“But We See Jesus”

November 8, 2015

Hebrews 1:1-8

Please open your Bible with me to the first chapter of the Epistle of Hebrews. Angels are portrayed in many different ways, as you are fully aware. You can see angels depicted almost everywhere. The Bible has quite a bit to say about angels. But there’s one chapter that has more to say on the topic than any other. It’s Hebrews chapter one.

How important are the angels? There’s a lot we don’t know about them. But what we do know shows they are significant in God’s plan for mankind.

And you might be surprised to learn that most people, at least, most Americans, believe angels exists. The most recent surveys say that upwards to 70% of Americans believe in them. Angels, by the way, are still a very popular subject in music. And, what’s even more amazing, is that right now there are no less than sixty-five (65) pop, rock, punk rock; even rap songs, popular songs, that refer to angels? Sixty- five of them.

Go to YouTube and here’s what you’ll find if you search for pop songs with “angels” in the title. Here are the top thirteen of those sixty-five songs with “angel” in their titles.

1. ["Angel" by Sarah Mclachlan](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1GmxMTwUgs&feature=related)
2. ["Calling All Angels" by Train](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaG9SDxwPBg)
3. ["She Talks to Angels" by Black Crowes](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a76FeV2-Dw)
4. ["If God Will Send His Angels" by U2](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hjvOzn7m6g)
5. ["Calling All Angels" by Jane Siberry](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zmztqoztvQ&feature=related)
6. ["Angel" by Jack Johnson](http://youtu.be/gr-Ff8us0Hg)
7. ["Angels or Devils" by Dishwalla](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nBHQH5qvEA&feature=related)
8. ["Angel of Harlem" by U2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1SfVhQOf-s)
9. ["Angel" by Jimi Hendrix](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiSfTyrvJlg)
10. ["Angel" by Fleetwood Mac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXC3eOAaJn8)
11. ["Angel" by Madonna](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APO9ZKtiy1c)
12. ["Angels and Sailors" by The Doors](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Sz84tZReUc)
13. “Angels” by Chance the Rapper (October 26, 2015)

So, the world likes to write and sing songs about angels.

Now, add to that the 289 references in the Bible to angels. But, what’s really intriguing about these 289 references is this. They are only incidental references; almost passing references. Each passage where you find angels, the passage does refer to angels. But it almost always reminds you of some great characteristic of God.

So, how important are they? My answer is this. They are definitely important. But they aren’t as important as human beings. And here’s the reason I say that. Look with me to Hebrews 1:4.

Hebrews 1:4 Jesus, *“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*

Hebrews 1:6 *“And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”*

And Hebrews 1:13 *“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”*

First, let me say this. The Apostle Paul is a teacher when he writes his epistles. Hebrews is an excellent example of his teaching. And let me share with you this about the whole Book of Hebrews. Hebrews was originally written to Jewish Christians. And the key to Hebrews is the LORD Jesus Christ. When you read Hebrews, you discover one very important term; “better.” Hebrews has thirteen chapters and you’ll find the word “better” thirteen times. In Hebrews you find that Jesus is “better” than anything or anyone spoken of in the Jewish Scriptures, the OT. He’s better than all the prophets of the OT. He’s a better priest; better than even Melchisedec. He’s a better Mediator of a better Covenant; better even than the Covenant God made with Israel through Moses. And He’s a better sacrifice; better than the entire group of sacrifices offered by the Jews for over 1,400 years.

So, the Hebrews, many of whom had now become Believers in Jesus as their Messiah, now were hearing from another Jewish Believer, the Apostle Paul on the subject of this Jesus.

And Paul teaches here that Jesus is Superior in importance to all angels combined. That’s really the message of Hebrews chapter one. Angels definitely are important. But, they are far and away quite inferior to the Son of God. You seem angels are created beings. And when Jesus was born, the Father gave this command. “Let all the angels of God worship *Him*.”

