

Hebrews 2021 – Jesus is greater
1/10/21

Financial update! Thank you!!

CONTEXT

- SEE PICTURES // DISCUSS EVENTS OF THE YEAR and this past WEEK
- The book of Hebrews was written to a people needing endurance, needing to overcome, needing encouragement and, consequently, are tempted to turn away from Jesus, to live their own lives, to disconnect themselves from the church, to live however the h--- they want.

JESUS IS GREATER.

Last week: Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

His sitting with God implies both a responsibility now completed and his first estate restored. Obtaining "a more excellent honor," or "name," than any of the angels implies that God rewarded the Son for his excellent but costly ministry as the promised Suffering Servant. James Earl Massey, "Hebrews" in True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary, ed. Brian K. Blount et al. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2007), 446.

TODAY: THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IS GREATER THAN WHAT WAS DELIVERED THROUGH ANGELS!!

What's the deal with all the angels??

(1) Angels are a bit above humanity (Heb. 2:5).

The underlying issue being addressed in this section, indeed a crucial matter throughout the whole of Hebrews, is not that the readers find too much glory in angels but that they find too little of it in Jesus.¹

¹ Thomas G. Long, *Hebrews*, Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1997), 20.

(2) Angels were mediators of the law (Acts 7:52-53).

IN THESE LAST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON!! It is almost certain that angel worship is not the problem. There's no command to stop worshipping angels. BUT there is a command to HEAR the word, the message spoken through Jesus.

One prominent development is the belief that angels served as the first link in the chain of the mediation of torah between God and the people.

David A. deSilva, Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews" (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 93-94.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

**“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”? (Ps 2:7 - Writings// preached on this previously)**

Or again,

**“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”? (2 Sam. 7:14 - Prophets)**

What's the answer? NONE. God called NONE of the angels his Son.

In the Synoptic Gospels this text lies behind the words at Jesus' baptism and his transfiguration. In Acts 13:33 it is applied to Christ's resurrection. Long after Davidic monarchy had ceased, this psalm came to be interpreted eschatologically as referring to the hoped-for future Davidic king who would once more reign on God's behalf.

¹ Marie E. Isaacs, *Reading Hebrews and James: A Literary and Theological Commentary*, Reading the New Testament Series (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2002), 26.

**⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God's angels worship him.” (Sept. Deut 32:43 the Law or Ps 96:7)**

In these contexts, 'firstborn' does not mean that he was literally born first. Rather, it is a title that declares Christ's special position of honour and dignity. It is equivalent to the earlier reference to him as God's 'heir' (1:2). In the culture of the time, a firstborn son was the one who receives the greatest share of the inheritance and a special blessing from his father.¹

¹ Tokunboh Adeyemo, *Africa Bible Commentary (Nairobi, Kenya; Grand Rapids, MI: WordAlive Publishers; Zondervan, 2006), 1517.*

So, even though he was, for a short time, made lesser than the angels, yet, he is over them. This idea of firstborn isn't that Jesus was born first in line, but first in prominence. Let all the angels worship him, the one who is over all.

In summary, according to Heb 1:5-6 God declares three things to be true about the Son, that is, three reasons the Son is superior to the angels. First, the Son has been inaugurated as the Davidic king by the Father at the Son's exaltation (v. 5). Second, this new position is a permanent position or dynasty (v. 6a). Third, as a result of this exaltation, all the angels are called by God to worship the Son (v. 6b); thus, he has complete authority over them.¹

¹ David L. Allen, *Hebrews*, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2010), 175.

**⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.” (Ps. 104:4)**

This just to say that they are not Lord over all. They are messengers. They are servants. They are doers. They haven't sat down, in the way that Jesus has or in the place that Jesus has. They're not done. They keep working. They're working today on behalf of God.

They are made. He is begotten. They have a beginning. He has no beginning. They are created. He is Creator.

