

# Jesus is Better

Just about everyone agrees that Jesus was a great man who spoke with wisdom, served the poor, and even worked miracles. But is that all Jesus was - a really great guy? Throughout the years, this world has seen plenty of great men come and go: names like Alexander, Leonardo, Shakespeare, and Churchill come to mind. But nobody worships or prays to other great men like we do with Jesus. So what sets Jesus apart? Why is he worthy, not only of our admiration, but of our worship? For four weeks in September at The Story Church, we'll explore what makes Jesus unique, and we'll discover why the greatness of Jesus surpasses that of even the greatest men on earth.

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## September 7, 2025 - Part 1 - Better Than the Angels

**What makes the book of *Hebrews* unique among the other New Testament books? What does that tell us about the content of this book?**

The Story Church		
Who wrote the books of the New Testament?		
<u>Disciples:</u> <b>8 BOOKS</b> Matthew, John, 1/2 Peter, 1/2/3 John, Revelation	<u>Paul:</u> <b>13 BOOKS</b> Romans, 1/2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1/2 Thessalonians, 1/2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon	<u>Historians:</u> <b>3 BOOKS</b> Mark, Luke, Acts
	<u>Half-Brothers:</u> <b>2 BOOKS</b> James, Jude	<u>Anonymous:</u> <b>1 BOOK</b> <b>HEBREWS</b>

**Hebrews 1:1-4** - In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

**What's different about the opening section of *Hebrews* compared to most other books in the New Testament? What explanation have scholars offered about why *Hebrews* begins this way?**

**If *Hebrews* is actually a sermon manuscript, how would you summarize the thesis statement or main idea of this sermon based on its first four verses?**

**Heb. 1:5-7, 13-14** - To which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son...I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

The author of *Hebrews* believed that exalting angels (powerful spirits) to the status of Christ presented such a threat to the Church that he opened his sermon with a passionate plea to keep the angels in their proper place. Similar warnings about worshipping angels are found elsewhere in the Bible.

**Rev. 19:10** - At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!"

Why is the worship or exaltation of angels so dangerous?

### 3 Common Misconceptions about Angels

1. Angels are \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_) with \_\_\_\_\_  
Your notes:

2. We'll \_\_\_\_\_ angels when we \_\_\_\_\_  
Your notes:

3. All angels are \_\_\_\_\_  
Your notes:

How is worshiping or exalting the angels to the status of Christ similar to modern-day, spiritual practices like psychic readings, astrology, tarot cards, divination, etc.?

What are the dangers inherent in these practices? If God isn't the one speaking through those mediums, who is?

*Your notes on Jenn Nizza's comments:*



#### **Overflow for Students TONIGHT!**

Overflow is a night where 6th-12th grade students worship together, hear a message that speaks to where they are in life, and enjoy high-energy activities. Overflow takes place every first Sunday of the month from 6:30-9pm, and kicks off TONIGHT! Learn more: [\*\*thestory.church/students\*\*](http://thestory.church/students)



#### **Fall Festival for Families**

Save the date to join us on Saturday, October 25 (10am-Noon) for our annual Fall Festival in River Oaks! This event is open to families with children of all ages. Visit [\*\*thestory.church/events\*\*](http://thestory.church/events) to read more about reserving your FREE tickets and volunteering at the event.



#### **Last Chance to Register for Groups**

There's still time to join one of our groups or classes starting this fall - including Start Here on Sunday mornings, ReEngage or Merge for couples, or Gather Moms starting next week! Visit [\*\*thestory.church/groups\*\*](http://thestory.church/groups) to see all of our available groups and register today.