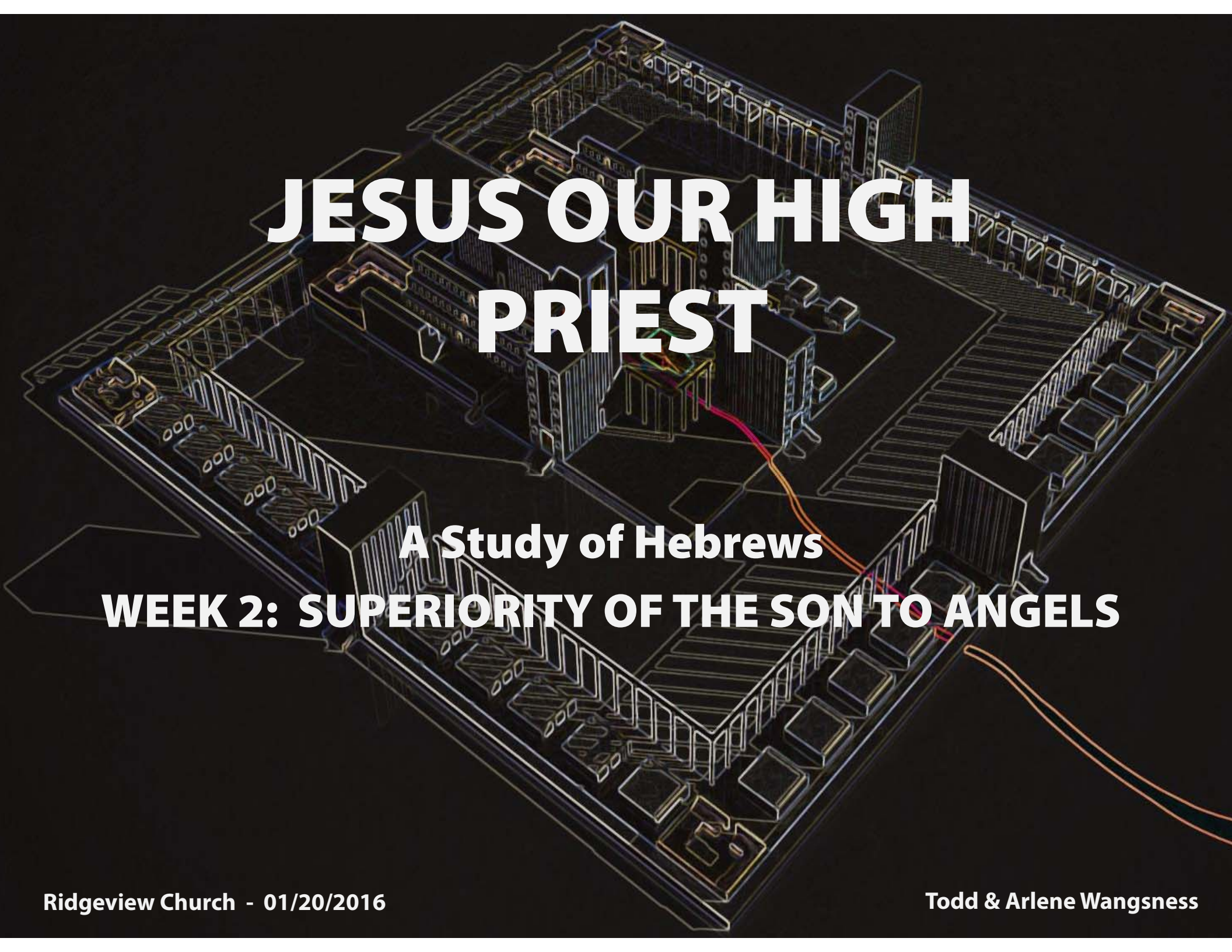


JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study of Hebrews

WEEK 2: SUPERIORITY OF THE SON TO ANGELS

Ridgeview Church - 01/20/2016

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

• Week 1:	Theme, Background and Overview	1:1 – 1:3
• Week 2:	Superiority of the Son to Angels	1:4 – 2:18
• Week 3:	Superiority of the Son to Moses	3:1 – 3:6
• Week 4:	Warning on the Danger of Disobedience	3:7 – 4:13
• Week 5:	A 'Better' Position	4:14 – 4:16
• Week 6:	A 'Better' Priest (Part 1)	5:1 – 6:19
• Week 7:	A 'Better' Priest (Part 2)	7:1 – 7:28
• Week 8:	A 'Better' Covenant	8:1 – 8:13
• Week 9:	A 'Better' Sanctuary	9:1 – 9:10
• Week 10:	A 'Better' Sacrifice	9:11 – 10:18
• Week 11:	Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement	10:19 – 10:39
• Week 12:	Evidence of the Life of Faith	11:1 – 11:40
• Week 13:	Exhortation to Endurance of Faith	12:1 – 12:29
• Week 14:	Concluding Exhortations	13:1 – 13:25

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

HIS DEITY: The Proof from the Scriptures (Heb 1:4–14)

"…having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." 10 And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

THE CLAIM

"…having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

THE PROOFS

- **Proof #1:**
  - ***For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today, I have begotten You"?*** **Psa 2:7**
  - **'Only begotten' is a legal term that stresses the right of the Firstborn**

- **Proof #2:**
  - ***And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?*** **2 Sam 7:14**
  - **Establishes the Messiah as the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

- **Proof #3:**
  - ***But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."*** **Psa 97:7**
  - **Demonstrates the angels are inferior to the Son, because all angels are commanded to worship Him**