As those who belong to the created order, angels are subject to God's creative activity and may be transformed into the elemental forces of wind and fire. The writer to the Hebrews draws upon this interpretative tradition. The ephemeral, mutable form of the angels underscores their inferiority to the Son, who stands above the created order and is not subject to change and decay (cf. Kuss, 37; Michel, 117; Thompson, CBQ 38 [1976] 357).¹

¹ William L. Lane, *Hebrews 1-8*, vol. 47A, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1991), 29.

**⁸ But about the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.” (Ps 45:6-7)**

The kingly imagery is strong. Throne, forever, scepter, justice, kingdom.

**¹⁰ He also says,
“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
¹¹ They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
¹² You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.” (Ps 102:25-27)**

Not only is the law given through angels limited, so are the heavens and earth limited. It's kind of crazy to think that heaven and earth will “wear out like a garment.” [Rev. 21:1-5](#); [Heb 13:8](#)

THE PURGE. Old stuff - share it, donate it, or trash it.

What's the point? In contrast to the heavens and the earth, which will wear out, which will perish, which will be changed, unlike those, Jesus remains. Jesus remains the same. He will never wear out and never perish. The voice of the heavens and earth will at some point go silent...but his voice will remain.

Moreover, the addressees are being reminded that they cannot place their trust in, or seek to build their sense of security and safety on, anything belonging to this shakable, visible creation. Material wealth and the security or honor that are afforded in this earth are ultimately unreliable, destined not to "remain" constant but rather to be shaken and removed (12:26–28). Only the Son and his promise provides a "sure anchor" (see 6:19–20).¹

¹ David A. deSilva, *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews"* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 101.

What about you? What about that tattered robe of yours? What about the work of your hands, what you've built, what you've invested in? There's no doubt, many of us have accomplished much in regard to worldly success or are on our way to such things. Don't get confused. What is unseen is eternal. What is seen is temporary.

**¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say,
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet"? (Ps. 110:1)**

Again, what's the answer? None of them. No angel was ever told by God the Father to sit at his right hand. Only the Son.

This is vivid imagery given the events in our city last year.

And what we know, what is absolutely clear, what the church needs to heed, according to the Scriptures, is our enemy is not flesh and blood. It is not another person, no matter their race or gender or religious beliefs or sexual ethics or political ideologies. Our enemies, the ones which serve as a footstool to our king, are sin and death and the devil.

¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Angels, slightly above humanity, are yet sent to serve you and me, those who will inherit salvation, meaning those who will eventually join Jesus in his dwelling place, in the new heavens and new earth.

NOW--QUESTION--WHO HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY SPEAKER IN TODAY'S PASSAGE??

God the Father. Right? **GOD HAS BEEN SPEAKING THE ENTIRE TIME.** Through OT writings, prophecies, psalms. Again and again, God the Father is speaking about the goodness and greatness of the Son. In former times, he spoke through the prophets. In former times, he used mediators like angels to deliver the law, God's Word. **But in these latter times, he spoke**

through his son. He didn't have the law, God's Word, sent by angels. He sent his Son, the divine Word, the final Word.

EXPOSITION. EXPOSITION. EXPOSITION. We haven't even gotten to your job yet. There's been no EXHORTATION yet. In that case, take your eyes off yourself. Stop listening to your words, or the words of the politicians, or the words heard through social media. Listen to the words of God.

- The book of Hebrews was written to a people needing endurance, needing to overcome, needing encouragement, needing to listen to the words and salvation of God (and trust/obey him) because they're tempted to turn away from Jesus, to live their own lives, to disconnect themselves from the church, to live however the hell they want.
- JESUS IS GREATER. Greater than your challenges. Greater than your pain. Greater than your anxiety. Greater than your job loss. Greater than your boredom. Greater than your desires for familiarity. Greater than depression. Greater than your apathy toward him. Greater than you sin. Jesus. Is. Greater.

CONCLUSION:

As long as their eyes are on this world, commitment to the Christian group may begin to appear disadvantageous; with their eyes on the "day" of the Son's return, they will be more apt to accept and follow the author's plan for survival and even success, which involves continued commitment to the confession and investment in one another and in Christian witness.¹

¹ David A. deSilva, *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle "to the Hebrews"* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 102.

