

Hebrews

The Path of Man's Destiny (Part 3)

Hebrews 2:8-9

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The Path of Man's Destiny (Part 3)

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INTRODUCTION:

In this three part message we are looking at the path of **Man's destiny as revealed by God**. Man was initially made to rule over all of creation on earth. The earth served man. The earth fed him, provided everything he needed. We were made, for a little while, lower than angels. But then something drastic happened. And that is **part 3** of this message.

Due to Adam's disobedience to God, **Man's Destiny was become Restricted by Sin. But the good news is that Man's Destiny Can be Recovered by Christ**. We can have our relationship with God restored due to Jesus Christ who was willing to die on the cross for our sins. And by the grace of God, we can die spiritually and be resurrected from the dead like Christ. Then we are told that this world of sin is going to be destroyed by fire and the saved will inherit a new earth that Christ is preparing for us. We will once again have dominion over all creation on the new earth with Christ as our king. That is the destiny of redeemed man as proclaimed by God. Let's look at our passage of scripture and see how this all unfolds.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 2:8-9 (NASB95)

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.

Prayer

BODY:

I. Man's Destiny Restricted by Sin.

Hebrews 2:8 (NASB95)

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.**

Man had dominion over all creation on earth and then a tragedy happened. Adam sinned. That changed man's destiny and he was now under the curse of sin and the rule of Satan.

Look for a moment at verse 14 of Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:14-15 (NASB95)

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

You want to know why snakes crawl? That is why -

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

This is prophecy concerning Christ's conflict with Satan. Satan may have won the battle, but Jesus Christ will win the war.

Then we see a couple of the results of Adam's sin.

Genesis 3:16-19 (NASB95)

¹⁶ To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

¹⁸ “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Then God removed them from the garden.

Genesis 3:22-24 (NASB95)

²² Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

So what happened when Adam sinned? Immediately he lost his crown.

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. And then man sinned and Satan took over the crown. This caused a change in the chain of command. Man fell clear to the bottom. God, angels (both holy and unholy), the earth, and then man.

We no longer rule this world; it rules us. Man fights constantly against the earth for his existence.

Do you remember what happened to Adam immediately after he had sinned? First there was murder among his own family and man turned against God.. By the time you arrive at chapter 6 of Genesis, God destroys the whole world because it has gotten so evil, and it is only taken about two chapters to get there.

So, as we have already learned, the earth now is ruled in the conflict between the holy and the unholy angels. Michael, who is call the prince of the people of God, is the holy angel who is at war against Satan. Satan is the prince of the earth. Satan rules the cursed earth, which, in turn, rules man in sin.

When man lost his crown he was totally sinful and became a slave to sin. He was no longer a king, he had become a slave. Not only that, the animal kingdom yielded to man only in the sense of fear, not affection and service. And much of the animal kingdom was unable to be tamed.

Then the ground, instead of yielding good things and things easy to take and easy to eat, produced thorns, weeds, and other harmful things. And it began to render extremes of heat and cold, poisonous plants, and reptiles, earthquakes, typhoons, floods, hurricanes, disease, wars, and an army of billions of bacteria were released upon man at the fall. Everything broke loose to strip man of his rule and leave him as a slave fighting all his lifetime to exist. And man has been fighting a losing battle ever since. He has been dying, and dying, and dying, and dying. And now we know that his earth is also cursed and dying with him.

And the scriptures tell us that, even the earth knows it. A very mysterious, and yet very important passage, is found in Romans 8, because it shows us the pain that the earth goes through groaning for its redemption.

Romans 8:18-22 (NASB95)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

Man builds his cities and palaces, and the lightning, and the earthquakes, and the floods destroys his city, and shatters his palace. Man lives in jeopardy every hour. Even at his greatest heights of thought, he realizes that it is subject to failure.

We live in a world where there is the distress of nations, the impossibility of agreement between two counties, and a world that languishes in political and social conflict. The whine of pain that comes from animals, the struggle of trees to combat disease and insects, the presence of great hospitals to house the sick, and the dying victims of the cursed earth. No wonder creation groans.

But God never designed it that way. But some day in the world to come hospitals will be closed, doctors will be out of business, the ravenous nature of wild animals will be changed, the green herb and the tree will no longer be stricken, the game of politics will be over, wars will cease, and redeemed man will once again reign.

Isaiah 2:4 (NASB95)

⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

So if we are once again going to be elevated to rule over a redeemed earth, many will wonder "How could this possibly happen?"

This will all be accomplished by the grace of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

II. Man's Destiny Recovered by Christ.

Hebrews 2:9 (NASB95)

⁹ But we do see Him (notice that Him is capitalized here) 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.

Redeemed man's destiny will be recovered by Christ.

The ultimate curse of man's lost destiny is death. **Right?** God said to Adam...

Genesis 2:16-17 (NASB95)

¹⁶ The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will ...What?... surely die."

Verse 9 says that we see Jesus, "**who was made for a little time lower than the angels**". In other words, He became a man. Why? So He could die for our sins. Because of that He has been crowned with glory and honor.

So how did Christ's death on the cross free us from sin?

Here is the answer: **the only payment for sin is what? DEATH!** The Bible says the only payment for sin is Death.

So men must die to remove the curse. Do you understand that? The only way man can ever be a king again is to have the curse removed. And the only way you can remove the curse is to **pay** the penalty for our sin paid for, right? So if man is to be restored or reign as a king, he must die, and he must be resurrected a righteous man.

But how can we possibly do that? We cannot say to ourselves, all right, I will go die. Because we cannot do it on my own. We would die in our sins.

So how is it going to happen?

Romans 6:4-11 (NASB95)

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

When we were baptized, we **died** spiritually and were buried through baptism just as Christ was buried in the tomb and we resurrected through the glory of the Father into a new life in Christ. The moment that I put my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized, I was identified with Christ. I died to my old self, was buried in the waters of baptism, I resurrected, and now I walk in newness of life.

What is newness of life?

It is life with the curse removed. Our sin has been removed, our relationship with God has been restored, and we are now found righteous before God. This is all accomplished by the grace of God through His Son.

Back in verse 9 in Hebrews, we see Jesus, a man. He had to be a man, right, to gain man's dominion, who was also for a little time made lower than the angels for the suffering of death.

Why?

Because He had to taste death for every man. If a man was to die for his **own** sin, he would doom himself to an eternity separated by God and the crown could never be restored. So Jesus came to this world as a man, lived a **sinless** life, and became the perfect sacrifice for mankind by dying on the cross for all mankind. The reason He could die for us is because He could not only die, but He could also conquer death. Right? He resurrected on the third day according to prophecy.

So when we enter into the kingdom in the new world we will once again reign. It is exciting to realize your identity as a king, isn't it? Listen to this concerning Christ Jesus...

Revelation 5:9 (NASB95)

⁹ And they *sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Christ tasted death for you and for me, and He did it to recover your lost destiny.

CONCLUSION:

So 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.

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. Jesus said the devil specializes in killing, stealing, and destroying, and this Satan's hour -- when darkness reigns.

I would like to finish, once again for those who missed it last week, 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.