And the second thing Paul teaches here is that the LORD has not relegated the coming world to angels.

Look a little further down the passage to Hebrews chapter two and verse five. Hebrews 1:6 *“And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”*

The angelic race, if I could call it that, plays a significant role in the history of mankind. But, they just aren’t as important as the human race. Can you see the LORD’s point here? It *is* important to know the place angels hold. But, He says here in verse five that it’s *not* the angels who will rule in the world to come. God has planned for the world to come *not* to be subject to angels.

So, they are on God’s “importance scale.” But there is Someone Who is far more important. Look with me at verse six and see just who that is. Follow with me as I read Hebrews 2:6.

Hebrews 2:6 *“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man that thou visitest him? (7) Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*

*(8) Thou hast 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 see not yet all things put under him.”*

In this passage, Paul quotes the great Israeli King David. This is a quote from the eighth Psalm; one of the many creation Psalms. One night, as David was looking out into the starry expanse above his head; he observed, like you would, the constellations and the activities of the heavens. And as he observed the lights in the sky above him, he was reminded of the first page of God’s Word, where God tells us He made all of those things by His voice; the heavens, the stars, the planets; the moon; the sun. All of it entered into existence by His voice.

So, as David writes, Psalm 8 is his response. Verse six again. Hebrews 2:6 “Hebrews 2:6 *“But one in a certain place testified, saying, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man that thou visitest him?”*

David finds himself dwelling on the significance of man. And he’s overwhelmed by the LORD’s interest in him. David, like you and me, is one single individual among the millions on the earth. He’s one single person in the created universe around and above him. He sees himself as tiny. One single person is like one speck of dust in comparison to an entire dust storm. When you compare yourself to the creation around you; you are just -- so small. In fact, here’s what he says; verse seven. Hebrews 2:7 *“(7) Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; …”*

Can you see how the Bible stresses importance and non-importance? The angels *are* important. But where do I stand in relation to them? I, you, mankind, we have been made a little lower than the angels. But read on; verse seven again Hebrews 2:7 “…*thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:…”*

The LORD did *not* set the angels over this world. He set over it the ones who were made a little lower than them. The human race, we human beings, according to God’s word are lower than the angels. Yet, we, the human race, have been crowned with glory and honor. How? We are the highest of God’s creatures and we’ve been set over the other creatures of the world.

So, yes, God’s angels are important. But, it’s not the angels who have been crowned with the glory and honor of ruling over the earth. Nor will it be the angels who will have any authority in the age to come. Instead, the LORD has given that to the human race. Look at verse eight. Hebrews 2:8 *“Thou hast 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 see* ***not yet*** *all things put under him.”*

Not yet. You see, every part of creation *will* one day be subject to man. But that won’t be until the “world to come.” Right now, we stand above the rest of creation. But some day the human race will truly be over everything. That’s what Paul is teaching here.

Now comes the question “why?” Why so much teaching on angels and their importance? Why should Paul stress the truth that angels will not reign over the world to come? Here’s why, Everything Paul says here about mankind and the angels will now become the basis for what he wants to say to the Jews about Someone else; Someone far more important.

Please look with me at this ninth verse. Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Paul goes from the important to the most important. Yes, the angels are important. But they are not superior to Jesus. The world to come will one day be subject to the oversight of the human race. And yes, that’s important. But, says Paul, look at the LORD Jesus. Keep your eye on Jesus Christ. Look at the Only Begotten Son of God. Look at Jesus.

Folks, the most important Person there is is the Son of God for lots and lots of reasons. But Paul wants you and me to know the main reason.

Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Here’s what’s on my heart today. I’ve titled today’s sermon “But We See Jesus.” Shall we pray?

First, look at Jesus with the eye of faith.

It’s great to know about the angels. It’s great to sing about the angels. It’s great to know about the importance of angels and the importance of mankind. It’s important to know who’s going to rule in the age to come.

