

*When I was about 8 years old, and my brother was 9, I had a bit of a turn one night (a pretty big understatement). ... We're pretty sure it ended up being encephalitis, but they didn't want to call it that, because I shouldn't have survived it (the doctor didn't expect me to live 'til morning).*

*I was unconscious; my body was all twisted up like a spastic; there was something seriously wrong...*

*We lived about 25miles out of town, so Mum & Dad dropped my Brother & Sister with the neighbours, and they drove as quick as they could to hospital.*

*And as my brother Andrew lay in his bed, unable to sleep, he prayed over and over again, "Please don't let my brother die. Please don't let my brother die." ... And then 3 lights appeared in the room with him, and he heard a voice, "He's going to be alright." Well Andrew felt the assurance he needed; he knew his brother was going to be OK; and he went to sleep.*

Where did the voice come from? He believes it was an angel (a messenger from God). And as I think back on it now, I reckon he was probably right,, because that's just the sort of thing an angel does (comes as a messenger from God), and in this case, it was a message brought, to comfort a little boy, who thought his brother was about to die...

And if an angel had appeared in bodily form, well, that's the sort of thing that would freak a little boy out... And of course, Andrew didn't know this at the time, but it's probably significant that he saw 3 lights... "3", represents our triune God (Father; Son; and Holy Spirit)...

Do you believe in angels? I do. If Jesus believed in them, I do too.

I don't know if I've ever seen one. More often than not, they don't stand out as these glistening shiny white things with wings. And when we get to Chapter 13 of this very letter, we're going to be told that when we are hospitable to strangers, we may actually be entertaining angels unaware.

*I'm pretty sure if Robyn & I invited strangers for dinner and gave them a bed for a night, and when they turned up, they were a shiny creatures and they preferred to sit on a stool because his wings get crumpled on the back of the chair,,,,, I'm pretty sure I'd notice that, wouldn't you???*

Anyway, Angels are spiritual beings. They are messengers from God.

Now, in the Bible, usually when a person realised that they were in the company of an angel, they would fall upon their face and worship him (that's the natural human reaction, when we encounter a holy being). But the angel would then say, "No, No, No. Don't worship me – your worship should be for God, and for God alone."

Now, in the Bible Reading today, there's a fair bit about Angels. But it's not about Angels. It's about Jesus. And it's about how Jesus is **different** to the angels – it's about how Jesus is far above the angels.

We're in a section of Hebrews, following on from the introduction we looked at last week. The introduction was driving home the point, that Jesus is far superior to anything else.

And basically, we were given the image that Jesus Christ is God (God the Son).

We were told:

- He was not only **at** creation – it was **through** Jesus, that creation happened.
- He is the radiance of the glory of God
- He is the exact imprint of his nature  
In other words, when you meet the Son, you've met with God.
- He is the one who upholds the universe by the word of his power  
Alright, Jesus holds everything together...

It sounds very much like we're describing God, doesn't it?  
And we are. God, the Son.

And now in today's reading, we're being shown that Jesus is far superior to any Spiritual Being.

*I used to visit a chap in another town, and when I walked into his home, I was surrounded by all of these trinkets of angels (pictures; figurines; engravings)...*

*And he told me how he would pray to this angel for this, and that angel for that. And I tried to explain to him, “We are not supposed to pray to Angels. We pray to God.” Jesus taught us to pray to our Heavenly Father.*

And yes, sometimes God will dispatch an angel to give a message to a person. But we do **not** need an angel, to take a message to God.

And that’s going to come out, later in this book of Hebrews. We do not need an intermediary. By Jesus, becoming “God with us” – God present, in the form of man (incarnation – God the Son, born into this world)... By this, and by what He did on the cross, we don’t need an intermediary. We access the Father, straight through the Son...

And so, even though Jesus Christ (God The Son), is Holy, and above all else, He is not unapproachable. He is the One, we can approach/call out to. And we’ll talk more about that when we get to that section in Hebrews (maybe in a month or so).

*Anyway, every time I visited that man, I went away sad, because his worship was focused on Angels, when the One Whom we worship, should be The Lord, and The Lord alone. The Lord says of Himself, “I am a jealous God<sup>i</sup> / I will not share my glory with another<sup>ii</sup>”.*

Righto: So, Jesus is High above the Angels (We’ve got that).

