

*WHEN "THE THIEF" TRIES TO STEAL YOUR CHRISTMAS ...*



**SPOILER ALERT**

*"THE THIEF" COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY ... BUT JESUS SON OF GOD DESTROYS THE POWER OF "THE THIEF."*

**SO WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN SOME "GRINCH" TRIES TO STEAL CHRISTMAS FROM YOU?**



**■ BELIEVE IN THE JESUS WHO IS MORE POWERFUL THAN "THE THIEF", HEBREWS 1:1-14.**

**1. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS who is the Son of God, 1:1-2.**

- (Hebrews 1:1–2 ESV) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- (Isaiah 9:6 ESV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..."—the opening crawl beginning every film in the Star Wars series. Now listen to our text for today. "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets ..."

Star Wars beginning ... "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..." Hebrews 1:1 ... "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets ..."

Both introductions captivate our imaginations. Both thrust us into an amazing journey—the epic struggle between good and evil.

But only one of these stories is true. And only one is set in eternity. Only one has life or death meaning for every person who has ever been born onto this planet. And only one can deliver the hope promised.

Star Wars ... dies with its human creators along with everything else of this world. But God's "long ago" Story continues forever. God came to Earth. Let that settle in.

**2. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS who is God and who holds the universe together, 1:3a.**

- (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**3. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS who as God sat down at the right hand of Majesty on high, 1:3b.**

- (Hebrews 1:3b ESV) After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

**4. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS who is as superior to the angels as his name—Son of God—is superior to their name, 1:4-7.**

- (Hebrews 1:4–7 ESV) Having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

The human author of Hebrews in these verses makes comparisons to demonstrate the superiority of Jesus Son of God. We should understand that these words of comparison in no way diminish the nature or place of God's wonderful, amazing holy angels who love, serve and worship the Son as their God. The purpose of the comparisons is to teach us that Jesus Son of God is God indeed.

**A. The holy angels worship the Son as God.**

**B. The holy angels serve the Son as winds and a flame of fire.**

- (Psalm 104:1–4 ESV) Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, 2 covering

yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. 3 He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; 4 he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

**Hendriksen/Kistemaker ...** The writer uses the quotation from Psalm 104 to emphasize the subservient state of the angels. They are like winds and bolts of lightning, which are part of God's creation and completely obedient to his will. The text compares angels to winds and flames of fire to indicate that their deeds are as transient as changes in nature.

God uses angels to execute his will, and they serve him in a mighty way, forceful as the wind and destructive as a streak of lightning. When their task is completed, however, they return to him as humble and obedient servants. Although they perform mighty deeds, they remain lowly attendants. [Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). *Exposition of Hebrews* (Vol. 15, pp. 40–41). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

**5. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS** whose throne as God is forever and ever and who rules with a scepter of justice, 1:8.

- (Hebrews 1:8 ESV) But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”

**AN ANGEL OF THE LORD WAS SENT OUT TO MINISTER TO JOSEPH DURING HIS CRITICAL TIME OF DECISION.**

**6. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS** who loves righteousness and hates wickedness, 1:9.

- (Hebrews 1:9 ESV) “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

**7. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS** who laid the foundation of the earth, 1:10.

- (Hebrews 1:10 ESV) And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.”

**8. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS** who is eternal and sits at the right hand of God, 1:11-13.

- (Hebrews 1:11–13 ESV) “They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” 13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

**9. BELIEVE IN THE JESUS** who sends out his powerful servants of wind and fire for the sake of the redeemed, 1:14.

- (Hebrews 1:14 ESV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?
- (Matthew 1:18–22 ESV) Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet.

**BELIEVE IN THE JESUS WHO HAS DEFEATED “THE THIEF”, HEBREWS 2:14-18.**

**1. JESUS SON OF GOD BECAME A HUMAN** to defeat the devil and give us victory over death, 2:14.

- (Hebrews 2:14 ESV) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

- (John 10:10 ESV) **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.** I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- (1 Corinthians 15:55–58 ESV) “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**2. JESUS SON OF GOD BECAME A HUMAN to defeat the devil and free us from the fear of death which enslaves, 2:15.**

- (Hebrews 2:15 ESV) And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
- (Colossians 1:13–14 ESV) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- (Galatians 1:4 ESV) Who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

- (Romans 8:14–15 ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

**Hendriksen/Kistemaker**  
 ... **Romans 8:15** ... One might summarize the meaning of this passage as follows:  
 You who are being led by the Spirit are not slaves but children. Having been adopted as children, you, of course, are no longer filled with the spirit of slaves, that of dread. No longer are you oppressed with

**ON THE CONTRARY, YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO TRANSFORMS SLAVES INTO CHILDREN. THAT SPIRIT WOULD NOT EVEN THINK OF FILLING YOU ONCE MORE WITH DREAD.**

fear as you were when you were still living in paganism or in Judaism, with their emphasis on all the rules one has to keep in order to be saved. On the contrary, you have received the Holy Spirit, who transforms slaves into children. That Spirit would not even think of filling you once more with dread. No, that Spirit fills us with the sense of freedom amid confidence, so that, in approaching God, we utter the cry of joyful recognition, sweet response, overwhelming gratitude, and filial trust, “Abba!” (Father). In fact, that Spirit confirms that to which our own regenerated souls already bear witness, namely, that we, believers, are God’s own children, having been adopted by him. [Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). *Exposition of Paul’s Epistle to the Romans* (Vol. 12–13, p. 258). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

**3. JESUS SON OF GOD BECAME A HUMAN so he could be our merciful and faithful high priest, Hebrews 2:16-17.**

- (Hebrews 2:16–17 ESV) For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**4. JESUS SON OF GOD BECAME A HUMAN so he could be our “very present help” when we suffer temptation, Hebrews 2:18.**

- (Hebrews 2:18 ESV) For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
- (Psalm 46:1 ESV) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- (Matthew 26:41 ESV) Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.