

Christ is Superior to the Angels
Hebrews 2:5
Part Nine

How did the author see Christ as superior? First of all, the author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets in Hebrew 1:1-4.

So how else did the author of Hebrews see Christ as superior? The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-2:18. This is the section we are presently studying, and we have broken this very large section into four parts, and we have now completed our examination of two of those parts.

So, what was the first part? The author of Hebrews explained Christ's superiority to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-14.

And what was the second part? After the author had explained the superiority of Christ to the angels, he then sounded a warning in Hebrews 2:1-4. This warning of course was based on the explanation that he had just given concerning Christ's superiority to the angels.

And this is where we left off. So now we are ready to move on to third part of this very large section of Scripture dealing with the superiority of Christ to the angels, or in other words we are now ready to move on to **Hebrews 2:5-9.**

So, what will we discover about the superiority of Christ to angels in these verses?

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

So now let me read this particular passage for you and see if this is not so. **"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? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about 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. 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.” So did the author in these verses make the point that Christ’s superiority to angels is not contradicted by His humanity? I believe that he did, and I would hope that as we examine these verses that we will come to that same conclusion.

So why would the author in these verses take the time to make this point? He took the time to make this point because he obviously believed that one or more of his readers might be inclined to believe that Christ’s superiority to the angels was compromised or perhaps even contradicted by His incarnation. This is why the author took the time that he did in **Hebrews 2:5-9** to say what he did.

So how did the author choose to make his point? The author of Hebrews in **Hebrews 2:5-9**, using quotations from the Old Testament, reminded his readers of God’s intentions for man. This is how the author sought to make his point.

And this thought leads us to the question that we will be seeking to answer over the next several weeks, and what is that question? What do we learn about God’s intentions for man in Hebrews 2:5-9?

First of all, we learn that God’s ultimate intention was not for angels to rule over man but for man to rule over angels (Hebrews 2:5). So where in our text do we see this? We see God’s ultimate intention for man in **Hebrews 2:5**. And this is the verse that we will be examining this morning.

Let us now begin to examine **Hebrews 2:5** and we will begin with the very first word of the verse. And what is that word? It is the word “**for.**” So let us look at the beginning of **verse 5** and see if this is not so. “**For He did not subject to angels the world to come.**”

So, what is the significance of this word “**for**”? The word “**for**” at the beginning of **verse 5** is meant to introduce the basis or in other words the reasoning for what he had just said.

Now this would normally point us back to the warning that the author had just given in **Hebrews 2:1-4** but in this case there is no obvious connection between the warning in **Hebrews 2:1-4** and **verse 5**.

So if the word “**for**” at the beginning of **verse 5** was not introducing **verse 5** as the basis for the warning in **Hebrews 2:1-4**, then what was **verse 5** being introduced as the basis for?

The word “for” at the beginning of Hebrews 2:5 introduces verse 5 as the basis for what the author had said earlier about angels being sent out as ministering spirits in Hebrews 1:13-14.

So let us now read **Hebrews 1:13-14** and see if this is not so. And what do these verses say? **“But to which of the angels has He ever said, ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet’? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”**

And the expected answer to this rhetorical question at the end of **verse 14** would have been what? The expected answer would have been yes! Of course the angels are being sent out as ministering spirits to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation. This would have been the expected answer.

But why are the angels being sent out as ministering spirits to these particular individuals? Or in other words, how could such glorious and magnificent creatures, such as the angels, be relegated to serving these particular individuals who, although described as those who will inherit salvation, are still mortals and therefore limited in so many ways by their present mortality? So how could all this be?

Hebrews 2:5 gives us the answer. **“For He [God] did not subject to angels the world to come.”** This is God’s explanation for why angels are presently being sent out as ministering spirits to render service for those who will

inherit salvation, for those who will inherit salvation will be the ones ruling this world and not angels.

So, what does this mean for us? If we are here this morning and have truly accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; if we are here this morning and have truly been born again; if we are here this morning and have truly become a new creature in Christ; then know that **“in the world to come”** it will not be the angels who are ruling over us but it will be us who are ruling over the angels according to **Hebrews 2:5**, and this is why the angels are presently being sent to us as ministering spirits by God. We are very important people in respect to God’s future plans for us, for we, and not the angels, are in fact the future rulers of this world.

So if this is God’s ultimate intention for man or in other words God’s ultimate intention for those who will inherit salvation based on what the author has said in **Hebrews 1:13-14** and **Hebrews 2:5**, should Christ’s incarnation or in other words His willingness to become a man somehow become a hurdle for us accepting Christ’s superiority over the angels?

And of course the answer would have to be what? No! Christ’s incarnation or in other words His willingness to become a man should in not in any way be a hurdle in light of God’s ultimate intention for man. And this is the point that the author is seeking to make here in this verse for his readers. And I would hope that all of us here this morning are not only able to understand the point that he was making but also to agree with the point that he was making.

Christ is superior to the angels and His incarnation should in no way cause us to question this in light of God’s ultimate intention for man or in other words in light of God’s ultimate intention for those who will inherit salvation.

But now I would like to take our examination of this verse a little bit further by seeking to understand better what the author meant when he referred to the **“world to come.”**

So, what did he mean by this? And the wonderful thing about this question is that we don’t have to guess for at the end of **verse 5** the author, in

referencing “the world to come,” concludes the verse by saying “**concerning which we are speaking.**”

So where does this expression take us? It takes us back to Hebrews 1:13-14. So now let me now once again read these verses for you. And what do they say? “**But to which of the angels has He ever said, ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet’? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?**”

So looking at these two verses, what would have been the time period that the author had in mind when he spoke of us and not angels ruling over the world to come in **Hebrews 2:5**?

When the author referred to “the world to come,” he was referring to Christ’s millennial kingdom or in other words when God the Father will make Christ’s enemies a footstool for His feet (Hebrews 1:13-14).

Satan is presently ruling the world along with his demonic forces or in other words the fallen angels, but this will not continue. For one day Christ will rise up from where He is presently seated at the right hand of God and will return to earth. And when He returns to earth His Father will give His enemies to Him, and His Father will make His enemies, for a period of a thousand years, His footstool.

And what will happen to Satan and his demonic forces when this occurs? Let me read for you **Revelation 20:1-3**. “**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.** [What is the significance of this place called “the abyss”? This is where a great number of fallen angels are presently being kept for a future day of judgment according to **2 Peter 2:4**. And then what does it say in **Revelation 20:2**? It says this] **And he [the angel] laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (3) and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed.**” And who along with Satan would we have to assume would be enchained with him? We have to assume that all his demonic forces or in other words all those fallen angels who had been assisting him would also be enslaved with him.

So if this happens, which it most certainly will, who will then be in charge?
We will be in charge, as co-regents with Christ.

When God the Father makes Christ's enemies a footstool for His feet, we will given thrones so that we, in accordance with God's ultimate intention, will be able to rule this world with Christ (Revelation 20:4).

May God give us the grace when we are being tossed about in this world by forces that are out of our control to be able to look forward to the day when we will rule this world with Christ.