And it’s also very clear, that Jesus Himself, is **not** an angel. There are some who believe He is. *And they’ve probably visited you at your home.*

*There's a knock on your door. And at the door, are standing two people: a lady with an umbrella, but it's not raining; and maybe a man in a hat. One of them carries a little satchel with literature. The other is holding a pamphlet in her hand.*

*They're friendly, and you're friendly, and you greet each other at the door. And they ask you the question, "Have you noticed how bad the world is getting lately?"*

*Who has come to visit??? JW's. And I hope you're friendly to them, and willing to share your faith.*

*And as you share your faith with them, and let them know that you are a Christian, and that you worship with that Bush Disciples mob – that bunch of Christians who aren't attached to any particular denomination,,,, And when they realise that you are a Christian, it is pretty-much guaranteed that they will ask you something about the Trinity.*

*"Does your church teach you that God is a Trinity?"*

*"Well, yes they do."*

*And then they'll go for a "gotcha moment". "Do you realise, the word "Trinity" isn't even in the Bible."*

And sadly, most Christians don't know their Bible well enough to agree with them. The **word** "trinity" **isn't** in the Bible. The **word** "Trinity" is a word we use, to describe what **is** in the Bible – a very clear understanding that God is 3 persons, and yet one. God the Father/Son/Holy Spirit....

But the JW's do not believe this. They do not believe that Jesus Christ is God. They believe that Jesus is the Archangel Michael. Now, cool name (Michael),,,, But it ain't Jesus.

Nowhere in Scripture, is Jesus said to be the Archangel Michael. And the Lord teaches us (here in the book of Hebrews), that Jesus is **not** an angel.

V<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you"? (fathered)  
Or again,  
"I will be to Him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son"?

Did God say that to the Archangel Michael? No, but He said it to Jesus.

The **angels**, God created; but the Son is **begotten**...

<sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world (the birth of Jesus), he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

And this is what we sing Christmas Carols about – the Angels worshipping God on High. The Angels worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ...

Angels do **not** worship Angels. Angels worship God. And any worship of Angels is prohibited... When an angel is worshipped: "Don't worship me. Worship God."

And then he compares Angels to “The Son”:

<sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says,  
“He makes his angels winds,  
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

Wind and fire can’t always be seen, but they are active in the natural world. And **Angels** can’t always be seen, but they are sent on missions, into the natural world.

And on those missions, at times they may take the form of wind/fire.

If it was angels who visited my brother about 47 years ago, they took the form of 3 lights in a room of darkness, as they brought the comfort of God, to a scared little boy.

But the point here, isn’t that they appear as “winds” and “fire”... The point is, that **God makes** them this. **God**, is the One Who controls the angels. **He** is the one who sends them. They are His ministers – His servants (if you will). Angels are at the beck and call and control of God.

And the contrast is:

<sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says,  
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,

Do you see the contrast? Angels are servants of God. But, God says of the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
God The Father, acknowledges, that Jesus is God (The Son)

the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of your kingdom.

Who's Kingdom? The Kingdom belongs to the Son. Does the kingdom belong to angels? No, it does not. They are servants of the Kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

So, next time the Jehovah Witnesses come to visit, you take them to Hebrews 1. But do it in your bible (not theirs), because they've changed the words around, to make it say something quite different.

And it goes on: Jesus, is our eternal creator God.

<sup>V<sup>10</sup></sup> And,  
"You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,

Who did? Well, we're still talking about Jesus.

and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment,



<sup>12</sup> like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end."

When history comes to a close, creation will pass away. The universe as we know it, will be totally renewed. The image we're given here, is of worn-out clothes. *Clothes wear out, and Robyn thinks my clothes are worn out a long time before I do. But there comes a time when clothes are worn out, and they become grease rags... But even then, once they finish being grease rags, we throw them out...*

And this world as we know it – this universe that surrounds us, will come to an end. And Jesus is the one who wraps it up.

And yet, it doesn't end at that point. All of creation **like a garment they will be changed.**

At the resurrection, there's going to be something new.

And Jesus Christ sits at a place of honour.

<sup>V13</sup> And to which of the angels has he ever said,  
"Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies a footstool for your  
feet"?

(That's a reminder of Judgment)...

On the Day of Judgment, Jesus will be glorified. But even now, He sits in a place of honour – He is the One to be served.

Angels however, are the ones doing the serving.

**V<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits (they serve) sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?**

Who inherits salvation??? Christians.... Disciples of Jesus.

Now, I want you to notice. Angels do not serve you and me. So, don't let this all go to your head. They serve God. They serve God, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation. Alright, they serve God, for our sake. What does that mean?

It means that God's plan of salvation (I'm sorry for using religious language). Salvation is the noun for being saved. God has a plan to save humans from their sin. And we talk about this around Easter time.

- On Good Friday, we remember that Jesus died, as the once and for all, perfect sacrifice. He took the punishment that I deserved, for my sins, upon Himself.

