

# Hebrews

Hebrews 2:5-10

October 5, 2008

## I. Jesus – Superior to Angels Even In His Humanity

- A. **Hebrews 2:5-10** . . . For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. [6] But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him (*think about him*)? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him (*attend to, visit him*)? [7] "You have made him (*mankind*) for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; [8] You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. [9] But 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. [10] For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

## II. A Look At The Message Of **Hebrews 2:5-10**

- A. **Hebrews 2:5** . . . For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.
1. The author of Hebrews continues his message that Christ is superior to the angels. In this portion, he makes a point that we might overlook because it is a point based on what God intended for us humans – and still intends His people.
    - a. In essence, God is saying to us that Jesus, even in his humanity is superior to the angels. Why? Because He (God), from the beginning created mankind to rule the earth. This rulership was not God's only intention for humanity, but it was one of them. In other words, from creation forward, man, not the angels, were to be God's representative rulers over the earth. Christ being a man is then, by his nature, fitted to rule the earth whereas angels were not given this exalted position.
    - b. In making the point that even in his humanity Jesus is superior to the angels, God also points out that though we lost

our position of authority over all that God created here on the earth through our rebellion against God, our position of authority will be restored following the return of Christ when God creates the New Heavens and the New Earth.

B. **Hebrews 2:6-8a** . . . But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him (*think about him*)? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him (*attend to, visit him*)? [7] You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; [8] You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him.

1. **Hebrews 2:6** . . . What is man, that You remember him (*think about him*)? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him (*attend to, visit him*)?

a. This quotation is taken from **Psalms 8:1-9** . . . O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! [2] From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease. [3] When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; [4] what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? [5] Yet You have made him a little lower than God (*Heb: Elohim*), and You crown him with glory and majesty! [6] You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, [7] all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, [8] the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. [9] O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

b. The question, "WHAT IS MAN THAT . . ." is not a question concerning our inferiority or worthlessness, but a question of comparison – comparison between God's creation (excluding humanity) and us.

(1) Consider: all of God's creation – with the sole exception of mankind – has remained within the boundaries God set for it.

- (a) The stars and planets, the sun and moon have not rebelled against God's intentions for them.
    - (b) The plants and animals have not rebelled against God's intentions for them.
  - (2) But we have rebelled against God's intentions for us. We have gone outside the boundaries God set for us. We have brought destruction upon this earth and all the things God placed here for our enjoyment.
    - (a) We've introduced sin into God's perfect creation and we continue to participate in sin so that its destructive effects increase year by year.
    - (b) We've upset the balance of nature.
    - (c) We've introduced poisons into the earth and plant life and animal life.
    - (d) We've put carbon emissions and other harmful things into the very air we breath.
    - (e) And we are polluting the soil and the ground water with our garbage – just to name a few ways we are working against God's intentions for us and His creation.
  - (3) It is within this context of mankind rebelling against God and as a result making such a mess of all the rest of what God has created that this question is asked: "What is man, that You remember him (*think about him*)? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him (*attend to, visit him*)? Why would God give us any consideration or attention after what we have done to Him and His creation?
  - (4) And yet . . . look what God intended and still intends for us!
2. **Hebrews 2:7-8a** . . . You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; [8] You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him.
- a. This phrase, "**You have made him for a little while lower than the angels;**" implies that we are only less than the angels for a time.
    - (1) An example: When an heir to the throne is born, he is given over to the care of his nurses and teachers. For at

least 18-20 years, he is under the authority of his caretakers. In this way, he is inferior to his caretakers. But when he comes of age and is placed on the throne, those who were over him now are under him. He has become superior to them. Now this change in position does not come as a shock. Why? Because it is understood by all in the kingdom that he will one day be the King – and all the others in the kingdom will be his subjects.

- (2) Though the angels have a privileged status today, they still serve God and in serving God they serve us. And though we do not rule over them today, one day we will – not on our own, but in Christ!!
- b. The writer of Hebrews goes on to say: **“You have crowned him with glory and honor, and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; [8] You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him.”**
  - (1) As we saw in Psalm 8 and read in Genesis 1:28, God’s intentions for us is rulership – rule over the ground, the plants, and the animals God has created and placed here on the earth.
  - (2) Therefore, God has crowned us with glory and honor; He has appointed us rulers over His creation; He has put all that He has created in the heavens and on the earth under our rule; indeed God left nothing out – we are to rule over everything here on the earth!!
  - (3) However –

C. **Hebrews 2:8b** . . . But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

- 1. With this statement, God brings us back to reality. Yes we are to be God’s representative rulers over the earth and all God has placed here. But, as God says, if we look around, we see something different from God intended for us.
  - a. Now let me say that over the centuries, man has conquered much of the earth – including the highest mountains and the most barren deserts regions. With determination, ingenuity, farming, science, engineering, transportation in its many and varied forms, and now satellites, high tech, and of course, always plenty of money, we have in many ways subdued much

of the earth – and a small portion of the heavens. We have and continue to rule – at least to some degree.

