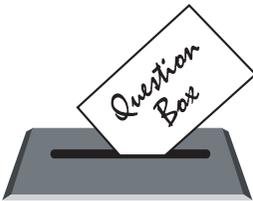


QUESTION:
Angels – what is their place
in the divine Purpose? ~ PART 2 ~



I concluded the first part of my reply to the question(s) raised on the subject of Angels by pointing out that the reason why the inspired writer of the letter to the Hebrews devoted so much attention to this subject was because, among those to whom the letter was sent, there were some who had evidently been influenced by others who, because they believed that angels possessed special powers, were claiming that the Lord Jesus Himself was some superior sort of angelic being. Such teaching clearly denies the Deity of Christ, and the purpose of the letter, therefore, was to establish the irreconcilable difference - this unbridgeable gulf - which exists between the nature of the Son of God and *all* created beings, including the angelic orders.

A Persistent Heresy.

I suggest that we should take a firm hold on what the first and second chapters of the Hebrew letter reveals. It is important that we should have it firmly fixed in our own minds, because even today there are religious groups that are guilty of teaching the same heresy whilst parading under the Christian banner. Here are a few examples.

- 1) The so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses" teach that Jesus was '*an angel named Michael, and was the first created being*'.
- 2) The doctrine taught by Mormonism's earliest leaders declared that: "*Adam is our god and the only god with whom we have to do*", and that '*When Adam came to Earth he brought one of his wives with him, and, on the plains of Bethlehem, the marriage was consummated and Jesus was born, the offspring of Adam and Mary*'.
- 3) Christadelphians also deny His pre-existence and teach that, prior to His birth in Bethlehem, He was merely an 'idea' or a 'thought', in the mind of God.

So this heresy is NOT DEAD, even yet.

The Son is not an Angelic being.

Not only does the writer of this letter shows that Jesus is not merely an angel, in the first two

chapters he sets out seven important differences between the Lord Jesus and the angelic orders.

1. He has, by inheritance, obtained 'a more excellent NAME' than the angels, ch.1:4, and, in v.5 the writer tells us what that name is: **"to which of the angels did God say, at any time, 'Thou art My Son?'" "I will be to Him a Father and He shall be to me a Son"**.
2. The 6th verse tells us that Angels are required to *worship* Him. God said, **"Let all the angels of God worship Him"**.
3. The function of angels is to serve, whilst *He* is destined to reign, v7. They are sent out as servants. The very word '*angelos*' means 'messenger'. But God says, of the Son; **"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever."** v.8.
4. Angels are *created* beings. In other words, they are 'creatures'. But the Lord Jesus, as the 'Word', who existed in the beginning with God, is Himself the Creator. In v.10 God addresses the Son in these words: **"In the beginning Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands..."**
5. As created beings, the very existence of the angels is a *dependent* existence, whilst His existence is *un-derived* and *eternal*; **"Thou art the same and thy years will never end"**, v.12. In John 5:26, Jesus claims that He has **"life in Himself"**. And he further claims, **"I have the power to lay down my life and I have the power to take it up again"**, thus revealing that his death was a wholly voluntary death.
6. He is exalted far above the angels, at the right hand of the Father. v.13. **"To which of the angels has God ever said; 'Sit at my right hand.'"**
7. HE has *authority* far beyond anything granted to angels, ch.2: .5-8. God has **"crowned the Son with glory and honour and all things have been put under his feet."**

If we then summarise these statements, this is what we find. He is:

- Different in Nature - He is Eternal, possessing the nature of Deity.
- Different in Relationship - the Son.
- Different in Status - He is to be worshipped.
- Different in Dignity - He occupies the Throne.
- Different in Title - addressed by God as 'My Son'.
- Different in Power and Authority as 'Creator'.
- Different in Function - He is Destined to Reign.

And finally. if we look at ch.2:9, we see that, whilst He is, in every way *above* the Angels, He became, for a little time, *lower* than the Angels - but to accomplish a great purpose: **"That He, by the grace of God, might taste death for every one"**. In other words, **Jesus became Man, having a physical body, in order to suffer a physical death because as a Spiritual Being He could not have died. Or, as Paul puts it in Rom. 8:3, "God sent his son in the likeness (form) of sinful flesh, and for sin."**

So what is the conclusion?

The writer of this letter is saying to these Hebrew Christians: "Whatever else you make of the angels, and even considering their role in the grand redemptive purpose of God and the service they have rendered in the past, Jesus, the Son of God, *is not-* and *never was* - an angel. He has done what no angel could ever do. Though He is essentially HIGHER than angels, He stooped to the level of fallen man, and became a man, in order to raise you above the level of angels."

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