\$388,000 given >> \$352,000 goal

E 38th St

Cup Foods metro

CUP FOODS

CUP FOODS

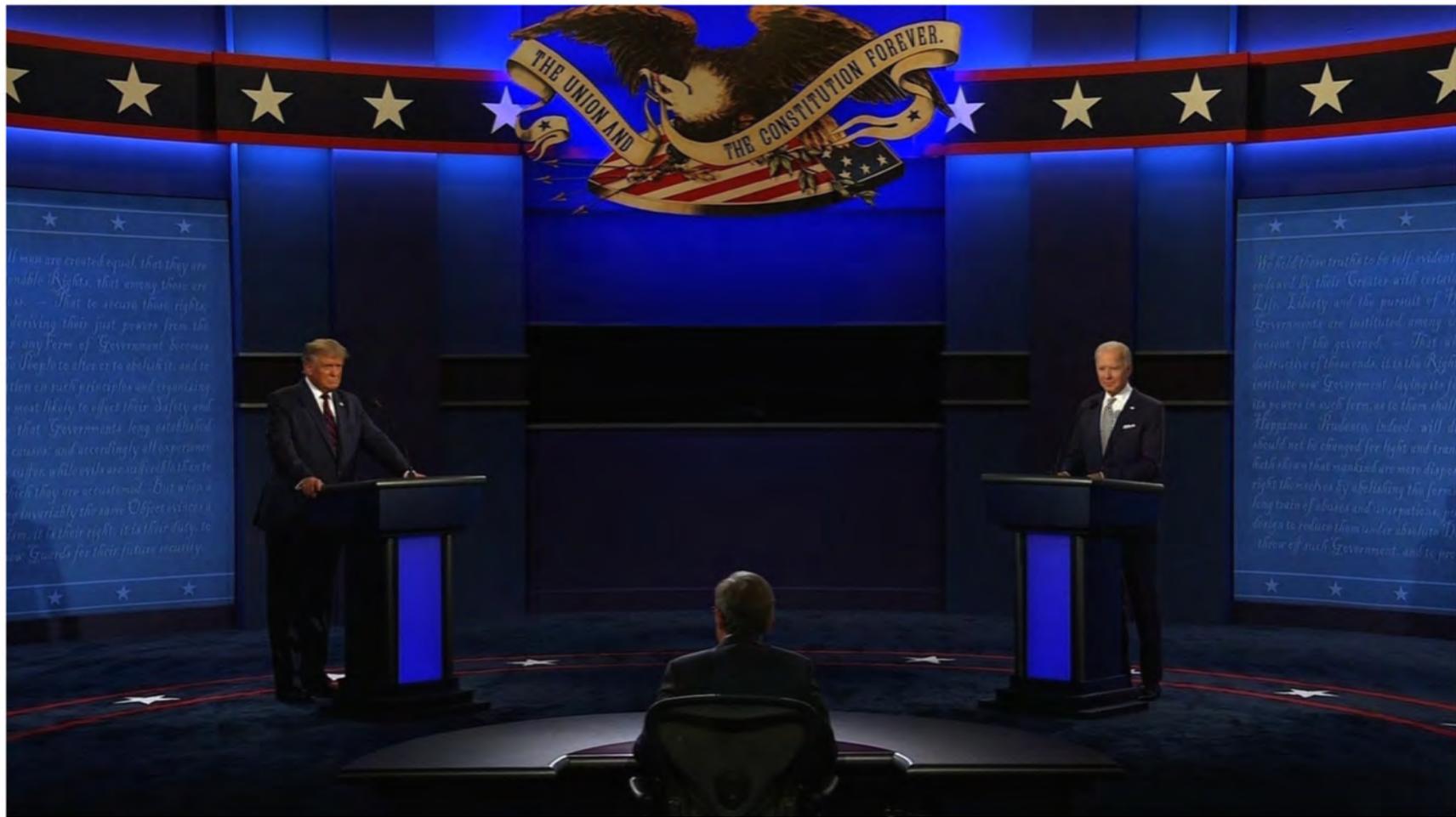
Hot & Cold Deli

MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD MEATS OLIVES FRESH PRODUCTS

