

He Has Inherited a More Excellent Name

Hebrews 1:4-5

The Hebrews believed angels performed God's work on earth. The angel Michael ("*Who is like God?*") protected and guarded the Israelites. The angel Gabriel ("*God is my strength*") provided courage and Uriel ("*God is my light*") brought wisdom during dark days in Israel. The writer of Hebrews shows that Jesus from Nazareth is superior to the angels. In verse 3 he gives five clear statements showing how Jesus is *the image of the invisible God*. Jesus is more than just a man. He is God with us. When Christ is on our side nothing and no one is able to stand against us.

I. We believe in Him who has a name better than the angels.

The superior name (vs. 4 "*he has inherited a more excellent name*") is the name "My Son." "*For to which of the angels did he ever say 'You are my Son'?*" (v.5). The answer is "none."

1. At Christ's birth Gabriel told Mary, "*he shall be called the Son of God*" (Luke 1:35).

2. At Christ's baptism God said, "*This is my beloved Son*" (Luke 3:22).

3. At Christ's transformation on the mountain with his disciples, everyone saw Moses and Elijah with Him, but God said, "*This is my beloved Son: hear Him!*" (Mark 9:7).

There is no reason to prove that God is superior to the angels. We are talking about a man.

Jesus, the man born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and died in Jerusalem, is the Messiah.

He "inherited" His name "Son of God." An inheritance is something you receive because of relationship. You "inherit" because of the same blood and the same family. *Jesus is the image of the invisible God*. This is the uniqueness of Jesus the Messiah. He is the unique God/man.

II. We receive from Him who has a better name than the angels.

To whom do I belong? He is the Son of **God**. In whom is my trust? He is the Son of **God**.

"*God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-control*" (II Tim. 1:7).

This man with dusty feet, robed in simple garments, the one called Jesus of Nazareth?

Jesus is the Son of Man and Son of God. He is the Suffering Servant and the King of Kings.

Heb. 1:5 has two quotations. "*You are my Son; today I have begotten you*" (Ps. 2:7), and

"*I will be a father to him and he will be a son to me*" (II Sam. 7:14). The latter are God's words regarding David's son Solomon. Even the OT narratives are types (pictures)

of Christ's person and work. He created. He came. He loved. He died. He rose. He reigns.

A. King David and King Solomon picture the humiliation and exaltation of Christ.

David and Solomon are both a picture of Jesus. David pictures Jesus in His earthly ministry in all his afflictions and Solomon through a long, glorious and peaceful reign.

B. The two goats on the Day of Atonement picture the humiliation and exaltation of Christ.

On the great Day of Atonement, the sins of Israel were laid on one and the other goat set free.

C. Moses, Joshua and the Old Covenant picture the humiliation and exaltation of Christ.

When Israel sinned against God with the golden calf, Moses broke the tablets of stone and said to the Lord "*If you will forgive their sin... and if not, please blot me out of Your book which You have written*" (Exodus 32:32). Moses offered himself for Israel.

This verse is a reason I believe the ancient Israelites knew the concept of substitution.

Moses died. Joshua (Jehoshua) then led the children of Israel into Canaan (Joshua 1:2).

What you have received from Jesus is an eternal relationship and an eternal inheritance.