

Hebrews

The Path of Man's Destiny (Part 2)

Hebrews 2:7-8

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INTRODUCTION:

The Book of Hebrews is written 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*, a very unique priest. Whatever it is, whoever it is, Jesus Christ is superior.

The author through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is showing them that they must recognize that Jesus Christ is superior to everything connected with the old covenant and submit themselves through faith to the Gospel. 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.**

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. Then he follows in verses 5-9 by showing **The Path of Man's Destiny and how that path interacts with angels.**

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. They have been asked to fill in for man and minister to them as we go through this time of facing sin. Man was originally created to rule over all creation on 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. So we have seen God's future destiny for man and why the angels are currently ruling over the saved 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 ultimately defeated and are unable to take our salvation from us.

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.

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 in this unbelieving world, we will, on occasion, have to confront Satan's work in other people's lives.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 2:7-8 (NASB95)

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.”

Prayer

In this three part message we will look at the path of **Man's destiny as revealed by God**, from Adam, to our current dilemma that we face here on earth, and then into the future when we will be inhabiting the new earth. In part two this morning we will see how man was initially made for a little while lower than angels despite the fact that we were created to rule over all of creation on earth. Next week, Lord willing, we will see how **Man's Destiny was Restricted by Sin and How Man's Destiny Can be Recovered by Christ**.

BODY:

I. Man is Temporarily Lower than Angels.

Hebrews 2:7 (NASB95)

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.”

This is a direct quote from Psalms.

Psalm 8:4-6 (NASB95)

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, 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,

The Psalm was definitely speaking about mankind. But at the same time, as we will see in Hebrews next week, it is also a shadow of the Messiah to come.

So did you hear what it said?

Did you know that God's original destiny for man was that he would be, for a little time, lower than angels and that man was to be the king of the earth? All of creation on earth was to be in subjection to man?

What David was asking God was, “God, why would you give man glory and majesty and allow him to rule over the earth?” I mean when we look at the whole universe and we see this little insignificant kind of dot in the middle of infinity, we wonder, “What is man that You would do this?”

Our earth is only a little tiny spec in the universe. And within that little spec are a whole lot of other little specs. I mean what right do we have to be **so much** in the mind of God? What is man that thou are mindful of him? And yet the psalmist says, “**You have made him a little lower than Angels**”, – and I will explain what that means shortly – “**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.**” Man was created as a king. God made him that way. That is man’s destiny revealed by God.

You see, man had been designed by God to have dominion over the earth. And the earth was subjected to man, and the earth supplied all of man’s needs without man doing anything. All man had to do was just to accept the earth as it provided his needs.

In Genesis, chapter 1, we read this in verse 26,

Genesis 1:26 (NASB95)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us – let **us, who is he talking about? There is a trinity, remember? – make man in Our image, – and that is a spiritual image since God is a spirit – according to Our likeness; and let them – watch this word – “**rule**” – did you get that? Man was made a king. What was he to rule over? – rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**

Then He continues in verses 29-30...

Genesis 1:29-30 (NASB95)

²⁹ Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰ and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

That is the creation of man. God created man to be king of the earth. That is very important for us to know. Now I want to look at these verses and take them apart for a moment.

Going back to verse 6 it asks, what is man? What is frail man that God should crown him with dominion? God originally intended that man in innocence was king over the undefiled earth. In verse 7 it also tells us that man was created a little lower than the angels. So the chain of command is God, angels, man, and earth.

You will notice in verse 6 that he uses the phrase “The son of man.” Some have interpreted it to be a reference to Christ. I do not believe so. I think what he is referring here to mankind. We will see in verse 9, however that it also is a shadow of the Messiah who, although He is God, due to His human state, will also be for a short time lower than angels.

So what did the Holy Spirit mean when He said that in mankind's path of destiny he was for a short time to be made a little lower than angels?

It was not that they were lower than angels in the sense of love. God loves man with His infinite capacity to love. Thus He loves angels and men equally. It was not that man was lower than angels in the sense of importance to God. It was only that man was lower than angels in the sense that he was physical and angels were spiritual.

Now what do you mean by that?

Just this, angels are heavenly, and man is earthly. And that implies a difference. Notice he says " **You have made him for a little while lower than the angels.**" That word in the Greek has a time designation. This will not be a permanent situation.

You see, God in the very beginning knew that the ultimate destiny of man would not be something lower than angels. This is a temporary chain of command. God has a destiny for man in the future that rates him as a king. This places him at least on an equal basis with angels for a little time while we lived on **this** earth. God, you see, was looking into the future of redeemed man that would come through Christ.

You may ask, in what **way** was man made a little lower than the angels?

Well, man was confined by a physical body, and angels are able to move freely as spirits. Man was confined strictly to the earth. Angels were not confined. They could move down to the earth any time they wanted; so they had options that man didn't have.

Not only that, man's only communion with God or in God's presence was when God came to his world. Angels had access to the throne of God whenever they desired. Angels are spirit beings; man was made out of the dust of the earth.