GEORGE FLOYD





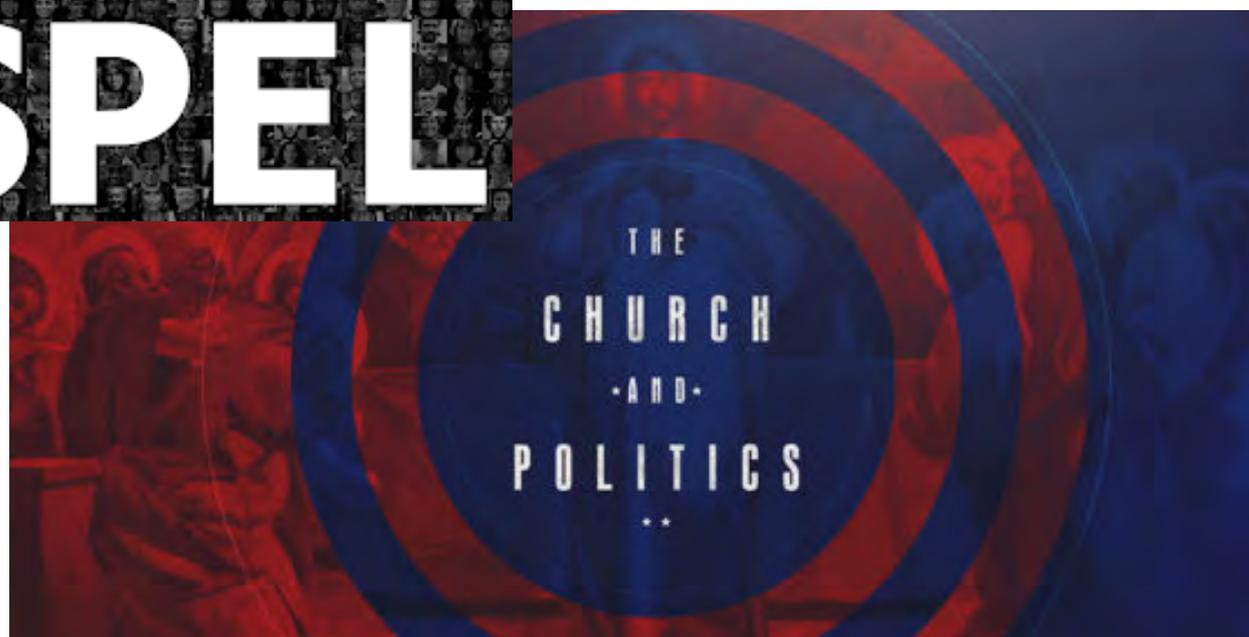


Men are created equal, that they are
endowed with certain Rights, that among these are
Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among
Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes
destructive to these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to
institute new Government; laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such
Manner, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate
that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all
experience has shown that Governments are not to be changed but upon extraordinary Occasions. But when a
long train of Abuses and Usurpations, which have assumed a Character of Consequence, shall
impose a Necessity of reforming them, it is the Right, it is the Duty of the People to alter or to abolish
them, to institute new Government, and to secure the Blessings of Liberty to themselves and their
Posterity.

