

“JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO...” SERIES

NOTHING IS OUTSIDE HIS CONTROL

HEBREWS 2:5-9

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*5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.*

*6 It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?”*

*7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

*Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (ESV)*

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**Introduction**

As we begin this section, the writer resumes his main argument, “Jesus is superior to the angels.” The first four verses of this chapter dealt with the consequences of “neglecting so great a salvation.” Now the writer resumes his argument concerning the superiority of Jesus.

These verses may be seen as a transitional piece, tying the Messiah, Jesus of the heavens with the Messiah, Jesus of the incarnation.

## JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

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*5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.*

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The New Century Version translates this verse as:

*<sup>5</sup> God did not choose angels to be the rulers of the new world that was coming, which is what we have been talking about.<sup>1</sup>*

The argument changes; “If Christ became a mortal man and was killed upon a cross, how can He be the Christ, and therefore be superior to the angels?”

Simply put, angels have no authority in the time to come. In the Old and New Testaments, angels have overseen the judgment on man. For example;

to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:13),  
on Israel (2 Samuel 24:15-17),  
on kings (Acts 12:23) and  
in the end times, during the Tribulation (Revelation 8:9).

But in the new world to come, angels will have no authority over the church. The Apostle Paul lets us in on the idea that the saints will judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3).

The only comment to be made is “God did not choose angels to rule the New Heavens and the New Earth; He gave that authority to Jesus the Christ.”

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*6 It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

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The writer does not give the source of the next two verses, but he is quoting from the Psalms:

I have a couple of the Psalms that I really enjoy: Psalm 1, 23, 134-150, but my all-time favorite is the eighth Psalm: Please turn in your bibles and read along with me.

*<sup>1</sup>O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

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<sup>1</sup> *The Everyday Bible: New Century Version.* (2005). (Heb 2:5). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

*You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*

*<sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

*<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*<sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,*

*<sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup>the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

*<sup>9</sup>O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Isn't that the most beautiful tribute to the Creator? "*What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? <sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet.*"

In the first chapter, the writer identified that Christ "...laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands" (1:10). The eighth Psalm declares that the creation was the work of God, and now the writer of Hebrews contributes that work to the Christ and not to the angels.

God did not choose the angels to rule. The LORD GOD chose the SON to rule.

#### ALL THINGS ARE SUBJECT TO HIM

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*Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*

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"Now" is like the word "therefore". It ties the previous statement to the following statement. The Christ is going to rule in the "world to come", but He came to the world as a man.

"*At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him*" - In the future, all things, including angels, are in subjection to the Christ. There is nothing, absolutely nothing that is not in the control of the

SON of God. But right now, that has yet to materialize. He came to the earth as a man born of a woman. He lived the life of a human being. He was ministered to by angels. He began His earthly ministry and then His human body was put to death, a sacrifice for mankind down through the ages.

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*9But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

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“*But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels*” – I love the King James Version opening to this verse; “But we see Jesus.” Through all these arguments, let us see Jesus. Let us see Him for who He is. But if we are to see Jesus for who He is today, we must see Him as He was in His humanity. This is the great mystery surrounding the Christ; His humanity. Questions like;

What was Jesus like when he was growing up?

Did Jesus ever get scolded or spanked?

Did Jesus have any girlfriends growing up?

Did He know that He was God and man at the same time?

We are told that He was like us “in every way” (v.17). What does that mean?

The writer tells us that for a while, “*he was made lower than the angels*”.

We are told that Jesus was tempted in the same way that we are today (v. 18). The difference is that Jesus did not succumb to the temptations and sin.

“*Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death*” – the plan of salvation is fully realized in the suffering of death by Jesus. That is His crowning glory and honor bestowed on Him by the Father. In the end, Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection are to the glory of God. “IT IS FINISHED!”

“*...so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*” – God’s grace, the love that He has for mankind is found in the Christ. The cruel and brutal death which Jesus suffered is not unlike the death of so many others during the time of great Roman persecutions. What made His death different from all the others? His death was the grace of God towards a sinful humanity. His death would ensure that all could come to salvation through his atonement and death. “*that he might taste death for everyone.*”

Conclusion

All things are subject unto Christ.

God bestowed glory and honor on Jesus for his suffering and death.

Jesus tasted death so that man could receive the grace of God.

*Bob Crowder*