

# Hebrews

## The Path of Man's Destiny (Part 1)

### Hebrews 2:5-6

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### Hebrews 2:5-6

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Hebrews is set aside for the very purpose of exalting Jesus Christ, particularly above everything related to Judaism prior to the coming of Christ, whether it is the angels who brought the law, whether it is Moses who brought it down from the mountain, whether it is Aaron who was the priest, whether it is the prophets, whether it is *Melchizedek*, who was a very unique priest. Whatever it is, whoever it is, Jesus Christ is superior. He is showing them that they must recognize that Jesus Christ is superior to everything connected with the old covenant. To think otherwise would be totally out of the harmony of the purpose of the Old Testament. The intent of the Old Testament is to point to the Messiah that was fulfilled by Jesus. And so here, **the writer is attempting to show the folly of rejecting the reality, while accepting and performing all of the ritual.**

That is why Jesus made the statement in Matthew...

#### **Matthew 5:17 (NASB95)**

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to – do what – **fulfill.**" the law.

There are many, many places in the Old Testament that points to Christ using rituals. The sacrifices of animals, the sprinkling of blood on the arc of the covenant, the Passover "lamb", and on, and on, and on.

And what were they doing? They were only prefiguring or picturing a more noble and perfect blood, which would be shed at some future time, and shed only once for all.

There are so many scriptures in the Old Testament concerning the death of Christ that Paul referred to them this way:

#### **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB95)**

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

When Paul referred to the "scriptures", he was referring to the Old Testament because at that time the New Testament had not been completed.

The unbelieving Jews were and still are in a dilemma because they try to accept the old covenant and its rituals but still reject Christ. The very person that the Old Testament is referring to.

Jesus said to the Jews,

### **John 5:39-40 (NASB95)**

<sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; <sup>40</sup> and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

So in the first four verses in chapter 2, the author gives a little exhortation and a little warning, saying if Jesus is, in fact, God, then people ought to react accordingly. Then he follows in verses 5-9 by showing **The Path of Man's Destiny and how that path interacts with angels.**

### **All Stand and Read Scripture**

#### **Hebrews 2:5-6 (NASB95)**

<sup>5</sup> For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him?"

### **Prayer**

When we look at the Path of Man's Destiny, the author of Hebrews starts off in verse 5 by returning to the superiority of Christ over angels by showing the future role of angels. This may seem a little hard to follow because we are used to telling things sequentially from beginning to end. Here we are going to be looking into the future and returning to the beginning and then go through time sequentially.

#### **Hebrews 2:5-9 (NASB95)**

<sup>5</sup> For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

Now there is a tremendous point here concerning the superiority of Christ over angels.

#### **What in the world is he saying?**

He is saying, God did not give administration of the "world to come" to angels. That is the new earth, the kingdom of God. Who is the sovereign of the world to come? **Jesus Christ.**

Do you see the point?

He is again saying that Jesus is superior to angels. So if angels are currently next to God in rank and Jesus is superior to angels, what does that make Jesus? **God!** That is the point.

But secondly, it answers an objection. That is, if **Jesus was a man and He died**, how could He be superior to angels? Well he answers that is this passage.

And then thirdly, these verses reveal the only hope for a man's recovery of his lost destiny. You see, because of Adam sinning in the garden of Eden, man has lost his original destiny of ruler over the creation on earth. Man today has lost the meaning of his existence. And

this passage is going to teach us how it is that man can recover his destiny and, in fact, what his destiny is.

We will look at it in three different destinies starting in the future. **Man's Destiny Revealed by God, Man's Destiny Restricted by Sin, Man's Destiny Recovered by Christ.** We will be covering Man's destiny revealed by God in Part 1.

## **BODY:**

### **I. Man's Destiny Revealed by God.**

#### **Hebrews 2:5 (NASB95)**

**<sup>5</sup> For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.**

Now what we are saying here is this, God never promised the rule of the new earth to angels. In fact, if you go back to 1:14, you will find that angels are sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

So in the world to come, angels will be ministers, not rulers. Do you see? God has not assigned to them sovereignty in the world to come. When the author said that did "**not subject to angels the world to come**". He was using a military term used for arranging your soldiers in order under a commanding general. It is speaking of a system of administration. And God has not turned over the system of administration of the "**world to come**" to angels.

God is the one who gives out the administrations. God ordains every power that is, doesn't he? The powers that be are what? Ordained of God. He chooses the various sovereigns.

And in the world to come, angels will not be the sovereigns. The world to come is the world of perfection. The world to come is the great and glorious world. And whoever reigns in that world must be glorious beyond glory, and that has not been assigned to angels.

Now this indicates some interesting things to us. It indicates, first of all, that rule by angels or the superiority of angels over men is only temporary. And I say that, because you are going to find in the next two verses who it is that is going to rule in the age to come. You know who it is? Men. And the ruler over all will be Christ.

So what we are saying is that the authority or the superiority of angels over men now is only temporary. You will need to listen carefully because the next few verses are going to give us insight in understanding the flow of God's history and the destiny of man.