We hold these truths to be self-evident,
that all men are created equal, that they are
endowed with certain Rights, that among these are
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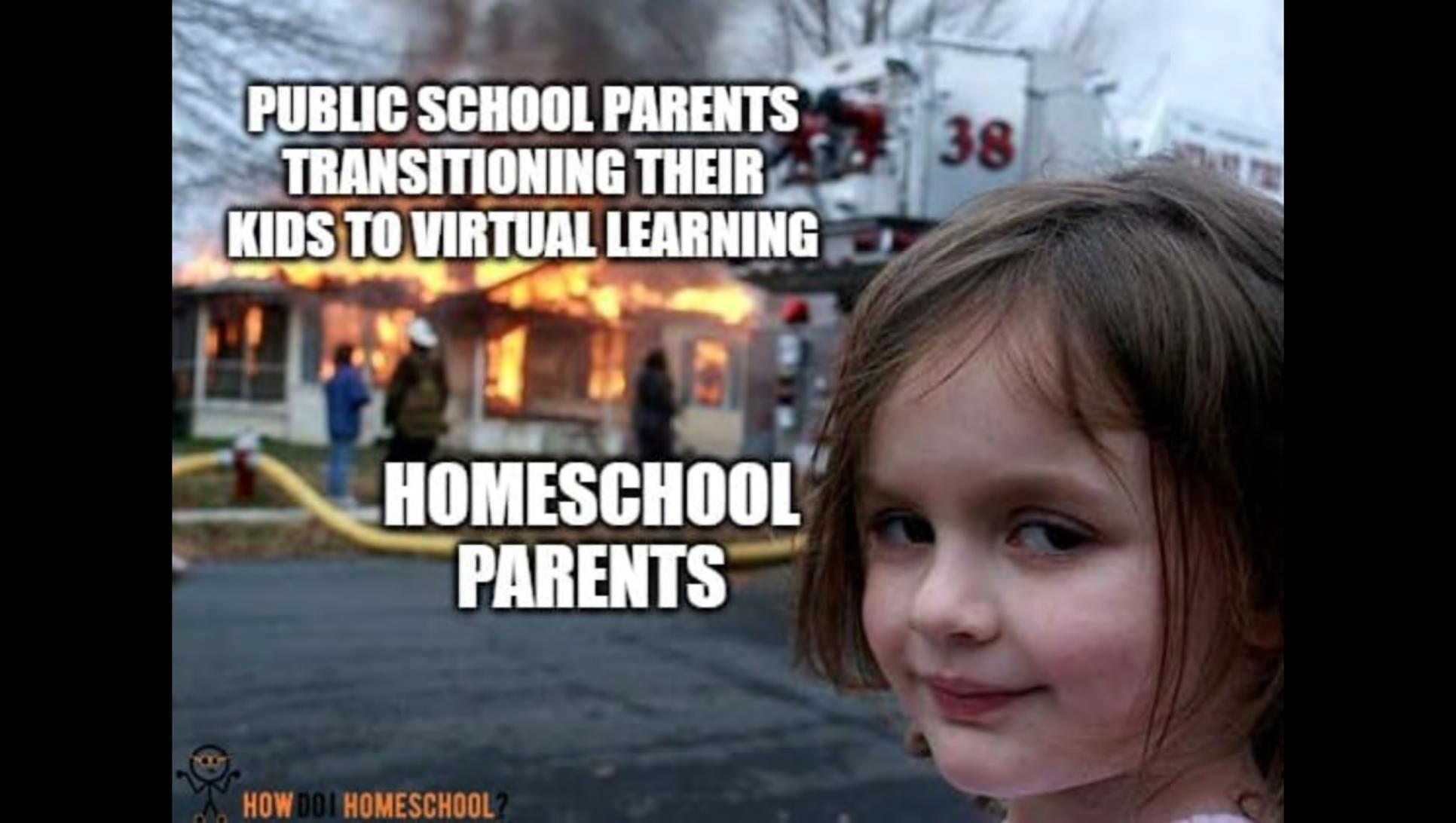
RACE
THE CHURCH
& THE GOSPEL





Safely adjusting
the dials

STAY SAFE MN

A young girl with brown hair is shown in profile, looking towards the left. In the background, a house is on fire, with bright orange flames and thick black smoke rising. A fire truck with the number '38' is visible behind the house. The scene is set outdoors on a street.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS
TRANSITIONING THEIR
KIDS TO VIRTUAL LEARNING**

**HOMESCHOOL
PARENTS**



Experts recommend keeping your daily rituals even while working from home



Experts recommend keeping your daily rituals even while working from home



A black and white photograph of a mountain range viewed through a cave opening. The text "JESUS IS GREATER" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, serif font. The scene is framed by the dark, jagged rock of the cave entrance. The mountains in the background are rugged and jagged, with some snow or light-colored patches. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The foreground shows a rocky path leading into the distance.

