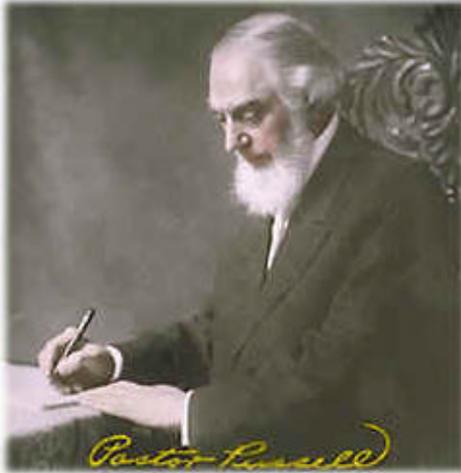


Jesus Is Superior

Superior To Any Man

Hebrews chapter 1 argues that Christ is no mere angel. He is God the Son and as such shares a unique relationship with God the Father. He is God's "only Son" in the sense of eternal relationship. This demands that both He and the Father are eternal and have been in relationship for eternity. 'Eternity' is spoken of in Scripture as "Today" (note Hebrews 1:5). The Father presents His Son to the world and commands all the angels to 'worship Him' (Hebrews 1:6). The Father then addresses Christ as "God" in Hebrews 1:8. This clearly establishes the theme of this Book: *Christ's superiority*. With so many of the Jewish Christians being pressured to abandon faith in Christ and return to Judaism, the writer to the Hebrews is earnestly pleading the case that Christ supersedes the Mosaic Law (The Law of Moses) and was not mere angelic visitation or prophet. It is this second point that the writer now deals with in Hebrews 2.

Jesus is superior to any man



It was Charles Taze Russell (pictured left) who revived the teachings of Arius by teaching that Christ was a created being and in fact was really Michael the Arch Angel.

The Warning

1. In Hebrews 2:1 there is a warning. What is this warning?

The English translation of the Greek word, *angelos*, is a bit confusing. It is translated as either “angel” (in the sense of a heavenly being) or “messenger” (in the sense of a human messenger). It is the context which determines its translation. Hebrews 2:2 generally translates this Greek word as *angel* rather than *messenger*. But this would be a strange way to render this word considering the lengths which chapter 1 has gone to, to highlight Christ’s superiority to angels. It also doesn’t seem to be in keeping with the general tenor of the New Testament either.

2. Note Galatian 1:8. How does Paul make a distinction between earthly messengers and heavenly angels in this verse?

3. Consider the account of Cornelius’ vision in Acts 10:1-6. Who visited Cornelius, and who gave him the Gospel?

Christ has not ordained heavenly angels to preach the Gospel to mankind. Nor has He ordained heavenly angels to gather in the harvest of lost souls. This job rests with us, His earthly messengers (Matt. 28:18-20).

4. Hebrews 2:3 also shows us that the context of 'angels' in Hebrews 2:2 more likely refers to earthly messengers than heavenly beings. Why is this so?

5. How would Hebrews 2:3 cause a First Century Jewish Christian considering returning to Judaism to have second thoughts?



It's interesting how many people throughout history have claimed to be prophets of God yet have not had any miraculous demonstration of their message. Buddha did no miracles. Mohammed did no miracles. Charles Taze Russell did no miracles and neither did Joseph Smith.

6. In light of this, how does Hebrews 2:4 argue for Christ's superiority over all other men?

Why Christ Became Man

Hebrews 2:5 talks about the future of the world, again contrasting the difference between mankind and angels.

7. Who will rule the world according to Hebrews 2:5, 1Corinthians 6:2-3?
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Jesus may not have appeared to be reigning when the Epistle to the Hebrews was written, which would have prompted the Judaizers to claim that the Law of Moses was still in force rather than the claim by Christians that the Law of Christ had made it obsolete. So while the Christians of the first part of the first century could not 'see' the rule of Christ, they could still see Jesus (Hebrews 2:9). This is an important principle to remember whenever you are in a difficult situation and cannot see how God is ruling. Look beyond the circumstances and see Jesus!

8. According to Hebrews 2:10 why did Jesus have to die?
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When Jesus became a man, He became the new head of the human race for all who believe in Him (1Corinthians 15:45-48). This also meant that He became the *brother* of all who accept Him (Hebrews 2:11).

9. According to Hebrews 2:14, why did Jesus have to die?
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Praise God that He knows what it's like to be tempted (Hebrews 2:18). Therefore no matter what you're going through, Christ understands and can help!

Amen.