You will notice in verse 5 the word "world:". This is not the common Greek word *kosmos*, which means the universe. It is a very specific word which means the "inhabited" earth.

We know that there will be a new heaven and a new inhabited earth.

#### **Revelation 21:1-5 (NASB95)**

**21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among**

men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

There is an inhabited earth to come. Now that cannot be this earth, because this inhabited earth is to be destroyed. So the point he is making here is that there is a another inhabited earth coming and there is going to be sovereignty in that inhabited earth, but it will not belong to angels.

The world that we currently live in is in subjection to angels, but the new world will not be.

This is a very important distinction.

We know from scripture that angels currently have the rule over this world. Let me illustrate that to you. Who is the number one fallen angel? **Satan**. Who is prince of this world? **Satan**. Who is the sovereign of this world? **Satan**. Not only does Satan and his fallen angels have a limited rule in this world but even the holy angels have a kind of sovereignty.

For example, let's look at a passage in Daniel.

#### **Daniel 10:18-21 (NASB95)**

<sup>18</sup> Then *this* one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me. <sup>19</sup> He said, “O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!” Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, “May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.” <sup>20</sup> Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. <sup>21</sup> However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these *forces* except Michael your prince.

So we learn from this passage that holy angels, in this case, an unnamed angel and Michael are fighting against **spiritual forces** referenced as the prince of Greece and the prince of Persia.

We also know from Ephesians that the rule of this earth is currently in the hands of fallen angels and that holy angels are at war against them. That is the conflict.

#### **Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB95)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the *spiritual forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Remember, in chapter 1 verse 17 it told us that there are ministering angels who are fighting for those who are saved.

#### **Hebrews 1:14 (NASB95)**

<sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Which leads us into the next point.

## II. Man Lost His Sovereignty in the Garden.

The only reason our current earth, that is going to be destroyed by fire, is subject to angels is because men lost the sovereignty that God gave them in the beginning by disobeying God.

What was that sovereignty?

### **Genesis 1:28 (NASB95)**

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

But in the new earth, that sovereignty will be restored to men. This is important. Because it gives another reason why the man Jesus is superior to angels. Because when God made this earth, He made it to be ruled by men, not angels. Angels are only filling in the gap. And you know what Satan did? He stole it from men, didn't he? He moved in and took what was not his.

So to say that Jesus cannot be better than angels because He is a man is all wrong. Because man was originally created to rule, not to be under the subjection of angels. He was created as the king of the earth. And in God's final destiny for man, He will once again rule as God designed Him to be.

So the inhabited earth now is under the sovereignty of angels, holy and unholy, battling against each other. But the new earth will be under the control of men. Now that is revealed later in verse 8 that we will get to later. Verses 6-8 are a direct quote from Psalm 8 where, once again, the author of Hebrews is using by using the Old Testament to make his case.

### **Hebrews 2:6 (NASAB95)**

<sup>6</sup> But one has testified somewhere, saying, “What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him?”

“**But one has testified somewhere**”. The author is stressing the point that even though David wrote the words, he wants to remind them that it is the voice of God. He is so concerned that his Hebrew readers understand who really wrote the Old Testament, that he never credits it to anybody but God. And he just kind of passes over David very lightly.

Here is the first part of the quote from Psalm 8.

### **Psalm 8:4 (NASB95)**

<sup>4</sup> What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

I mean the point is simply this, God, what is man that you would be so good to him, that you would give him so much bounty and so much blessing? We are God's creation and He loves us desires that all men everywhere be saved.

## **2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

## **CONCLUSION:**

So we have seen God's future destiny for man and why the demons and angels are currently ruling over us and ministering to us.

The good news is that even though Satan and his forces are still ruling over the unbelievers in this sinful world, they have been defeated and are unable to take our salvation from us.

## **Colossians 2:13-15 (NASB95)**

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup>having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Consequently, there is no need for believers to fear their spiritual enemy. While Satan still has the freedom to tempt and harass Christians, he has no direct authority over them. Spiritual warfare for believers, therefore, is fought in the mind, emotions, and the will. Scriptural truth is our primary line of defense. That is why Paul frequently urges us to be renewed in our minds.

## **Romans 12:1-2 (NASB95)**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

The more our minds are filled with the truth of God's Word, the less susceptible we are to Satan's deceptions and temptations.

However, because Satan still rules the unbelieving world, we will, on occasion, have to confront Satan's work in other people's lives.

By the time we get through verse 9, we will see God's the complete revealed path of man's destiny. We started out as rulers over the earth and the earth served man. The earth fed him and provided everything he needed. But then something drastic happened. When Adam sinned in the garden we lost that reign and it was given to Satan and his demons. The angels also play a part for the believers to keep them safe. We are currently lower than angels because we are humans. But Christ tasted death for you and for me, and He did it to recover your lost destiny. It will only be for a little time, that we will be made lower than angels. If you are a true believer, God reveals to us that we will someday to be at least equal, if not superior, with angels and reigning with Christ in His kingdom.

If you have been trying to figure out why you exist, I hope you beginning to understand it now.

**He is Lord.**