

God Has Spoken
“The Humbled Son”

Introduction: Emphasis thus far has been given to the divine role of the Son, and His superiority over angels, but today’s focus will be the humanity of the Son.

Recalling the Context of Hebrews

- Impatient and immature believers (both Jews and Greeks) were considering abandoning orthodox Christianity for something “safer” and more widely accepted by the culture.
- Uncertain of Christ’s return coupled with imminent persecution created an unhealthy fear and willingness to compromise their belief system and commitment to the Gospel.
- People were in danger of shrinking back—drifting away—and returning to their old ways of Judaism.
- Sense that their old ways and practices would bring relief from the world’s testing temptations, and challenges.

BIG PROBLEM:

“Waning confidence in the message of Christianity.”

- Losing hope in the truth of Scripture
- Ignoring the sufficiency of Christ’s atoning sacrifice
- Neglecting the son’s role as the faithful and merciful High Priest
- Failing to recognize the benefits and significance of Christ’s humanity—the humbled Son

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor. Hebrews 2:9a NKJV

TODAY: God has spoken through the humbled Son providing an anchor and hope for the drifting believer.

Context for the Author’s Argument

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. Hebrews 2:5 NKJV

A. The superiority of the Son over angels is seen in 1:5-14 by:

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- No angel is EVER called Son
- No angel is seated at the Father's right hand
- The Son has a unique position
- Angels are called to minister to us

B. Now author will contrast ministering angels with the "Son of Man" or "man"

- Utilizes a messianic Psalm—Psalms 8:4-6
- Focus will turn from the exalted Son to the humbled Son

What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels. Psalms 8:4-5a NKJV

C. "World to come" of Hebrew 2:5 "of which we speak" is in reference to heaven (earlier mentioned)

— WORLD= "oikomene" – civilized world, for the believer heaven

But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6 NKJV

- Christ's ascension into the WORLD TO COME, not his incarnation

NOTE: Again, rule and dominion of the future world will not be by angels—the truly divine and truly human Son is superior to angels.

— "World" where Son has been installed at the Father's right hand

But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Hebrews 1:6 NKJV

But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Hebrews 1:13 NKJV

D. Hebrews 2:5 is a deduction from Hebrews 1:13-14

— 1st premise: Son is seated at God's right hand (1:13)

— 2nd premise: Angels sent out to assist "those about to inherit salvation" (1:14)

— Conclusion: Angels, therefore, are not the ones to whom this “coming world” of salvation “has been subjected” (2:5)

E. New Testament understanding of “subjection”—Christ

- All powers
- All demons
- All angels
- All enemies
- All principalities
- All things

NOTE: Subjection will become a visible reality at Christ’s second return.

QUESTION: What is the author’s message for a community of believers considering abandoning the truth of scripture in the face of severe trial and temptation?

TRANSITION: To answer this question, the author will address the divine goal for humanity, obstacles keeping humanity from reaching the goal, and the ultimate solution.

I. Divine Goal for Humanity

A. Humanity’s position according to the creation narrative

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

1. Position of **glory** in the created realm (Genesis 1:21)

- Fill the earth
- Subdue the earth—bring under control

2. Position of **authority** in the created realm

Rule over...

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- Fish of the sea
- Birds in the sky
- Livestock, wild animals, all creatures

3. Position of **responsibility** in the created realm (Genesis 1:27)

- Created for God's own glory

Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him." Isaiah 43:7 NKJV

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:11-12 NKJV

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV

NOTE: GT's Vision is "to develop biblically sound believers who reflect Christ's character"

IMPORTANT: Regardless of what our culture teaches us, all lives are significant because all lives have been created in God's image with the intent to bring God—the creator—glory!

B. Humanity's position according to Psalm 8

1. Messianic Psalm—points to and is fully realized in Christ, the Messiah (see Psalm 110:1).
2. Original meaning of Psalm 8 speaks of humanity's position in the created realm.

You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen — Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. Psalms 8:6-8 NKJV

3. Psalm must be understood in reference to humanity and Christ.
 - Humanity should have had glory from the beginning (Garden)
 - All have sinned—because of Adam—and fall short of the glory of God.
 - Christ fulfills the Psalm as "last Adam" and enables humanity to inherit glory (1 Corinthians 15:45)

NOTE: Author of Hebrews uses Psalm 8 to reveal God’s intended purpose or goal of humanity and how that goal will and can be obtained only through the true human—Christ, the humbled Son.

C. The unrealized position of glory

You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. Hebrews 2:8 NKJV

WHY?