Angels were, after Satan's rebellion, secured in holiness forever. Man was not. He was only innocent, but he had the choice to sin. And so angels were perfect and man was only innocent; in that sense, he was lower.

Angels have supernatural power and strength that mankind does not have whether they are saved or unsaved. With angels there was no possibility to die. With men, there was. For God said, "**In the day that you eat of the fruit of the tree, of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall surely**" – what – "**die.**"

So man in his physical sense and in the sense that he could die, was lower than angels. Not in the love of God, not in the ultimate end of God's design, but only for this little time man was made lower than the angels.

I want to read to you a scripture from Daniel that speaks of our Kingship in the future.

Daniel 7:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

God is telling us that in the future we will reign in an eternal kingdom. And who will receive the kingdom? "**The saints of the Highest One**". Who is going to rule in the kingdom? Not angels, it will be redeemed men. And thus, he says in the Book of Hebrews that he was made for a **little time** lower than the angels.

What a wonderful promise that God has made for redeemed men! No wonder David said, "**What is man that you should be so good to him?**" The kingdom will be for redeemed saints.

Of course Christ will be the "King of Kings". So even though we are "kings", Christ will still be over all. Listen to what Paul wrote to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:19b-21 (NASB95)

...*These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

In the new earth things will be a whole lot different. We will not have to deal with sin. Everything and everyone will be completely righteous. Man and angels will be equal, and man will, once again be given reign over all creation on the new earth in God's kingdom. The new earth will be redeemed and it will, once again serve man.

I want you to notice in verses 20 -21 that it says that God "**Raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named**".

When Christ reigns in the kingdom it says He will reign over all "**power and dominion, and every name that is named.**" That would include angels. So if Christ reigns over angels in the kingdom and we sit on His throne with Him, who reigns in the kingdom? We do, over angels. And that is what we see in verse 8.

Hebrews 2:8a (NASB)

⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

Kings in the time of David were always elevated above the people, and the people they ruled were always below them, and it was stated as such that the people were under their feet. The king was way up here, and you were always under their feet.

Then when anybody would come in just to bow before the king, the king would be highly elevated and the person would bow down before the feet of the king, and would sometimes even kiss his feet. So his subjects were spoken of as being under his feet.

So man has been given the right to rule, and all of the things that God has made have been put under the feet of man.

CONCLUSION:

What have we learned?

Believers are for a little time lower than angels. This is because we were created from the dust of the earth and are human and all of mankind has fallen under the curse of sin. Thus, unlike the eternal angels, we will all physically die.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NASB95)

²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment, ²⁸ so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him.

Because of the fall of mankind, holy angels have temporarily been assigned the task to minister to the saved and help them through this time on earth. God is using His angels to protect us from this world.

What is wrong with our world?

Let me give you an example. An eighteen-year old boy gunned down 19 grade school children and 3 adults in Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022 in Uvalde (You-VOW-dee), Texas, yet the news media and "political experts" could not come up with any rational explanation other than suggesting that he was **mentally ill**. Really? People from all walks of life and political persuasions are demanding that government officials do something to prevent repeated horrific violence that seems to be overwhelming us. Unfortunately, it is not just horrific shootings. It looks like our entire civilization is coming unraveled. We are enduring an ongoing, brutal war in Ukraine, racial and political division in America, moral collapse, and strife within religious denominations. And we wonder "What is wrong with us?" How can we restore stability and morality? Some attempt to identify the problem as the easy access to guns. Others attempt to diagnose it as a mental illness, while others suggest the primary issue is racial prejudice or widespread poverty.

But there is a much simpler explanation to all of this evil. **It is time to start calling a spade a spade don't you think?** The Bible identifies the core problem as **SIN!** And it also predicts that sin will escalate in the last days. Can you imagine how much different America would be today if only the news media would focus on just this one explanation of evil and suggest that we all repent and turn to God?

Shortly after Adam and Even sinned, Cain murdered his brother Abel. Within a few generations, man's downward spiral into sin reached such a level of moral decay that the earth was filled with violence and bloodshed. The Bible says that it became so bad that God regretted that He had even created man and wiped the world clean with a flood and started over.

We are repeating the same cycle. As in the days of Noah and in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, most in our culture reject God's authority. Consequently, Satan is gaining momentum. How can a young man shoot his grandmother and then randomly slaughter nineteen innocent schoolchildren unless he is demon-possessed? Jesus said the devil specializes in killing, stealing, and destroying, and this Satan's hour -- when darkness reigns.

I would like to finish with a passage of scripture from II Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13 (NASB95)

3 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. ...

¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad to worse*, deceiving and being deceived.

We will have to deal with the sin around us and endure to the end of our lives in faith. The author of Hebrews through the Holy Spirit has laid out the case that Jesus was the Messiah and He is now sitting at the right hand side of God. He has set up a spiritual kingdom for us and will consummate our salvation when He returns again to receive us unto Himself and we will once again be given eternal reign over the new earth that He is preparing for us.

What a day that will be!

He is Lord.