

Title: A More Excellent Name

Text: Hebrews 1:4

Let us take our Bibles and turn to the most Koshere Book in the N.T.
The book of Hebrews chapter 1~~7~~/ **1** and verse 4.....

(Read Hebrews 1:4)

Prayer

A couple of weeks ago we started a study of the book of Hebdrews. This book was written to Jews. It is a book which deals with Jewish problems. But these problems effect us today. They effect us because the book deals with the exaltation of Jesus Christ. In the first few chapters of Hebrews you will find the phrase "better than" used more than 13 times. Telling us that Christ was better than so many things that were important and significam to the Jew. That Christ is better than all these things; and he is to be exalted above all.

And if there is one thing that our nation needs to come back too, it is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord of all life. Our nation was built upon that belief. Jesus Christ is the true liberator. He has set men free. And he continues to set men free wherever his ~~gospel~~ gospel is preached. Thus, it is a joy for me to come, again, to the theme of Hebrews which is THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.....

The Book of Hebrews can be divided into three different section. The first section talks about the AUTHORITY OF JESUS OVER ALL THINGS... His authority is over angels, his authority is over Moses and the hourse of Israel. And his authority is over the High Priestly order of the Jewish nation.

Then beginning at Chrpter 8 verse 3 and going throug chapter 10:18, we will look at the Person of Christ in His atonement for all people. And in those 3 chapters we have presented to us the great teaching on the doctrine of the atonement...It is fantastic in application to the believers life.

Then, in chapter 10 through 13 we will look at the application of the life of Christ to us today.....Some reall practaical material dealing with marriage, faith, and life in general.

- (1A) So, first of all we are looking at the authority of Jesus over angels.
- (2C) And in Verse 2 thru 14 Paul discusses the motives of the Father. And in discussing the motives ofst of the Father, we began by looking at the
- (1D) Postion of Christ. Paul makes six fantastic statement about the Position of Jesus Christ over angels. This is found in Vs 2 and 3. Paul talks about the (1) wealth of His possessions, (2) the wonder of His providenciae, (3) the worthiness of His person, (4) his power, (5) his purification, (6) and finally , his pre-enimence.

So, we see Christ position over the angeles in these six tremendous statements about God's revelation.

(2D) But, today, I want to come to Vs 4. And I want you to see ^{The Motives} ~~Christ's~~ position in the name that Jesus Received

Vs 4 says, "having become as much better than the angels, as he hac inherited a more excellent name than they."

Some people believe that it is simply referring to the name "JESUS." That the name of Jesus is better than any of the angels names. Like..... MICHAEL, the Archangel....or,....GABIEL....OH, NoThat is not what it means. It is not simply referring to the name "JESUS" which is a proper name. IT means "JEHOVAH IS SALVATION."...And there are people today who are named JESUS...Many Latin Americans have that name. And they certainly are not our salvation....NO....It is not simply the name of Jesus which makes Him better.

Whenever you use the word "NAME" as an undesignated, it always refers to "CHARACTER AND NATURE"...So, the point is: that Jesus is better than the angels because he has received a more excellent "NAME"...And this is dealing with his person and his character.

In O.T. times, we learn that people named children according to characteristics. Either of birth or something in the family or even giving them a name later, like a surname, something later in life which characterized them.

For example Abrahams son was named Isaac because Shara laughed. God told Shara that she was going to have a son and she laughed. So they named the child Isaac ~~of laughter~~ *meaning laughter*

Saul's name was later changed to "Paul" characterizing the fact that he was a little man. "Paul" means "little". This characterized either his size or his humility before God.

So, names were given that ~~had~~ *had* meaning. Here, Christ is given a name above the angels and it refers to his character, his nature. It is describing him. Let me illustrate....

Turn to Acts chapter 4:12.....Acts chapter 4:12.....We read:(Read)

I think you see the point here. It isn't simply the name Jesus, If that were so than anyone named "Jesus" would give me the salavation of that verse. No.....it is refering to the character of the one who gives the salvation. Namely: Jesus Christ ~~our~~ *our* Lord. Jesus who lived 19 hundred years ago is the name....And he said there is no other name under heaven. No other one of that character and that ability who can give us salvation whereby we must be saved.

Look, please, at the book of Philippians chapter 2....Philippians chapter 2 and notice verse 9 ~~.....~~.....

"Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name."

Now, here we know that it isn't simply "Jesus" because it is above every name that has ever been recorded. It is refering to his character, again.