JESUS IS GREATER

BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² 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. ³ 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. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

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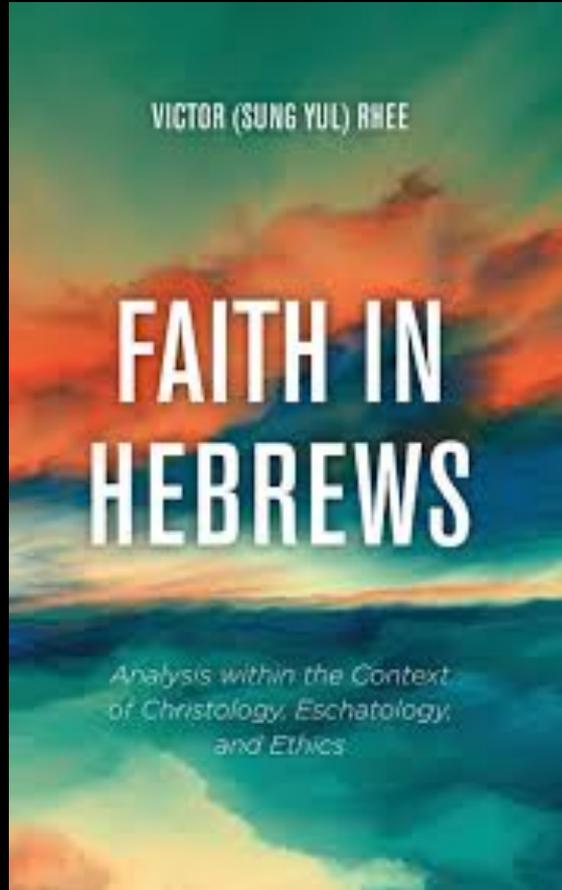
James Earl Massey, “Hebrews,” in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*, ed. Brian K. Blount et al. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2007), 446.





JESUS IS GREATER

The Message of Jesus is Greater
than what was delivered through Angels



Victor (Sung Yul) Rhee.
*Faith in Hebrews: Analysis within the
Context of Christology, Eschatology,
and Ethics*



Exposition (truth)	Exhortation (action)
1:1-14	2:1-4
2:5-18	3:1-4:16
5:1-10	5:11-6:20
7:1-10:18	10:19-39
11:1-40	12:1-13:21

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Hebrews 1:5-14

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Hebrews 1:5-14

...companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”¹⁰

He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

¹³ To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?¹⁴ Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

What's the deal with angels?



Acts 7:52-53

“Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

One prominent development is the belief that angels served as the first link in the chain of the mediation of Torah between God and the people.

David A. deSilva, *Perseverance in Gratitude: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Epistle “to the Hebrews”* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 93-94.



Hebrews 1:5

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? (Ps. 2:7)

Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?
(2 Samuel 7:14)

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

In the Synoptic Gospels this text (i.e. “You are my Son”) lies behind the words at Jesus’ baptism and his transfiguration. In Acts 13:33 it is applied to Christ’s resurrection.

Long after Davidic monarchy had ceased, this psalm (2:7) came to be interpreted eschatologically as referring to the hoped-for future Davidic king who would once more reign on God’s behalf.

Marie E. Isaacs, *Reading Hebrews and James: A Literary and Theological Commentary*, Reading the New Testament Series (Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2002), 26.



Hebrews 1:6

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Hebrews 1:8-9

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Hebrews 1:10-12

¹⁰ He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. ¹² You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

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Hebrews 1:13-14

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