

September 30, 2018 - Hebrews 1:7-14 - "Jesus, is Superior in Everyway"

Introduction

Joan Wester Anderson is one of the most prolific American authors on the subject of human experiences with angels - a vocation that was inspired by her son's own personal encounter. Down through the centuries there have been stories of people who believed they encounter an angel. Joan tells the contemporary story of Chris Deal. His wife Melissa never forget the day her husband Chris died. It was exactly one year after he had been diagnosed with acute lymphocyte leukemia.

The last months had been gruesome, treatments that could not save him, nights when she could not sleep. But she was sleeping soundly at his hospital bed side on the morning of Jan. 4th when Chris managed, somehow, without being seen or heard, to maneuver himself and his portable IV pole around her, out of the room and past the nurse's station with its 360° view of the ward. All Melissa remembers is being shaken awake at 3 a.m. by a frantic nurse who was saying something about not being able to find her husband Chris.

They began searching for him. Melissa approached the elevator and happened to glance toward the chapel, where she saw her husband Chris sitting with a man she had never seen before. Chris, are you okay? "Where have you been?" He just smiled. "I'm fine;" he told her, "She noticed a man sitting on the pew with his eyes facing the floor as though not wanting to be noticed. What was very interesting to her is that he appeared to look like her husband and she noticed his clothing. He was dress just like Chris would dress, jeans flannel shirt and work boots that appeared as if they all had just been taken off the store shelf.

"There was no real age to him:" Melissa says. "No wrinkles, just this perfectly smooth and pale white skin with ice blue eyes. She said," I've never seen that color blue on any human body before. They were more blue like some of those Husky dogs have. I'll never forget those eyes:' Chris seemed to want to be left alone, and so she reluctantly agreed to leave. When he came back to his room, she says, "He was lit up, just vibrant smiling. Who was that guy?" she asked. "You're not going to believe me." "Yes, I will:" "He was an angel my guardian angel."

Melissa did believe him. "All I had to do was to look at him to know something extraordinary, something supernatural had happened. She searched the hospital to find the man. There was no one around, and the security guards hadn't seen anyone come or go.

Chris prayers had been answered. I worried for a while that he thought the angel had cured his cancer. I realize now it wasn't the cure, it was the blessing he brought with him. It was the peace of mind:' Chris died two days later. "Chris' life could not be saved, but the fear and pain were taken from him, she says. "I know what I saw and I we have angels watching over us".

Now that was the story of one angel and these are ministering spirits sent by God but what is even more fantastic is the creator of this special supernatural being...

I His Superior Position (1:7-9)

1. The point is angels sometimes do God's bidding in spectacular ways. God makes His angels spirits and aflame of fire" (1:7; Psa. 104:4). For example, in Judges 13 we read about Manoah (muh-no'-uh) and his wife who could not have children. However, an angel appears to them and tells them they will have a son, whom they later name Samson. When Manoah realizes he is going to have a son, he offers a sacrifice to the Lord (13:19). Look what happens in the book **Judges 13:20**.

2. As magnificent as that is, angels are only servants, while Jesus is King. Therefore, the writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 45:6-7, writing that Jesus' throne is for ever and ever, and He rules with a scepter of righteousness (1:8). Though angels may take on wondrous forms and perform supernatural feats, they are still only servants. However, Jesus is eternally enthroned with righteousness as His scepter. A scepter is a highly ornamental rod or staff a king holds to symbolize his sovereignty and power.

3. Also, Jesus loves righteousness and hates iniquity. Therefore, God has anointed Him with the oil of gladness more than anyone else (1:9). This anointing refers to the anointing of a king. Revelation 19:16 reveals inscribed on Jesus' robe in heaven is KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.? Jesus is superior to angels because of His superior name, superior position, and ...

II His Superior Power (1:10-12)

1. Quoting Psalm 102:25-27, the writer of Hebrews tells us Jesus *in the* beginning laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens with His hands Jesus already existed *in the beginning-in* eternity past-because He is God, the second person of the Trinity. Verse 10 also reminds us of the facts we observed last week in John 1:3.

2. The writer still quoting Psalm 102:25-27, states the earth and everything in it *will perish* in verse 11 because they will wear out like old clothing. However, the Son will remain, and His years will never fail. Just as we would roll up and throw away a worn-out *garment*, Jesus will one day discard the heavens and the earth (1:11-12). 2 Peter 3:10 tell us about this time, when Jesus unexpectedly will come as a thief.

3. Some believe this means that at the end of time the earth will be drawn into the sun. Creation will change, but the Creator will not because Jesus is eternally *the same* (1:12). This is called the "immutability" (*im-mute'ability*) of Christ, which means He is incapable of mutation and is unchangeable. How Hebrews 13:8 declare this fact. A quadrillion years from now Jesus will still be sitting on His throne presiding over all creation, because He is immutable! Last Jesus has...

III His Superior Place (1:13-14)

1. Christ rules, while angels serve. God has never told an angel, as He did Jesus, to sit at His right hand until He makes His enemies their footstool (1: 13). This is the second time in this chapter Jesus is referred to as sitting at the right hand of God (1:3d). He is sitting at God's right hand right now. According to Romans 8:34...who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Jesus makes it possible for you and me to approach God's throne. We can pray at any time about anything in Jesus' name (Jn 14:13-14). Even the greatest angels are just ministering spirits whom God sends to serve us who will be heirs of salvation (1:14).

2. Angels also protect and deliver us from danger. Angels rescued Lot from Sodom (Gen. 19:1-26). Angels protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3:28). They also shut the mouths of lions when Daniel was in the lion's den (Dan. 6:22). Because God is unchangeable, we can be sure, if He sent angels to protect His people in the past, He continues to do so today. The Lord assigns His angels to minister to you and me. Psalm 91:11 express a wonderful fact... For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Conclusion:

Jesus is superior to angels because of His superior name, superior position, superior power, and superior place. Hebrews emphasized that only Christ was ever called the Son-at least, that is, "in terms like these, which single out the person addressed and give him a status apart". Only Christ could rightfully embody the promises made to David, for only He is God's Son.