"That at the name of Jesus".....People say, "there, it is just Jesus." No....it is Jesus of Nazareth. Not just any Jesus....."~~That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth,~~

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is lord,"....."Kurios"....is the Greek word. And it is used in the Septuagint for "Jehovah". Jesus is "lord" Jehovah. And notice that is to the glory of God the Father. People say, "If you call Jesus "Lord" and "God" than how can you be honoring "God the Father"? According to this text you are honoring God the Father when you call Jesus "Lord." Jesus is Lord. And every knee shall bow and every tongue is to confess that truth.

By the way, I heard a number of years ago a little statement that has really stuck with me. It was given by Dave Hocking who is the Pastor of the First Brethren Church of Long Beach. He said, "I don't ask anybody "do you want to confess christ as Lord? I ask them, when would you like to do it?" Because you see, if you do not do it before you die, you will do it one day at the great white throne judgement. Because every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

You see, God the father is going to exalt Jesus whether you do so or not. And one day he is going to make you do it, if you don't do it this side of heaven....

So, his name refers to his character. The one who lived over 19 hundred years ago. Now, come back to Hebrews chapter 1 and vs 4.....

(2E) ^{also} It says that he has given him a more "excellent" name. Now what is the meaning of the term "more excellent"....At least it is better than the angels. We know that.

The word "excellent" simple comes from the Greek term ~~being~~ meaning "to bear or to bring together". It means "bringing two things together to show the difference between them.

And example to show you that it means difference. In I Cor 12:4-6 speaking of spiritual gifts. It says that there are differences in the gifts but the same spirit. There are differences in ministries but the same L_ord. There are differences in the operations but the same God the Father works in all.....

The word "differences" is the same word translated here as "excellent."

The reason I am pointing this out is that many who declare and much false teaching does so today, in fact those people who come by your house and knock on your door. They are the ones.....

They say that Jesus is only an angel.....Oh, no...the text says "a more excellent name"....And the root of excellent is "difference". And is so used in the Bible.

Here is another one, I Cor 15:41It says "there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differs from star in glory."

They are all different. They are not the same. Just like the snow flakes. Everyone of them is different. The word Paul uses in that text is the same word translated here "excellent".

Christ is different than the angels, In his name meaning "character" and "nature." He is different

By the way, there are two ways. Some people like to outline the book of Hebrews around these two thoughts. There are two ways in which christ is more excellent. This is beautiful, if you want to see the whole book of Hebrews in this simple way.

In Verse 4, Christ has a more excellent name. Referring to his person and character.

In chapter 8 verse 6 is the second time the word "excellent" is used. It says: "But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry."

First, a more excellent name. His person. His character. He is greater than anyone: Moses, the prophets, the priest, the angels, anyone. Then the last section dealing with a more excellent ministry. Whereby he is the high Priest, he is the sacrifice, he is the atonement. He is everything in the Temple. He is more excellent.

(3E) Now, in Hebrews 1:4 I said the word "excellent" means "different" What about the word "more?"The word "more" is simply a comparative. It is put onto the word "excellent" to emphasis it. That he is "greater" in difference.

So, the next time shme one tells you that Jesus is just an angel you show him that word.

Not, only is Jesus different. But he is different in a greater way. Far greater. More excellent than any of the angels.

Now, beginning at Vs 5 through Vs 14 there is a series here of 7 quotation from the O.T. which are given to us to prove how "more excellent" Jesus is than Angels. 7 quotations. You may study them on your own.

^{Now}~~And~~ the message we get in these verses is that Jesus is Lord. He is God. He is soverign. God desires that Jesus be exalted above every name. If there is any ~~person here~~ who is more important than Jesus, you ~~are~~ wrong. You are on the wrong track....

John the Baptist said that He must increase and I must decrease. Everyone of us needs to get a new veiw of how exalted, how wondefful, how great is Jesus ~~our~~ Lord. And we should not Question him. How many of us have said, "Lord, I will do anything you want ~~he~~ to ~~do~~. You are God. I will never question your person."

Instead we go around trying to run our own lives and giving lip service to this wonderful soverign Lord Jesus Christ. We act like we love him and we believe in him. Yet, we will not bow down and say "What will you have me to do."....If there was ever a motivation for christian committement, it is that he is greater than all. ~~A~~ more excellent name. That at the mane of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Listen, friends, if you have come to believe in your heart these things about Jeus, don"t hestitage anymore to publical acknowledge that He is Lord of your life. Confess him as L^Urd...Receive him as your saviour... He only is worthy to be our Saviour. Is he yours?[?]

Shall we pray