II. Obstacles Preventing Humanity from Reaching the Divine Goal

A. Sin

1. Sin separated God from humanity

Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. Genesis 3:23-24 NKJV

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV

2. Sin marred the “Imago Dei” stamped on humanity

- Image of God is distorted/tainted
- Moral purity lost
- Sinful character does not reflect God’s holiness
- Intellect corrupted by falsehood and misunderstanding
- Speech no longer glorified God
- Relationships are governed by selfishness rather than pure love

3. Sin produced death

- Physical death (Genesis 3:19)
- Spiritual death (Romans 6:23)

B. Power of the Devil

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14-15 NKJV

1. Devil's power connected to human flesh and blood (Hebrews 2:14)

— Christ must take a body to destroy power

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. Hebrews 10:5 NKJV

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10 NKJV

2. Devil rules currently in the created realm

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV

3. Enslaved humanity (v. 15)

NOTE: Without the intervention of the exalted and humbled Son, we are still dead in our sins

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 1 Corinthians 15:17 NKJV

SUMMARY:

- God created humanity with the intention of them standing in a place of glory.
- Sin, death, and the devil stand in the way of God's creation realizing a place of honor and glory.

NOTE: Christ makes possible the glory God intended

III. The Solution

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A. The Humbled Son

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor. Hebrews 2:9a

1. “Position” little lower than the angels...” (2:9)—See Psalm 8:5 and Hebrews 2:7

— Reference to Incarnation (John 1:1, 14)

NOTE: Christ’s exaltation—seated at the right hand of the Father—is not realized without Christ’s incarnation.

— Came in human flesh to restore and redeem human flesh (2:14-15)

— Assumed broken humanity in order that it might be mended and glorified

2. “Suffered death”

— Wages of sin=death (Romans 6:23)

— He who knew no sin became sin (2 Corinthians 5:21)

— He took on dying humanity so that through His own death, He might destroy the one who has the power of death—the devil

3. “Crowned with glory and honor

— Validated in resurrection and exaltation

— We NOW see the incarnate Son in state of ultimate exaltation “because of His obedient suffering and death.”

NOTE: The incarnation and suffering are the means to Christ’s exaltation as all sufficient savior

B. The Pioneer of our salvation

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. Hebrews 2:10 NKJV

NOTE: Jesus is the firstborn who has gone before us, made a way (salvation), and is now bringing many sons to glory.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29 NKJV

NOTE:—Only the one who has been “crowned with glory and honor” (2:9) because of suffering and is thus the very “radiance” of God’s glory (1:3) is able to bring them into this destiny.

- Judaism won’t bring you into God’s destiny
- Abandoning the truth the Scripture—this great salvation is not the solution
- Avoiding suffering, temptation, and difficulty won’t usher sons into glory
- Only ONE way

WARNING: Don’t drift away, because the only one capable of bringing you into salvation—to be restored fully in the future world—is the humbled and exalted Son!

- God’s children are to follow their “pioneer”
- Metaphor will be used in Chapter 3 speaking of Moses (pioneer for bringing Israel into their promised rest in the Promised Land
- Christ humbled Himself to help descendants of Abraham, not angels (v. 16)

IMPORTANT: God does not superintend their journey from a distance, but he “takes hold” of them and guides them by the hand.

C. Faithful and Merciful High Priest

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:17-18 NKJV

1. Represented humanity as the true and perfect human
2. Cleansed people from their sin and ushered them into God’s presence because of obedience characterized in humanity.

Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation

to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 5:7-10 NKJV

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10 NKJV

Conclusion:

Charge to the Readers:

— In the face of pressure, temptations, and testings causing you to consider withdrawing from your commitment to the faith—this great salvation remember...

1. Christ took on human flesh, suffered death, and is now seated at God's right hand.
2. Christ has given you access to the Father.
3. Christ has taken hold of you.
4. Christ overcame death and destroyed the power of the Devil over you.

— Since Christ became human and endured suffering and temptation, He can help us when we are tempted.

*Garden – I too wrestled with “giving up” and “drifting away”

*Wilderness – I too was challenged to compromise my convictions

FINAL:

— Culture says compromise is easier

— We are tempted to blend in with our culture

— We are ridiculed for our biblical positions and convictions

— Christ understands our struggles, so don't drift. Instead, look to the humbled Son. He has paved the way, He can help us through our testing.

— God has spoken through His Son—the Humbled Son—He has given us victory and made Himself available to help us in time of trial and temptation.

HE IS ALL WE NEED!