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The Superiority of Messiah to Angels
1:4 to 2:18

Now the author begins dealing with the first of the three pillars of Judaism of his day: **angels**. As John MacArthur records in his commentary, because of the popular rabbinic interpretations, the Jewish people of the time **Hebrews** was written had exaggerated the basic teachings of the TaNaKh about **angels**. Most Jews believed that **angels** were very important to the TaNaKh. They honored them as the highest beings next to **YHVH**. They believed that **angels** surrounded **Ha'Shem** and that they were the instruments of bringing **His** word to mankind and of working out **His** will in the universe. At that time, **angels** were thought to be eerie creatures made of fiery substance like blazing light, who did not eat or drink or reproduce. Many believed that **angels** acted as **God's** council and **He** did nothing without consulting with **them** – that, for example, the **us** in, **"Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26)**, refers to this angelic council.

They believed two hundred **angels** controlled the stars and that one very special **angel**, the calendar **angel**, controlled the never-ending succession of day, months, and years. A mighty **angel** took care of the seas, while **others** oversaw the frost, dew, rain, snow, hail, thunder and lightening. Still **others** were wardens of Sh'ol and torturers of the damned. There were even recording **angels** who wrote down

every word people spoke. There was an **angel** for death, and, on the other hand, a guardian **angel** for every nation and every child. **They** were said to be so many that one rabbi claimed that every blade of grass had its **angel**.

Many Jews believed that the Torah was brought to them from **God** by **angels**. This, above all else, exalted **angels** in the minds of the Isrealites. They believed that **angels** were the mediators of their covenant with **ADONAI**, and that angels continually ministered the blessing of **the LORD** to them as alluded to in **Stephen's** sermon before the Sanhedrin in **Acts 7:51-53**. Consequently, some adored **angels** so much that they actually worshiped them. Gnosticism involved, among other things, the worship of **angels**.

Therefore, to the Jewish mind angels were extremely exalted and immeasurably important. If the writer to the **Hebrews** was going to persuade his fellow Jews that **Yeshua** is the mediator of a **better** covenant, even **superior** to that given through Moshe, he would have to show, among other things, that **Christ** is **superior** to **angels**.[32]