



**HELD
FIRM
TO HOLD FAST**

Jesus, Far Above Angels

Hebrews 2:5-18



WALLENSTEIN
BIBLE
CHAPEL

Hebrews? Angels? Priests?



WALLENSTEIN
BIBLE
CHAPEL

Hebrews: The Supremacy of Christ

1. Christ, superior to the prophets 1:1-3
2. Christ, superior to the angels 1:4-2:18
3. Christ superior to Moses 3:1-4:13
4. Christ superior to Aaron 4:14-10:18
5. Christ, superior as the new and living way 10:19- 12:29
6. Concluding words 13:1-25



**We would say,
“of course Christ is
superior to all of them!”**



The world around us asks

1. Is Christ, superior to Moses and Judaism?
2. Is Christ, superior to Mohamed and Islam?
3. Is Christ, superior to Buddha and Buddhism?
3. Is Christ superior to the gods of Hinduism?
4. Is Christ, superior to atheistic secularists?
5. How dare you say so?!



The claims of Jesus

“Jesus claims rule over all of heaven and earth. He presents himself not as one possible path to God, but as God himself. We may choose to disbelieve him. But he cannot be one truth among many. He has not left us that option.”

from *Confronting Christianity*, Rebecca McLaughlin

The Jews of the first century had a big problem with this!



Possible background of Hebrews

Members of the Jewish Dead Sea Sect, the Essenes (200 years before Christ) were awaiting the advent of two Messianic figures, of whom the kingly would be subordinate to the priestly, but both of them would be subordinate to the supreme figure of the Archangel Michael, thus subjecting the world to come to angelic authority.

Philip Hughes



“It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour and put everything under his feet."

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

“In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.

So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."”

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Heb 2:5-18 NIV)

Hebrews: The Supremacy of Christ

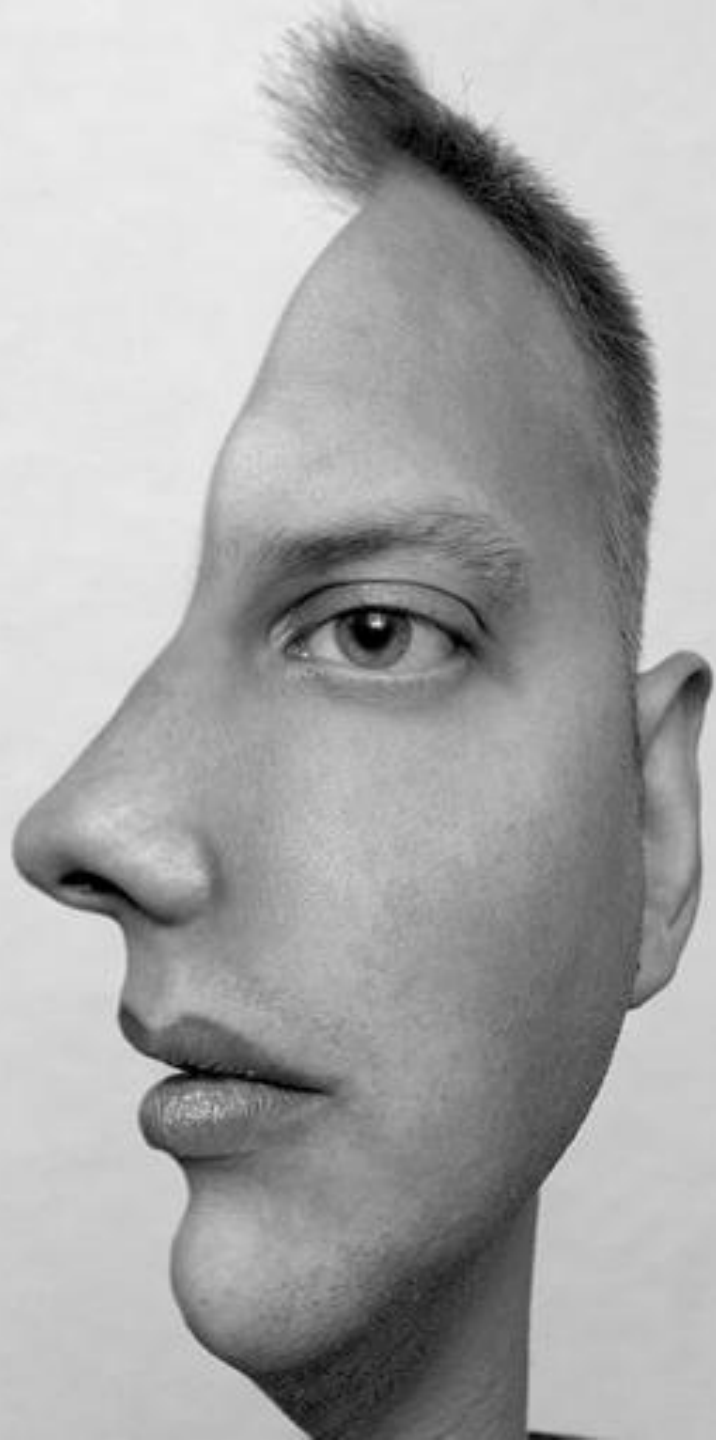
1. Christ, superior to the prophets. 1:1-3
2. Christ, superior to the angels 1:4-2:18
 1. Proved from the Old Testament 1:4-13
 - 1st warning: don't neglect such a great salvation 2:1-4
 2. Proved by his NT, "Earthly Career"/Incarnation 2:5-18
 1. Everything is subject to him 2:5-9
 2. He has been perfected 2:10-13
 3. He destroyed the top "ex-angel" 2:14-18



