. In His life, Christ was reviled, hated, rejected, despised, condemned, convicted, executed
2. Even now He is blasphemed, misunderstood, despised, rejected
3. But the ZEAL of God the Father to exalt His Son is INFINITE

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Jesus’ hate-filled enemies pursued Him bitterly:

John 8:48-50 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" ⁴⁹ "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

NOTE: I do not seek glory for myself, BUT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO SEEKS IT and HE IS THE JUDGE... that is God the Father

God the Father seeks Christ’s vindication

And part of that is to make Christ’s enemies a footstool for His feet

C. How God Makes Christ Enemies His Footstool

1. A footstool = in total submission to His awesome power and authority

Philippians 2:10-11 at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Christ’s enemies are either converted or destroyed
3. Saul of Tarsus was Christ’s enemy, and he was converted
4. King Herod was Christ’s enemy, and he was destroyed

5. When He returns, Christ will weed all His enemies out of His Kingdom... everything wicked will be destroyed
6. So comes this deep desire we have to be seen righteous in His eyes
7. That can only come by faith in Christ!!! Embrace the Son, delight in Him, worship Him

Psalm 2:10-12 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

X. Applications

A. Come to Christ... the Perfect Savior!!

1. This extended meditation on the greatness of Christ is meant to provoke worship and obedience to Him
2. Angels are awesome beings... so vastly more powerful than we are that all of us would be overcome with terror in the presence of the lowliest of these heavenly messengers... we might even be tempted to worship one if we saw him
3. Christ is infinitely greater than all of them
4. This is the very one whom God the Father sent into the world to die on the cross for our sins
5. His blood is infinitely powerful in the conquering of sin
6. Trust in Him... worship Him... obey Him!!!

B. Understand the Author's point

1. The angels brought the Old Covenant and it was serious to violate it

Hebrews 2:1-3 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

2. How much worse is it not to believe in Christ? Not to accept the blessings of the New Covenant?

3. Stay with Christ!!! Follow the New Covenant!!! Keep living the Christian life, attending Christian worship, fighting indwelling sin by the power of the Holy Spirit
4. Don't "drift away" from Christ... don't IGNORE such a great salvation
5. Realize that the salvation is great because Jesus Christ is at the center of it

C. Worship Christ for His Deity

1. Hebrews 1 is written above all to promote worship for Christ
2. God the Father calls Jesus "God"
3. God the Father delights in the perfection, the deity of God the Son
4. So should we
5. Meditate fully and richly on the deity of Christ

D. Delight in the Greatness of Christ's Throne

1. Christ's throne is based on perfect righteousness and justice
2. It is a glorious throne, and an eternal one
3. Delight in the fact that God has told Christ to sit at His right hand and rule over all things
4. Delight in the fact that the entire human race is under Christ's authority

E. Be Conformed to Christ's Heart

1. Christ loves righteousness and hates wickedness
2. Do you?
3. Does this characterize your heart?
 - a. When you see sin, are you repulsed by it? Do you hate it?
 - b. All of us sin, but do you "hunger and thirst for righteousness?"
 - c. Is this the desire of your heart, to live a perfectly godly and righteous life in His sight?
 - d. Do you want to get rid of all the wickedness from your heart and from your life?

F. Yearn for the New Heavens and New Earth... when Christ will make all things new