

**1. As we learned last time, the writer began this portion of his letter with the first of many warnings to Jewish believers of his day. Hebrews 2:1-4.**

- a. Dear child of God, this warning applied to 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Christians, and it applies to EVERY 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian!
  - i. God bore witness to the Words of Christ, that His Words were true, the Holy Spirit authenticated the Words of Christ by signs, wonders, miracles, and supernatural gifts given to men, and now He testifies of His Word in His churches through men, whom He has called to preach.
- b. Note in (V2-3): This witness and confirmation of His Word was by all (3) Divine Persons in the Godhead or Trinity!
- c. In Hebrews 2:5 and following, the victorious condescension of the Lord Jesus, in what we call His humiliation, when He was "for a little time", made a little lower than the angels to redeem, reclaim, and reconcile fallen man to God, through His sacrificial death on the cross!

**2. In (V5): The world to come has been put under the authority or Lordship of Jesus, and NOT to angels!**

- a. From Isaiah 9:6: "The government of the Kingdom of God" shall be on His shoulder. Whose shoulder, "this virgin born child" and promised Son of David! "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end".
- b. Don't miss "the world to come", which, dear Christians, has already begun, and was inaugurated when Jesus ascended to the throne of heaven! Jesus is the everlasting King, long promised from among David's Sons, who is both God and Man. Romans 1:1-4
  - i. Concerning the world to come having already begun, and being under the rule of the Lord Jesus: 1 Peter 3:22, Hebrews 6:5

**3. Hebrews 2:6-8, Psalm 8 is quoted, which applied to Adam when he was created, but primarily/prophetically to the Lord Jesus in His humanity! Psalm 8:3-9**

- a. When you read (V3-4) YOU MIGHT get the sense that the Psalmist is speaking of the man as nothing and insignificant in comparison to the sun, moon, and the stars, which he calls the work of God's fingers...
- b. I don't think so, I believe he was "actually" exalting the man, since they were the only creatures/creations "made in God's image and likeness".
- c. In (V6) God gave the newly created man "dominion" over all the living creatures and over the earth. Genesis 1:26-28
- d. But when the man sinned against God, he lost and forfeited his dominion to the god of this world. The blessed earth which would have flourished under him was now cursed

because if his sin, now the man had to toil in sweat, difficulty, and hardship.

i. Now he/we must struggle to get the earth to yield her increase, and all humanity were now bond-slaves to Satan!

e. So, although Psalm 8 speaks of the newly created man, WE KNOW, because of Hebrews 2 that it has its fulfillment in Jesus, the Promised Man of Genesis 3:15, who descended into the world and took upon Himself humanity, (or "He was, for a little time, made a little lower than the angels).

#### **4. Back to Hebrews 2:8: This is an ALREADY, but NOT YET.**

a. Even though NOW, WE DO NOT YET SEE all things put under Jesus, don't let your hearts be troubled by all the wickedness that you SEE in the world, when the Lord Jesus and all His holy angels ride victoriously down from heaven at His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, He will PUT DOWN all His DEFEATED enemies!

i. 2 Peter 2:3,9, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, Matthew 28:18

b. Although you are lower than the angels now, children of God, on that day will be exalted with the Lord Jesus above the angels! John 17:20-22

#### **5. Hebrews 2:9-10: Exaltation through humiliation!**

a. This is the great paradox that doesn't make sense to worldly minds, nor to the angels, that the Son of God would voluntarily descend into the world, become human, be made lower than the angels so that He would be able to suffer and die for sinners!

b. When Jesus left His throne to descend into the world as a human, I often think of the angels looking upon this and saying, WOW! What is this, THAT our God would robe Himself in flesh of humanity, and subject Himself to death, the penalty for man's sin! 1 Peter 1:10-12, Philippians 2:6-11

i. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death". Jesus had to be a Man because the sentence of death was passed from Adam to all men for our sins!

c. If fallen man would be saved from his sins, a Perfect, sinless Godman must die and pay the debt of his sins. This is why I thought it necessary to read the entire chapter, so that we could light upon Hebrews 2:14-18.

#### **6. In this section, the writer restates the necessity for Jesus' humanity, and further explains this wonderful truth.**

a. In (V14), "Forasmuch as children (humans) are partakers of flesh and blood", Jesus, "likewise took part (or shared) in the same", which is simply another way of saying, He took upon Himself or SHARED our human nature, He was truly a Man with flesh and blood, mortal, subject to death.

i. The purpose of His incarnation, from (V9), "to taste death (as a Man), for every man", for our sins! To taste does not mean to take a little sip of death, but to fully experience and enter into death.

- b. In Jesus' sufferings and death, He drank the full bitterness, horror, and wrath of Almighty God in both His body and soul for the sins of the world!
- c. Dear child of God, when Jesus tasted death, He fully entered this horrible and bitter death FOR YOU! You will never experience the bitterness and horror of death Jesus like your Lord and Savior! But to the lost!
  - i. Back to Hebrews 2:14, Jesus must share our humanity "that through (His) death, he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them (us) who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."
- d. He died to redeem and reclaim MANY sinners, now sons and daughters of God, to bring them to glory! 1 John 3:8, Colossians 1:13-14
- e. I hope you also see (dear child of God) that you should no longer have a fear death! For Jesus, in His death, destroyed the devil, who no longer has this power over you. Romans 5:21, 8:14-15, 2 Timothy 1:7

**7. Once again, for the salvation of lost and fallen sinners to be a reality, Jesus HAD TO BE made like unto His brethren. Hebrews 2:16-17.**

- a. Jesus did not "seize or take hold of" angels in His incarnation, but humanity!
- b. Note the italicized words in (V16), which were added by the translators. Though they were added, NATURE helps us with the context, because in this whole chapter, the writer is referring to the humanity (or human nature) of the Lord Jesus.
  - i. He further defines Jesus sharing our humanity in (V17-18).
- c. Jesus had to (in every way) be made like us, to identify with us, (except for sin); He had feelings, emotions, He got hungry, thirsty, tired, and slept! He experienced anger, joy, sadness, and pain! He was tempted and tried by the devil, and many wicked men, who came at Him just to try to provoke and incite Him to sin!
  - i. Since He shared in our humanity, He is able to sympathize and comfort us in ANY of our sufferings and trials! Hebrews 4:15

**8. Final thoughts about the angels of God, Hebrews 1:13 teaches us that they are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."**

- a. Angels are not humans or men, although they do often appear in human form in the scriptures! The angels are glorious and powerful, but they are not human, and therefore not qualified to redeem and save fallen man, only a Man could do that. Genesis 3:15
- b. So here again, we see the superiority of Christ over the angels in that He was both God and Man. And though before His incarnation, he was exalted and higher than the angels, in His incarnation, He BECAME A MAN, (made a little lower

than the angels for a short time), therefore, Jesus (and no angel) was qualified to redeem and save fallen man, because He identified and shared in our humanity in every way, the angels could not do this.

- i. Acts 13:38-39: "Be in known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through THIS MAN is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified (forgiven) from all things, (for all of your sins), from which ye could not be justified (or forgiven) by the law of Moses".