

Title: The Bestest  
Date: 3/9/25  
Subject: Jesus is superior, greater, better, more excellent than any and all others.  
Scripture: Hebrews

5 year old Monty is 105 pounds of solid muscle. He uses a water treadmill to build muscle and a ball to work his core and legs. The reason is to compete in shows. This year he competed in over 100. It takes about 75 minutes to get ready – washing legs and face, blow drying hair, adding a touch of hairspray on his eyebrows to "make them look nice." He has jet black hair...and a flowing beard. It's a great look for a Giant Schnauzer. Did I fail to mention he's a dog? Monty recently beat 2500 dogs from 200 breeds for Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club (sources: [ctinsider.com/entertainment/article/monty-giant-schnauzer-show-dog](https://ctinsider.com/entertainment/article/monty-giant-schnauzer-show-dog), [westminsterkennelclub.org/best-in-show-25](https://westminsterkennelclub.org/best-in-show-25)).

The judges picked the winner by comparing English Mastiffs that are twice the weight of Monty all the way down to little doggies that don't even weigh 10 pounds. They applied criteria, measurable factors. It's essentially a judgment call.

It's like what people do for best restaurant, best roller coaster, or best food for improving mood. Mayo Clinic's list of foods that contain mood-boosting serotonin and dopamine: fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, fish, nuts and legumes, low-fat dairy, olive oil ([communityhealth.mayoclinic.org/featured-stories/mood-boosting-foods](https://communityhealth.mayoclinic.org/featured-stories/mood-boosting-foods)). The dietetic intern who compiled the list forgot one thing which I'm happy to report Mount Elizabeth Hospitals of Singapore ([mountelizabeth.com.sg/health-plus/article/mood-boosting-foods](https://mountelizabeth.com.sg/health-plus/article/mood-boosting-foods)) remembered – dark chocolate, though they said "moderation is the key." Buzz kill.

Another site poo-pooed ice cream and mac and cheese though they send tryptophan producing serotonin to the brain which is mood boosting ([heart.org/en/news/2022/03/30/how-to-boost-your-mood](https://heart.org/en/news/2022/03/30/how-to-boost-your-mood)).

The debate about what's better is often a matter of how people think, feel and believe as to which is the best. When a choice is between two options, the one that's better, is the one that's best, bestest.

What about belief systems? Which one is better, best? Is it a matter of leaving it up to personal preference and where the outcome is to be tolerated by others? What happens when we throw God in the mix, not just generic god or force but the God of the Bible? The bottom line is it's a matter of accepting the God of the Bible as the one true God and what he says is correct about who is the bestest.

I've used bestest several times and I'm going to stop. Thought it might irk the grammarians, though I did consult Miriam Webster, Oxford Languages, Cambridge Dictionary, Grammarly and other sources. The consensus is bestest a nonstandard word that's been used since 1751 and took off in the late 1990s. It's informal and has an obvious emphatic meaning - "the very best," "the best of the best," or "better than the best."

The weeks leading up to Easter are an excellent time to explore how Jesus is the bestest. Sorry. Last time. The book of Hebrews presents the contention that Jesus Christ is better and superior. The NIV Study

Bible introduction to the book points out: “Hebrews could be called “the book of better things” since the two Greek words for “better” and “superior” occur 15 times in the letter.” They convey the idea of being greater, surpassing and more excellent in exaltedness, dignity, activity and effect.

Hebrews is an often neglected book because it uses a great deal of Old Testament imagery. The reason for it is the original audience was predominantly Jewish Christians. They were facing pressure from people who felt Christianity was just an offshoot of Judaism and were trying to get Christians to come back to Judaism and its practices, or at least make Christianity more Jewish and follow the ceremony meal practices. The counters that thinking. Christians of the past didn’t need to return to Jewish roots and believers today don’t. What followers of Jesus have in him is far better than any and all belief systems, Judaism included.

Hebrews tells us to fix our thoughts and eyes on Jesus (3:1, 12:2). We’re to consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men (12:3). We won’t go through the book section by section but will look at the various pictures. We can think of the book as an art gallery and consider ourselves to be patrons of the arts. The pictures aren’t in the form of modern art where the interpretation is up to the individual. The pictures and accompanying titles are supported by the rest of Scripture.

Before we get to how Jesus is better and superior, we’ll very briefly check out some warning signals.

Read 2:1. Drifting is a gradual, almost imperceptible movement. Researchers at the north polar ice cap were experimenting with underwater drones to find passages for submarines and civilian enterprises. Because of underwater currents and other factors, it was possible to go to bed at night and wake up the next morning with the ice flow having moved nine miles.