Everything is Subject to Him

1. Under the new covenant predicted by the OT everything is subject to him, not to angels. 2:5
2. Here it is in Psalm 8





**Psalm 8, is a description of loftiness of human beings. Vs 6-8
But here we see it applied to Jesus. Vs. 9
We call these Psalms which have a double meaning “Messianic Psalms.**

Everything is Subject to Him vs. 5-9

Psalm 8:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour

- 1. *Why?*** because he suffered death, far from being evidence of defeat, this became the foundation for his glory!
- 2. *How so?*** so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. The *foundation stone of God's deliverance plan*



He has been “perfected” vs. 10-13

1. His suffering was all a part of God’s perfect plan. Vs. 10 Wow!
 1. He had to become one of us. Vs 17
 2. He didn’t just think about going to the cross. It had to be done
 3. He was uniquely qualified to bear the weight of the world’s sin
 4. He experienced every temptation, in order to become a merciful high priest who knows our burdens by experience vs 17



He has been “perfected” vs. 10-13

- 2. By tasting death for everyone He is perfectly joined to those he came to deliver vs 9**
 - 1. Both the one who makes men holy (Jesus) and those who are made holy (us) are of the same family.**
 - 2. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. (Double Wow!!)**
 - 3. Now he is crowned with glory and honour!! Triple Wow!!!)**



He has been “perfected” vs. 10-13

3. He identifies with us completely!

1. Vs. 12, quoting Ps 22:22, after his crucifixion, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." (this is us he's talking about)
2. As he is bring deliverance for us he quotes Is 8:17 "I will put my trust in him."
3. And to ice the cake, in 13, he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Is 8:18 (Wow again!)



He destroyed the top “ex-angel” 2:14-18

1. He became flesh and blood so he could destroy the one who has the power of death vs. 14
 1. The devil, previously an angel, who rebelled against God
 2. The devil had the power of death in a secondary sense – since the fall
 3. By dying the death that he died, Jesus destroyed the devil, breaking his power, a defeated enemy
 4. He set his children free from the fear of death vs 15



Freed from the fear of death

“When I behold the wailing in public places, the groanings over those who have departed this life, the howlings and all other unseemly behaviour, I am ashamed before the heathen and Jews and heretics who see it and indeed before all who for this reason laugh us to scorn.

May God grant that you all depart this life unwailed!

John Chrysostom died 347 – 407



Freed from the fear of death

“He who fears death or is not willing to die, is not sufficiently Christian. As yet such people lack faith in the resurrection, and love this life more than the life to come. Martin Luther 1483 - 1546

“Although we must still meet death, let us nevertheless be calm and serene in living and dying, when we have Christ going before us. If anyone cannot set his mind at rest by disregarding death, that person should know that he has not yet gone far enough in the faith of Christ.” John Calvin 1509 – 1564



A current book on death and dying

Mercy, Life in the Season of Dying

By Peter Roebbelen



He destroyed the top “ex-angel” 2:14-18

2. And, he become our merciful and faithful high priest vs 17
 1. His offering of himself removed God’s righteous judgement against us vs 17
 2. Because he suffered and was tempted, he understands and helps us perfectly vs 18



What's the point?

**See the overwhelming,
loving, determination
of a “Rescuing God”
on display in Jesus!**





**God's
overwhelmingly
gracious plan to
bring deliverance
to the people
living there!**

He is superior in every way to angels!

1. Everything is subject to him!
2. He has been perfected by suffering!
3. He has destroyed the top “ex-angel” and freed us from the fear of death!
4. He is our merciful and faithful high priest who understands us completely!



"Our Great High Priest Is Sitting"

By Lord Adalbert Percy Cecil (1841-1889)

**OUR great High Priest is sitting
At God's right hand above,
For us His hands uplifting,
In sympathy and love;
While here below, in weakness,
We onward speed our way;
In sorrow oft and sickness,
We sigh and groan and pray.**

**On WBC
Facebook &
Website**



**Through manifold temptation,
My soul holds on her course,
Christ's mighty intercession
Alone is her resource;
My gracious High Priest's pleadings,
Who on the cross did bleed,
Bring down God's grace and blessings,
Help in each hour of need.**

**On WBC
Facebook &
Website**



**O Jesus blessed Saviour,
We hope to see Thee soon,
Who once on earth did suffer,
Who soon for us wilt come.
'Twas God's most gracious favour
Gave You, His Son, to die;
To live our Intercessor;
To plead for us on high.**

**On WBC
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Website**

