

Glossary of the Privileged Class: Aristocrat: Believers Are Superior in Thought & Behavior; They Discriminate, Have Royal Commissions, & Will Judge Angels

1. **Aristocrat:** One believed to be superior of its kind [WNNCD]. One who has the sympathies, habits, and temper of mind common among a ruling class. Characteristic of a ruling or privileged class [WNCD-2]. A person with the tastes, manners, beliefs, prejudices of the upper class [WNTCD-2].

NOTE: There is a better word than *prejudice* for our application to spiritual aristocracy. The word *discriminate* means "to use good judgment; to make a distinction; to be discerning; judicious. Stresses the power to distinguish and select what is true, appropriate, or excellent [MWCD-11]. For example, we discriminate by choosing the Bible over the Qu'ran, Jesus Christ over Muhammad, and God over Allah.

One of those who form a privileged class with regard to the government of their country; the nobles. The term is popularly extended to include all those who by birth or fortune occupy a position distinctly above the rest of the community, and is also used figuratively of those who are superior in other respects [OED]. The highest class in certain societies, especially those holding hereditary titles or offices. One of a group regarded as privileged or superior in a particular sphere [NOAD]. A person having the tastes, opinions, manners, and other characteristics of an upper class [AHD/EL].

NOTE: Some of the "other characteristics" would include *savoir faire* [French]: the capacity for appropriate action, and *sprezzatura* [Italian]: perfect conduct or performance of something without apparent effort. [Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged.]

The aristocracy of Jesus over the angelic creation is developed by comparing the following two verses:

Hebrews 2:9 - We do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 1:3 - Jesus is the radiance of glory [**Shekinah Glory**] and the exact representation of His nature [**divine & human essences**], and upholds all things [**sustains the universe by His divine omnipotence and omniscience**] by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins [**all sins of the human race**], He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

v. 4 - having become [**through resurrection, ascension, & session**] as much better than the angels [**superiority over all the angels combined**], as He has inherited a more excellent name than they [**as a Person & in reputation**].

Hebrews 2:11 - Both He who sanctifies [**Jesus Christ**] and those who are sanctified [**Church Age believers**] are all from one Father; for which reason He [**Jesus Christ**] is not ashamed to call them brethren [**i.e., members of the same royal family**].

1 Corinthians 6:3a - Do you not know that we will judge angels?

From these passages we can arrive at a doctrinal rationale: If Jesus Christ is superior to the angels, if Church Age believers are considered by Him to be members of His royal family, and if we are to judge angels, then it follows, a fortiori, that with even greater reason, we are superior to the unbeliever who is yet unregenerate humanity.

Further, we have superior wealth to the unbeliever due to our possession of imputed divine operating assets at salvation, superior intellect due to the utilization of these assets to acquire divine thought which is the subject of 1 Corinthians 2, and the possession in escrow of temporal and eternal rewards.

