

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 19, 2014

Christ is Superior to the Angels
Hebrews 2:14-16

The author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets in Hebrews 1:1-4.

The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-2:18.

The author of Hebrews explained Christ's superiority to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-14.

After the author had explained the superiority of Christ to the angels, he then sounded a warning in Hebrews 2:1-4.

Christ's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His humanity (Hebrews 2:5-9).

Christ's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His sufferings, because His sufferings were necessary (Hebrews 2:10-18).

Christ's sufferings were necessary to complete His identification with humanity (Hebrews 2:10-13).

Christ's sufferings were necessary to nullify the devil's work and to bring an end to the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-16).

The expression "render powerless" comes from a Greek word (KARTARGEO) that means, "to render inoperative or ineffective."

Christ's death rendered the devil "powerless," or in other words "ineffective," because Christ's death took from the devil the power of death.

The power of death that the devil possessed prior to the death of Christ was the power that he used to hold people in his grip (Genesis 3ff.; Romans 6:23).

Once the power of death was broken and the devil was rendered powerless it made it possible for those who had been afraid of death to finally be set free from that fear (Hebrews 2:15).

The phrase "the descendant of Abraham" literally means "seed of Abraham" and therefore in this context should be understood as referring not to a person but rather to the spiritual seed of Abraham (Hebrews 2:16).

May God give us the grace to understand that not only did Christ's suffering nullify the devil's work but made it possible for us to live our lives free from the fear of death.

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