But all of that pales in the face of one Person; Jesus Christ. Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus,…”*

Folks, the most important Person there is is Jesus Christ.

He, the LORD Jesus Christ, stands above everything and everyone everywhere. There’s none like Him. “There is None Like Him.”

Jeremiah 10:6 says this. Jeremiah 10:6 *“Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O Lord; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.”*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnhUh2tt97Q

So Paul says “But we see Jesus.” The Apostles, including Paul, could say they “saw” Jesus in the flesh. But He had already ascended into Heaven. So, even Paul couldn’t say he was right then seeing Jesus in the flesh. And you can’t say that either. But what you can say is this. “I see Jesus through the eyes of faith.”

The Bible teaches that the key to pleasing God is to act in faith. Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

God has given to you two sets of eyes; one to see the things in this world; and one to see the things that are not of this world. We call this second pair of eyes our “spiritual eyesight.”

How do I know that? I know it by experience and I know it from Scripture.

Ephesians 1:15 *“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, (16) Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; (17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*

*(18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,…”*

Do you see this line “the eyes of your understanding”? It implies that we may be able to quote “see” things beyond the physical realm. It’s only by the eyes of faith that you can “see” Jesus.

First, then, look at Jesus with the eye of faith.

Second, as a man, Jesus was also “made a little lower than the angels.”

Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels…”*

Whatever you know about Jesus, this is one of the greatest teachings of the Bible. When the Bibles says that Jesus was “made a little lower than the angels,” it implies that He, the Infinite Creator was made a finite human being when He was formed in His mother’s womb.

Folks, Jesus, the eternal Son of God, the Creator of the universe, entered into humanity. He became a man; a baby. He grew into a young boy, then a teen-ager; then a young adult; then an adult – a man.

So, yes, He was made a little lower than the angels. When Jesus took on flesh in the Incarnation, He lived as a man. But, remember this. Jesus lived *temporarily* inferior to angels. His time as a man “a little lower than the angels” was intended for a limited time. The Creator of man became, for thirty-three years, a servant of man.

Paul says something similar to this to the Philippians. Philippians 2:5 *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:…”*

We call this His Incarnation. In His Incarnation, Jesus took on a human nature. He became just like you and me. So, yes, He became temporarily “lower than the angels.”

First, then, look at Jesus with the eye of faith.

Second, as a man, Jesus was also “made a little lower than the angels.”

Third, Jesus’ death was for every man.

Look with me at verse nine again. Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

And what is, in Paul’s mind, so critical to “see” and understand? It’s this, that Jesus, *“…was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Nothing in the universe is more important than the reason why the Creator entered into humanity. Paul gives us three words; three of the most important words you will ever read about Jesus.

One, “for the suffering of death.”

Two, “crowned with glory and honour.”

And three, “that He, by God’s grace, should taste death for every man.”

Suffering, crowning, and tasting death. That’s what Jesus should be known for by you and me. That’s how you today can and should see Jesus.

This is really the theme of the NT.

Paul wrote to the Philippians these words. Philippians 2:6 *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*(9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10)**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;…”*

Our LORD Jesus came here to suffer. Now, some of us look on suffering as something to despise and reject; something that would make us unhappy or significantly change us in comes way. We view suffering unfavorably. But suffering was the LORD’s priority.

Think about this. Wouldn’t it have been easier for God to become a man and just instantly remove suffering? Isn’t suffering a huge negative both for Jesus and for Christians? Folks, suffering is the supreme essential. Nothing stands so high as suffering; especially when it’s suffering that will benefit someone else.

No, it isn’t pretty. No, it isn’t easy. No, it isn’t what we would choose. But suffering is the key to understanding the Person and work of Jesus. Without suffering, there is no Savior; without suffering there is no Heaven awaiting us. And without suffering there is no eternal life for you and me.

Suffering is truly the result and the effect of sin’s entry into the world. But, where would you be today if Christ had refused to suffer?

First, suffering.

Second, crowning.

