

Christ is Superior to the Angels
Hebrews 2:9
Part Eleven

Let me ask you this question. Is this world troubled? What is the answer? Absolutely! Everywhere we look there are troubles.

So, what is the solution? Can the solution be found in science? Can the solution be found in education? Can the solution be found in social action? Can the solution be found through political action?

No! There is truly only one thing that will address the problems of this world and that is Christ and the establishment of His rule on this earth.

And it is then and only then that the troubles of this world will be effectively addressed and God's original and ultimate plan for man will be realized in a very tangible and demonstrative way.

Hopefully all this will come alive for us this morning as we once again return back to our study of Hebrews, where an unknown author in an attempt to strengthen the faith of a group struggling Hebrew Christians living in Rome, wrote to them about the superiority of Christ.

So 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 section of Scripture 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 now brings us to the third part that we are now in the process of examining. So, what is this third part? Christ's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His humanity (Hebrews 2:5-9). Where do we find this thought conveyed in our text? We find this thought conveyed to us in **Hebrews 2:5-9**. And it is this section of Scripture that we are now examining.

So why did the author want to make sure that his readers understood that Christ's humanity or in other words his incarnation was not inconsistent with His superiority to angels? He wanted to make sure that his readers, because of Christ's incarnation, would not question Christ's superiority.

And how did the author seek to establish this point in **Hebrews 2:5-9**? He sought to establish this by talking about God's intentions for man, which has led us to the question that we are now in the process of answering. And what is that question? What do we learn about God's intentions for man in Hebrews 2:5-9?

So, what have we learned so far in our examination of these verses? We have learned 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 did we see this in our text? We saw this in **Hebrews 2:5**.

So now let me now read this verse for you. And what does it say? **"For He [or in other words God] did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking."** And what was this **"world to come"** of which the author was speaking?

When compared to **Hebrews 1:13-14** we can conclude that the author's reference to the **"world to come"** is a reference to the world as it will exist during the 1000 year millennial reign of Christ, when we along with Christ will be ruling over the inhabited earth, with the assistance of the angels, who are identified as **"ministering spirits"** in **Hebrews 1:14**.

So, what else did we learn about God's intentions for man from **Hebrews 2:5-9**?

God's ultimate intention for man is in accord with God's original intention for man (Hebrews 2:6-8). So now let me read for you **Hebrews 2:6-8** and see if this is not so. And what do these verses say? **“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.”**

So based on these verses, was God's ultimate intention for man in accord with God's original intention for man? And I believe that the answer is absolutely!

In these verses the author was quoting **Psalm 8:4-6**, which spoke of God's original intention for man when God placed man, or in other words Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden.

And what was God's intention for man when he placed Adam and Eve in the garden? It was for the whole of God's creation to be subject to man or in other words for the whole of God's creation to serve man. That was God's original intention for man.

So based on **Hebrews 2:6-8**, can we say that God's ultimate intention for man, which was spelled out for us in **Hebrews 2:5**, is in accord with God's original intention for man? And what is the answer? The answer is yes! Absolutely!”

So, what else can we learn about God's intentions for man in **Hebrews 2:6-9**? The answer to this question brings us to this morning's message that is based on the latter half of **verse 8** through **verse 9**. So, what will we learn from this section of Scripture? We will learn that God's original intention as well as His ultimate intention for man is achieved in Christ (Hebrews 2:8-9).

And what is my hope for this message as we explore this thought? My hope is that as we come to better understand how God's original intention as well as His ultimate intention for man is achieved in Christ, God will use this better understanding to strengthen our faith, so that we, even in spite of

trials, will be able to persevere through them, knowing that in Christ, this world will see much better days.

But before we can realize this hope we must first of all confirm that the author in the latter half of **verse 8** through **verse 9**, is in fact making the point that God's original intention as well as His ultimate intention for man is achieved in Christ.

So let us now read this particular section of Scripture and see if this is in fact so. And what does this particular section of Scripture say? **“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 does the passage we just read support the point that God's original intention, as well ultimate intention for man, is achieved in Christ? I believe it does. And hopefully, if you do not see that now, you will see it as we methodically go through this passage this morning.

So, what is actually going on here in this passage? This passage, that we just read, is the author's commentary on the passage he had just quoted from **Psalm 6** about God's original intention for man in **Hebrews 2:6-8**.

So, what was the author's initial comment about what he had just quoted from **Psalm**? This was the author's initial comment, **“But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.”**

So, what is the author saying? Though God originally intended for all things to be subjected to man or in other words for all of His creation to serve man, as the author of Hebrews indicated when he quoted from **Psalm 6**, the author is now acknowledging that this was not what he or his readers were now seeing.

They are not seeing a world that is serving them but rather that is threatening them, that is opposed to them and that is making life very difficult for them. And nothing has changed has it?

So, what is the problem? Is the problem with God? No, the problem is with the sin of Adam. Though God intended for everything to be subject to man,

because of the sin of Adam, God's original intention for man cannot be presently seen (Hebrews 2:8).