Through the cross, Jesus made it possible, for our sins to be taken away. Why is this important? It's because sinful Michael, cannot commune with a Holy God. And through the Cross, it becomes possible for you and I to become holy.

- On Easter Sunday, we remember that Jesus is raised from the dead. What good is a dead Lord? What use is a dead saviour???

When God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, death was conquered, making it possible for those who believe in Him, to also be raised from the dead...

And so, God has put a plan in place. But his plan isn't finished yet. Did you notice I used the word "possible"? I said He made it possible:

- for our sins to be taken away, and for us to now have the righteousness of God...; and
- for us to be raised to eternal life...

Why did I say that???

Let's go back to Romans 10:9, that we talked about on Easter Sunday...

The fact that Jesus died (for the sins of the world), doesn't mean that every person in the world is saved. And the fact that Jesus rose back to life, conquering death, doesn't mean that every person will be raised to eternal life in glory with Him...

In the Scriptures, there is a very short word. In the English, it's only 2 letters. In the Greek, it's 3.

And it's a word that:

- separates;
- challenges;

- forces one to assess “Where do I stand in this”...

It’s a “conditional word” – the word “if”...

**Romans 10:<sup>(ESV)</sup>9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

You see, for salvation to be effective, it takes faith. It takes a genuine heart-felt faith. Yes, the mouth is involved – with your mouth, you will proclaim that Jesus is Lord. But that’s an overflow of what you believe and what you cherish in your heart.

You see, it’s not just about **knowing**:

- that Jesus is Lord;
- that He is raised from the dead;
- that He is the Son of God...

the devil knows all that...

It’s a genuine heart-felt faith, that leads one to repentance, and it is to enthrone Jesus as Lord, in every part of my life.

Let’s come back to Hebrews:

So, God’s plan of salvation, is accomplished at the cross...  
But there remains the “if”...

And so, God’s plan of salvation, continues. Part of God’s plan, is He sends **Christians** out, to preach the Good News of Jesus. That’s what we’re doing here now. And part of His ongoing plan, is to send His Holy Angels out. He deploys

them in the field. Some will be seen; Some will be unseen...  
Some will be recognised; Most will not...

God may use an angel:

- to help guide a person's path (or circumstances) to a point where they come to an end of themselves, and in desperation, turn to Him.
- to guard His faithful servants. The Devil does not like it when the Gospel is proclaimed. The Devil does not like it when you tell another person what it means to believe in Jesus.

We are in a spiritual battle. We don't know what's going on behind the scenes. And God uses His angels, to guard you and I, from the attacks of the evil one, so that the Good News of Jesus is not held back.

- to bring a word from the Lord (as He did for my brother)...

We don't talk about Angels much, do we... And you know what, we don't need to. Because as I said, "This passage might say a fair bit about Angels, but it's not about Angels. It's about Jesus". It's about how Jesus is far greater than the Angels.

*And, if we were to focus on the Angels, and miss Jesus, that would be like focusing on the construction of a lookout, and*

*missing the view (that the lookout was built to reveal)...* The purpose of the angels, is to point us to Jesus.

So, where's the application???

When I was at Bible College, they always taught us, "You've gotta have application in your message"... And I guess because we humans are generally self-focused, it's quite common to not be content with a sermon, unless there's a personal application for me...

So, here it is:

Do you know what the application is, for today? It's not about you and me. It's about Jesus... And it's about worship...

The greatness and wonder of who Jesus is, leads us to worship.

We worship Jesus for Who He is.

- He is the Lord;
- He is God the Son;
- He is far superior to every Angel;
- He is saviour to the redeemed.

And as we consider this, it is also important to consider: Am I among those who inherit salvation?

- Do you believe, and trust in Jesus with your heart?
- Do you repent of sin; and
- Receive Jesus as Lord????

Then worship the Lord Jesus Christ, with all of your heart/soul/mind/strength.

Let's pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
We worship You.  
We proclaim You are God;  
We proclaim You are King;  
We acknowledge Your Lordship;

And so we submit ourselves to You.  
Not just with our words,  
but with our hearts;  
and in our actions.

We praise You, that:

*"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the sceptre of uprightness is the sceptre of your  
kingdom.*

*<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated  
wickedness;*

We praise You, for Your years have no end;

And You are the One who uses your Holy Angels  
to continue to do Your work of:

- guiding;

- revealing;
- guarding,

For the purposes of Your Kingdom.

To You Lord, be the glory.

Amen.

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<sup>i</sup> Deuteronomy 5:9

<sup>ii</sup> Isaiah 42:8