Please don’t ever think that anyone suffers just for the sake of suffering. That’s nonsense. Jesus suffered for good reason. And; the end of suffering is a crown.

By the way, we know that the Bible teaches that Jesus is better than the angels. We also know that the Bible teaches that Jesus was made lower than the angels for a period of time. But think about the purpose for which Jesus became “lower than the angels.”

It was not to merely suffer. But it was to suffering and afterwards receive crowning. Human beings receive crowns for a strange reason. A king receives a crown because he’s a descendant of his father, the king. Or, he receives a reward for his effort in defeating other competitors in a race. But Jesus received a crown because He suffered.

Now, grant you, this wasn’t any ordinary suffering, as you are about to see. Jesus will definitely receive the Kingly crown of David because He’s descended from David’s royal line. But, this type of crowning is the greatest type of crowning. Jesus was crowned for suffering.

Have you ever wondered about the crown of thorns the Jews placed on Jesus’ head as they led Him out of the city to be crucified? That crown was their way of mocking the LORD. “Oh, so you say you are a king!”

Matthew 27:29 *“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”*

That crown was part of His suffering. So, you see, when we seek a crown, it’s for completely different reasons than when Jesus was crowned. His crown was given because of His suffering for you.

Paul gives us these three reasons as to why Jesus became a man and was made lower than the angels.

First, “for the suffering of death.”

Two, “crowned with glory and honour.”

Then, third, “that He, by God’s grace, should taste death for every man.”

Suffering and death; that is why the LORD became so human. There’s another verse in Hebrews that says that it was for “the joy that was before Him” as to why He suffered and died. That’s true. But it’s also true that Jesus came to earth to suffer and die. He came here to “taste death for every man.”

Back in the OT we read this about Christ. Isaiah 53:5 *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

And in the NT we read this. John 6:33 *“For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”* John 6:51 *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

Folks, do you see what God’s Word, through the Apostle Paul, is teaching us? He wants us to see Jesus as the One Who tasted death for every man.

Now, yes, I could give my life for the world. I could say before I did that I am giving myself to taste death for every man. But there is no way my death can accomplish that. The only One Whose death has that kind of power in it is the death of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came here so that by “the grace of God” He “should taste death for every man.”

Folks, there is wonderful power in this One Man’s death. And that power is the power to save your soul. You see, Jesus died a death I could not die so that I might life a life I could not live apart from Him.

Jesus died a sinless man who took upon Him the sins of the world. I John 2:1 *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: (2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Are you looking at Jesus Christ through the eyes of faith? If not, why not?

First, then, look at Jesus with the eye of faith.

Second, as a man, Jesus was also “made a little lower than the angels.”

And third, Jesus’ death was for every man.

Where does that put you? Do you know that you need Him more than you need your food or air or water or sleep or ability to live in this world?

My hope and prayer for you today is this; that you would look by faith at the Son of God; that you would know that He was made a little lower than the angels; and that He tasted death for every man.

Now, will you respond to Him? Your response can be as follows.

* REPENT - “change your mind about God, Christ, your sin, and God’s free gift of salvation.”
* BELIEVE - “simply trust Jesus Christ alone as the One Who paid the entire penalty for your sins.”

Here’s a simple salvation prayer for you to pray if you’ve never trusted the LORD for His free gift of eternal life.

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Salvation Prayer

“LORD, I admit that I am a sinner I believe that Jesus died in my place on the cross. I repent of my sins. I want to be completely forgiven today. I am trusting you right now to save me. Thank you. Amen”

What will you do today? Will you just wait and hope that the death of Christ will help you? Or will you do what is necessary to become a man or a woman who has been deeply affected by the death of the Son of God.

See Him through the eyes of faith.

Second, see Him Who was “made a little lower than the angels.”

And third, see Jesus’ death as it was; He tasted death for every man.

Now please turn with me to Hymn # 562 “Be Thou My Vision.”