And this is something that we need to understand. When Adam and his wife Eve were originally placed in the Garden, everything that God had created was there to serve them. The ground was productive, the weather was gorgeous, their bodies were healthy, and the animals were friendly. There was nothing in their environment that threatened them or could harm them. They were living in paradise, or we could say it this way: They were living in a place where everything that God had created was subject to them. But then of course Adam sinned and it affected the whole world and everyone in the world thus making it impossible from that time forward for anyone to see God's original plan for man, in respect to this world.

And that is why the author of Hebrews, in commenting on what he had just said about God's original intention for man in **Hebrews 2:6-8**, was able to say at the end of **verse 8**, **"But now we do not see all things subjected to him."**

So is there any hope for man? Is there hope that God's original intention for man will ever be realized? Yes! Absolutely!

Though the sin of Adam has put God's original intention for man on hold, there is still hope for us in Christ. And this brings us to **Hebrews 2:9**. So now let me read this verse for you. And what does it say? **"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 does this verse provide us hope? Yes! Absolutely!

So let us now examine this verse and see how it does that. So how does the verse begin? The verse begins by focusing on the incarnation of Christ. So let us now read the first part of **verse 9** and see if this is not so. And what does it say? **"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus."**

So is the author here in this first part of **verse 9** focusing on the incarnation of Christ? Yes! Absolutely! This is exactly what the author was doing when

he spoke of Jesus as having been made for a little while lower than the angels.

Prior to the incarnation Jesus was not lower than the angels. After His resurrection Jesus was not lower than the angels. But during His incarnation, for that little bit of time, Jesus was lower than the angels.

So in what sense was Jesus, during His incarnation, lower than the angels? Was He of lesser value than angels? Did He have a lesser standing than angels? No!

What made Jesus lower than angels during the time of His incarnation was His mortal body. And why is this? It is because those who have mortal bodies have many limitations, which the angels, as ministering spirits do not.

So after the author focused on the incarnation of Jesus, what did the author do next? He then focused on one specific downside of His incarnation and then on one specific upside of His incarnation. And where do we see this dual focus?

We see this dual focus in **verse 9**. So let me now read this verse for you and what does it say? **“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 based on this verse, what was the specific downside and upside of Jesus’ incarnation? Because Jesus was made for a little while lower than the angels, He was able to suffer death, and because He was willing to suffer death, His Father crowned Him with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:9 cf. Philippians 2:5-10).

This downside and upside of Christ’s incarnation is very beautifully described for us by Paul in **Philippians 2:5-10**. So now let me read these verses for you and see if this is not so and what does these verses say? **“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, [now here comes the downside of the incarnation] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [So that is the downside of the incarnation but now**

here comes the upside of the incarnation] **For this reason also, God highly exalted Him** [or in other words crowned Him], **and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**” So was there a downside and upside of Christ’s incarnation? Absolutely!

The downside of Jesus incarnation was that He died. The upside of His incarnation was because He was willing to die He was crowned with glory and honor.

Because God crowned Jesus with glory and honor, He is now presently enjoying what was originally intended for man.

And what was originally intended for man? God originally, when He placed Adam and His wife Eve in the garden, intended that they rule over this earth or in other words would be the lords over this earth. But as we know, because of the sin of Adam, their rule of this earth was taken from them, but now because of the death of Jesus, the infinite God-Man, and His subsequent crowning, the Lord Jesus is now enjoying what was originally intended for man. He is Lord over all of God’s creation. Now it may not be obvious to us at this present time but He is.

So now let me ask you this question. If Christ is presently Lord over all and is presently enjoying what was originally intended for man, can we through faith in Christ enjoy that same exalted position over all of God’s creation? Yes, absolutely! So how can this be possible? This is revealed to us in the final phrase of **verse 9, “so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”**

The word taste is a Hebrews metaphor that does not mean to “sample” but rather “to partake fully.”

So, what is the author’s point here in this last phrase? Because Jesus tasted death for everyone, it makes it possible for any person through faith in Christ to achieve God’s original and ultimate intention for man in Christ.

So if you are here to today and have placed your faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation then you can know that in Christ you are a ruler, not over a part of this earth, but the whole of this earth.

Is this now obvious? No! But when Christ, who is presently seated at the right hand of God, rises up from His seated position at the end of the future seven-year tribulation period, it will be obvious.

And it will be at that time that God's ultimate plan for man will be realized, when we or in other words those who have inherited eternal life will return with Him to rule over this world, as co-regents with Christ.

What was God's original and ultimate intention for man? God's original and ultimate intention for man was to rule over His creation. And can that be achieved? Absolutely! But it can only be achieved through Christ and in Christ.

Is this world full of troubles? Yes! Everywhere we look there are troubles.

Will science or education or social or political action be able to address these problems effectively? No! Only Christ and those who are in Christ will be able to address these problems and these will be addressed.

So let us in the midst of the troubles of this world not fixate on those troubles, but let us fixate on Jesus, who is this world's only hope.

May God give us the grace in the midst of this present world's difficulties to persevere with hope, knowing that God's original and ultimate intention for man will be achieved in Christ.