- b. Yet as we've ruled, we've also destroyed. And beyond our own foolish misuse and abuse of that which we have been ruling over, the earth has been fighting back – and now appears to be fighting back all the more what with the possibility of global warming.
- c. And saddest of all, we have not confined our rulership to God's creation here on earth. We have fought to subdue one another, to rule over one another – nation against nation, tribe against tribe, ethnic group against ethnic group, religious group against religious group, and even family against family.
  - (1) This is sin's ultimate ruination of us and our ultimate abuse of God's intentions that we rule over His creation.
  - (2) Why? Because the earth is to be a theocracy, not a democracy or a monarchy or some form of tyranny. God intended for us to be a community or a huge family under His rule and leadership.
2. And so we see that in spite of God's great intentions for us, we have spoiled it and are now far from what He made us to be in this area of ruling over His creation.
3. But – Praise God!! – this is not the end of the story! There is hope! Indeed, there is great hope – built on the promises of God and His son, Jesus Christ!!

D. **Hebrews 9 . . .** (*True, we do not yet see all things subjected to him.*) But 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.

1. Take note that this is the second reference by God here in Hebrews to the humanity of Christ. And we shall see, as we go further in our study of Hebrews, that this great truth about Christ being God in human form, and about Christ coming to earth and living as one of use – appears a number of times throughout this book of Hebrews.
2. In his humanity, Christ too has been made – for a time – a little lower than the angels.
  - a. However, as with mankind, so it is with Christ, but more so. He is God and so he is the ruler of all things, including us. He

ruled before coming to earth and he rules now that he is back with his Father.

- b. But there is one significant difference between all of us and Jesus Christ.
  - (1) We rebelled against God and in our rebellion refused to stay within the boundaries God set for us and fulfill the purposes God had for us.
  - (2) Christ never rebelled. He submitted. He obeyed. He remained true to the purposes and intentions God established for him. He was faithful to God.
    - (a) Therefore, in his life he ruled over the earth – including such things as demons, disease, birth defects, weather, and the stormy waves.
    - (b) In his death he fulfilled his assigned task of salvation.
    - (c) And in his resurrection and ascension he stepped back into his pre-existing role as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- c. When Christ returns, those who belong to him will from that day forward rule with him. It is at that time that we, human beings first and Christians second – we will step back into that position of rulership God created us for and intended for us to exercise.
  - (1) Praise God, all is not lost!
  - (2) The one who redeems also restores!!

E. **Hebrews 2:10** . . . For it was fitting for Him (*God*), for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

- 1. It might seem that this statement here in verse 10 about perfecting the author or captain of our salvation through suffering is a contradiction of all we said before about Christ.
  - a. After all, we are the ones needing perfecting, not Christ.
  - b. He didn't rebel against God, we did.
  - c. He did fulfill God's intentions for him, we didn't.
  - d. So why does God speak of perfecting Jesus through that which he suffered?
- 2. The idea conveyed here is not so much to make Jesus perfect – as if he had some imperfection or imperfections – but to make him fully adequate for the task set before him.

- a. Jesus was not only to be our savior. He is to be our Lord and Master. He is to be our Great High Priest. He is to be our Bridegroom. He is to be our Shepherd. He is to be our example and our light and our truth and our way to God.
  - b. But what does God know about suffering – at least the kind of suffering we experience here on earth? What does God know about temptation – at least the kind of temptation we experience here on earth? What does God know about fear or despair or loneliness or sickness or hunger or submission or meekness in the face of injustice or trusting in a God you cannot see when the circumstances of life scream for all they are worth that faith is foolish and waiting on God is suicide? Are you getting the picture?
  - c. For Jesus to fulfill all his purposes in relation to us, he had to experience life as we know it. And so God used suffering to bring him the understanding he would need to be a compassionate High Priest, a tender Shepherd, a patient Bridegroom, and a sympathetic Lord and Master.
3. What a God we have!! Willing to humble Himself; willing to endure life as we've made it because of our sin; willing to learn through suffering what He needed to know in order to love us as we need to be loved!! Who wouldn't love and feel loved by a God like that!

III. Well, this brings us to the end of our study for today. I want to conclude by calling us to join our Savior, Jesus Christ, in embracing and enduring suffering for the sake of being perfected – of drawing ever closer to fulfilling one of the great purposes God has for us – and that purpose is to love God as He needs to be loved.

- A. Truly, suffering purifies us like gold is purified by fire. Suffering builds our faith and increases our determination to remain faithful when faced with the worst of circumstances or the biggest disappointments. Suffering tenderizes our hearts so we have compassion for the sinner, sympathy for the hurting, gentleness for the weak, graciousness for the needy, and patience for those who add unwanted unpleasantness to our lives.
- B. But most of all, suffering has the power to change us from self-absorbed people to people who love God immensely and perpetually. God will use suffering in our lives to bring us to that place where we will fulfill His intention that we love Him supremely.
  1. Do you want to love Him supremely?