Spiritual drifting is unintentional. People don’t make it their goal. Drifting can come from unconcern about the things of God, neglect of Christ our anchor, winds of trials, lack of immediate rewards, worldly influences, itching ears for new teachings, thinking that can relax because we know or have done so much.

The solution to prevent spiritual drifting is to pay more careful attention to the gospel, person and work of Jesus Christ. As we are being sanctified and being made more like Jesus, growing in our faith, we are giving evidence that we have come into a right relationship with God and preventing drift.

Read 3:12-15. This passage is a little bit more difficult as the Greek word has to do with deliberately departing. Since a person can’t lose their salvation, it’s about a person who only claims to know Christ as Savior but never really did. They’re like people Jesus talked about: “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Jesus’ solution was for people to hear his words and put them into practice. The person who does that is like the wise man who builds his house on the rock and is able to withstand the rain and streams that blow and beat against the house. It won’t fall because it has a foundation on the rock.

Turning away would be having less confidence in God and not living like we belong to him. Our hearts would become hardened to him because we allow the world and sin to infect us. The plea is to not harden our hearts. Instead, encourage one another daily to stand firm in our faith in Christ. We're told to strengthen our feeble arms and weak knees (12:12), focus on Jesus that you will not grow weary and lose heart (12:3).

Jesus is better, superior. We begin by comparing him with alternatives. We start at the beginning - 1:1. Read 1:1-3.

The keywords aren't used but the conclusion is obvious. Jesus is better than and superior to the OT prophets and patriarchs - important people with powerful messages. Enoch didn't merely live but walked with God, closely, and pleased him. One day God decided, "Enoch, come on up here." He didn't die because God took him away (Genesis 5:24). Abraham was told that through him the entire world would be blessed (Genesis 12:2-3). Elijah and Elisha were bold spokesmen for God as they declared his word to often rebellious people. They also raised people from the dead and performed other miracles. If you want more big names you can go to Chapter 11 to view screenshots of some of the great people of who had faith in God.

Lots of great people. They're to be applauded. But in comparison to the Son of God?

Jesus is better and superior because of His personhood and position. The Triune Godhead is in view as the book opens - "in the past God spoke." Attention is quickly given to the second person of the Trinity - the Son of God. He is the one and only unique Son of God. He isn't addressed by another name until we hear the name Jesus in 2:9.

He is the radiance of God's glory. He doesn't merely reflect the triune Godhead as the moon does the light of the sun or as a mirror presents an image. The Godhead and God the Son are inseparable even as the sun up in the sky can't be separated from its radiance. Where does one start and the other leave off?

Jesus is the exact representation of the Godhead's being. It's like the way a coin is the express image or imprint of a person. But it's deeper than that. Jesus is absolutely, genuinely and authentically God. He is God in totality. Everything the Godhead is, all his attributes of omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, and all the rest - Jesus is as well. He is fully divine.

The focus shifts as the Son is God is differentiated from God the Father beginning in v. 7 where the Father calls the Son his Son. As it says in v. 8, the Son isn't a God but the God, the Lord God Jehovah. He is the heir of all things because he had perfectly performed the work of rescuing people from their sins. Everything belongs to him and is for his benefit.

Jesus is better and superior because of His message. Jesus, is the ultimate spokesperson for God. He came directly from the presence of God. He is the word, not a word, but THE WORD. His message is greater, superior than that of the forefathers and prophets.

Jesus is better and superior because of His abilities. His Incredible power is shown in that he created everything. He, not gravity or the forces of nature or laws of physics, holds everything together - from dogs to the dog star otherwise known as Sirius which is the brightest star in the night sky. It's in the constellation Canis

Major which is Latin for Greater Dog. I'm going to have to ask our almost 3 year old year old granddaughter Josie about if she knows that one. She's into constellations and knows their names.

Scientists can explain how things work - the solar system, single cell amoeba - but they really can't give the why. They have postulates, hypotheses and theorems but can't really explain why things function the way they do. Some will give credit to God with the conclusion that that's the way God decided things should work.

There's more to the power of Jesus. Any miracle the Old Testament prophets could do, Jesus could do - better and on a grander scale. Elijah and Elisha raised the dead. Christ raised the dead - the widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17), Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40-56), Lazarus (John 11), saints in Jerusalem at the moment of his death (Matthew 27:50-53).