- **Proof #4:**
  - ***And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire."*** **Psa 104:4**
  - **The Greek word used for 'ministers' means 'religious devotion'. This means the angels were created to serve the Son religiously**

- **Proof #5:**
  - ***But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*** **Psa 45:7,8**
  - **The Son has an eternal throne, which no angel has**
  - **Emphasizes the deity of the Son and His authority in the Messianic kingdom**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

- **Proof #6:**
  - ***And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."*** **Psa 102:25-27**
  - **He is Creator, Sovereign, Unchangeable, and Eternal (Pre-Existent)**

- **Proof #7:**
  - ***But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." Psa 110:1***
  - ***Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?***
  - **Predicts the Messiah's enthronement**
  - **In the ancient world, the one who sat on the King's right hand was considered equal to the King**
  - **He is seated, which means that His work is completed. The angels continue to work as ministering spirits to/for believers**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

THE FIRST OF FIVE PARENTHETICAL WARNINGS (Heb 2:1-4)

***Therefore** we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?* **Heb 2:1-4**

- **:1 What's the 'therefore' there for?**
  - **It refers to all of the previous proofs that the Messiah is superior to angels**
  - **For these reasons…we ought to give special attention to our salvation to guard against 'drifting' away**
    - **The Greek for 'drift' applies to a boat that has lost its mooring and is drifting untethered in the wind**
- **:2 "If the word spoken through angels proved steadfast…"**
  - **Forms a 'first class condition' in Greek, which means: If the statement is true (and it is known that it is)**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

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Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

- :2 *"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,"*
  - Forms a first class condition in Greek, which means: If the statement is true (and it is known that it is)
  - There is no clear statement that Moses received the Law through angels in the OT
    - Angelic mediation is inferred in two OT passages (rabbinical tradition):
      - *The chariots of God are twenty thousand, Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.* --Psa 68:17
      - *and he saith: -- `Jehovah from Sinai hath come, And hath risen from Seir for them; He hath shone from mount Paran, And hath come [with] myriads of holy ones; At His right hand [are] springs for them.* --Deu 33:2 (YLT)
    - Occasionally, the NT authenticates a rabbinical teaching…this is one example
    - That the Law was mediated by angels is authenticated in two other NT verses
      - *who received the law by arrangement of messengers, and did not keep [it]* --Acts 7:53
      - *Why, then, the law? on account of the transgressions it was added, till the seed might come to which the promise hath been made, having been set in order through messengers in the hand of a mediator.* --Gal 3:19 (YLT)

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

- :2 *"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,"*
  - Every sin in the OT received a just punishment…meaning a physical punishment
    - Example 1: Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu (Lev 10)
    - Example 2: Korah, Dathan and Abirum (Num 16)
    - Example 3: Achin (Jos 7)
- :3 *"how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him"*
  - The emphasis in this verse is that 'neglecting' our salvation mediated by the Messiah is an even more serious issue
    - 'Neglect': having an attitude of indifference or apathy towards our salvation
  - "How shall we escape…" indicates we will face physical discipline in this life if we don't take our salvation seriously and physical death in the coming judgement
    - Reference the chastening in Heb 12:5-7
  - The confirmation discussed by the writer refers to 'signs, wonders, power and gifts' that were a part of Jesus' (and the apostles') ministry

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

- **:5-9** ***"For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.***
  - **The author uses the name of Jesus, because he is emphasizing the humanity of Jesus**
  - **Sovereignty over the earth was promised to Man (through Adam), not to angels**
  - **Adam ceded this authority to Satan at the fall**
  - **The Messiah, as the ideal representative man, won back the sovereignty of the Earth**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

Proof from His Salvation - To Bring Many Sons To Glory

:10 ***"For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.***

- **Jesus was made perfect through sufferings**
  - **'Perfect': To reach or attain a goal**
  - **As the 'captain' of our salvation, He is our:**
    - **Ruler, Leader and Pioneer**
- **The end result of His sufferings:**
  - **Bringing many sons to glory**
  - **His suffering was according to God's sovereign purpose**

:11 "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." 13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

- **Jesus is also our Sanctifier**
  - **And since the Sanctifier and the sanctified are one (unity), He can call them brethren**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

Proof from His Salvation - To Overcome the Prince of Death

:14 *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil"*

- **He added to His divine nature flesh and blood**
- **Therefore, He could die…and by means of His death, it rendered Satan's power inoperative**
- **The Greek word for 'destroy' is "katargeo", which means:**
  - **To become unemployed**
  - **To render inoperative or deprive of force or power**
  - **It's the same word used w.r.t. the 'body of sin' being done away with in Rom 6:6**

Hebrews: Superiority of the Son to Angels

Proof from His Salvation - To Free the Believer

:15 ***"and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."***

- **The believer is freed both from the fear of death and from death itself**

Proof from His Salvation - To Help Man

:16-18 ***"For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."***

- **God did not choose to provide salvation for fallen angels**
  - **He only provides salvation for fallen man**
- **He is a Merciful High Priest: An attribute of humanity**
- **He is a Faithful High Priest: In the administration of His priestly functions**
- **He provides propitiation (covering): This covering satisfies the wrath of God**
- **He is our Kinsman-Redeemer**
  - **He had to be a Man to be our Kinsman**
  - **He had to be God to be our Redeemer**
- **He is our Sympathizer**
  - **He knows what we are going through because he was tempted (to the max) in all things**