That's nothing compared to what Jesus is going to do when he returns - the dead in Christ will rise (1 Thess 4:16) and all who are in Christ will be made alive (1 Cor 15:22). I got to this point in composing the message and had a hard time keeping going as thoughts of my loved ones and your loved ones - grandparents, parents, spouses, children, siblings, others - with whom we'll be reunited because of the promise that those who are in Christ will be raised from the dead and their bodies will join their souls to live forever in heaven.

Jesus is phenomenally better with infinitely greater abilities and astronomically more wonderful capacities than the patriarchs and prophets.

Jesus is superior and better than angels. 1: 4-14, 2:5-9

Superior is used twice in V. 4. The name the Son has inherited is immeasurably superior to the angels and indicates the overall superiority he has to angels.

Jews held angels in high regard, viewing them as mediators to help gain access to God. Some worshiped angels. Paul has firm words about this: "but even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preach to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (Gal 1:8). In other words, if someone has a belief system supposedly originating with angels, we could use a super spiritual phrase: "whoop ti doo."

Angels are pretty great, but aren't to be worshiped (Colossians 2:18). It would be the experience of a lifetime to see one...operating in a friendly capacity, of course. Maybe some of us have without realizing it.

They are special beings. They dwell in the presence of God. V. 7 says they're winds and flames of fire. They're messengers of God. They brought messages to Abraham, Gideon, Hannah, Daniel and others. They brought the good news to Joseph, Mary and the shepherds that salvation was coming through Jesus who was born into the world.

Angels are God's instruments to carry out his will, whether it's deliverance or judgment. An angel prevented Adam and Eve from getting back into the garden, keeping them from bringing more ruin. They brought judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. An angel destroyed 185,000 of Israel's enemies in one night (2 Kings 19:35). After Peter tried to protect Jesus and prevent his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus said he could call on the Father who would instantly put 72,000 angels at his disposal. Would they be there to be protect him or to destroy the world so he wouldn't have to go to the cross?

Though angels are magnificent, powerful and even fearful beings, they pale in comparison to Jesus. V. 5 begins detailing the unique relationship between God the Son and God the Father. Nothing like that exists between God and any other being, not even the angels.

Jesus also did the will of God the Father but to a greater degree. He provides eternal life for people. After his death on the cross, God exalted Jesus “to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name” (Phil 2:9). The human name “Jesus” means “the Lord saves.” We know the names of only a few angels - Michael, Gabriel. None of them has as matchless a name as Jesus, the Son of God. The angels were created and they were created by Jesus (Colossians 1:16, 17).

The lesser worships the greater. V. 6 tells us God's angels worship God's Son as he is deity and they aren't. Jesus is the one to whom has been granted all power and authority as he sits on the throne of God the Father. V. 14 declares angels are ministering spirits who are sent to serve those who will inherit salvation. Jesus is the one who will be served because brought salvation making it possible for people to inherit it.

Jesus is better and superior to Moses. In 3:2-6 Moses is described as a servant in God's house. He was quite the servant. Judaism honors and reveres him as the founder and central figure of their belief system. He is their greatest leader, teacher and prophet. He delivered the Israelites from the clutches of slavery in Egypt. He received directly from God the Torah (first five books of the Bible) which include the Ten Commandments. Who talks with God face to face? He's credited with establishing the foundation of Jewish law, religious practice, and the nation itself. Moses was a mighty man of God who was faithful.

But, he was only a servant in God's house. It didn't belong to him. He can take no credit. Someone else was the owner. Someone else gets the credit. That person is Jesus Christ. He was also faithful, but it was in the role of Son, a higher relationship. He leads people to freedom, delivering them from captivity and slavery to the devil. The house belongs to him. Read V. 3. The house Jesus is building includes Jews and Gentiles.

To borrow a line from later in the book (11:32): “What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about...” There's much more to be revealed as to how Jesus is superior, better, greater, more excellent.

Results of Jesus being better: He provides **better** and lasting possessions (10:34), a **better** country—a heavenly one...God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them (11:16), an even **better** resurrection (11:35), God had planned something **better** for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect (11:40).

Dementia is a horrible disease. A woman was talking to her mom who had late stage dementia. She asked her mom what color shirt she'd worn the day before. Mom shook her head, “I don't know.” She asked what she had for lunch today. “Food” followed by a laugh. Then she asked “Who is Linda? Do you know Linda?” A shake of the head and a “No.” “What about Paul?” “Paul? Don't know Paul.” Then the daughter asked, “Who is Jesus?” “Well, Jesus is the one who saved me and lives in my heart and will take me home.” The daughter responded with “Hmm” and the mom chuckled. The daughter said, “Yeah.” The mom said, “I love him.”