

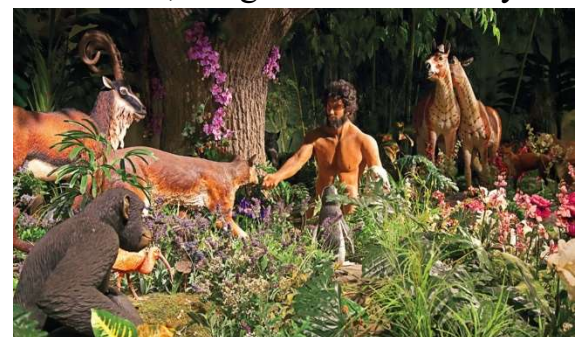
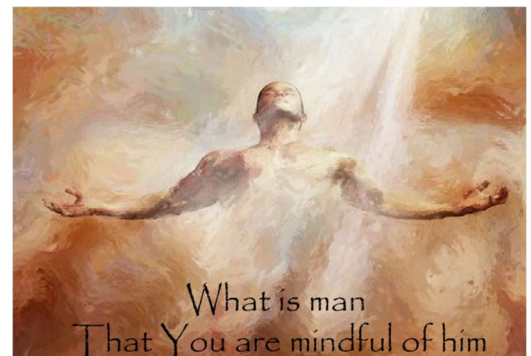
- ° Last week we looked at the first of five warnings in the book of Hebrews.
    - The warning was to “earnestly heed” the gospel message, “lest we drift away”.
    - They’re admonished to not turn their back on their faith in Jesus, but remain faithful to Him.
- Heb 2:2-3 For since the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment; <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation...*
- ° Verse 5 returns to the discussion of chapter 1, that Jesus is greater than the angels, but it defends the argument from a different position than Jesus is God’s Son.
    - Now he tells us that in His humanity Jesus is also greater than the angels.

*Heb 2:5-8a For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. <sup>6</sup>But one testified in a certain place saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? <sup>7</sup>You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. <sup>8a</sup>You have put all things in subjection under his feet."*

- ° This quote is from *Psalms* 8:4-6; but if we don’t read verse 3 to get the context right, it can be difficult to understand who the man is that’s being described.
    - *Psalms* 8 is comparing the excellence of God & His creation, with lowly mankind.
    - Many people believe the “man” being described is Jesus, but that doesn’t completely agree with the context that *verse* 3 gives us; (But it’s not that simple so we’ll continue).
- Psalms 8:3-4 <sup>3</sup>When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars which You have ordained, <sup>4</sup>What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?*
- ° The Psalmist is asking, in view of the overwhelming majesty of creation; why does God think so highly of mankind?
    - Why do you even care about man; mankind, & the son of man; all of his children?
    - *You have made him (mankind), a little lower than the angels*
      - Angels are obviously more powerful than mankind, & in many ways are superior, but that’s only one of the distinctions Paul is making between angels & men.
      - Angels have one unique attribute men don’t possess; They are eternal beings who live forever, but men die; (we’ll come back to this point in a few minutes at verse 9).
  - ° What is, *the world to come*? *Gk; world; oikoumene; governments & peoples; inhabited world.*
    - When we hear of *the world to come*, it’s easy for us to assume it’s talking about our future world, but here Paul is commenting on *Psalms* 8 which refers us back to creation.
    - *The world to come*, is the world of God’s creation, which He gave to mankind.
    - Angels were not given the authority over this newly created world; He gave that authority & dominion to Adam; (mankind).

*Gen 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth, subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- Adam was given all authority over God’s creation in *Gen 1*, but he relinquished that authority in *Gen 3* when he believed Satan’s word instead of God’s word.



- This quote from *Psalms 8* is essentially making the argument that even though angels are greater in power, God chose mankind to be in authority over His creation.

<sup>8b</sup> *For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.*

- ° *He left nothing that is not under him;* Before the fall, all the earth was under Adam's authority.
- ° *But now, we do not yet see all things put under him;* Because of the fall, mankind; Adam & all his offspring, lost that authority that God had originally given to them in *Gen 1*.
  - Wild animals don't obey us, weeds grow in our gardens, sickness & disease is widespread in the earth, people grow old & die ...
- ° Today on this planet we don't see all things in subjection to the authority of mankind in general.
  - But Jesus came to earth as a man; He became our kinsman redeemer; He died for our sins; & has now regained the rightful authority mankind was originally given in the garden.

<sup>9</sup>*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

- ° Here is where Jesus comes into the picture; but He arrives in an unexpected way.
  - He comes into the world, not as a powerful angel; nor as the conquering king the Jews were expecting, but as one of these lowly men.
  - We don't see the earth under the authority of mankind, *but we see Jesus*, who, as a man, has regained the rightful authority over the earth thru His perfect life, & sacrificial death.
  - The book of Revelation goes to great lengths describing the return of Jesus to the earth, when He will use that authority to righteously subdue this world.
  - Until then, believers can use the authority of Jesus name to be overcomers in this world.
- ° *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels...*
  - This Greek word for *little*; *brachys*, is a reference to a short duration of time.
    - Jesus *was made for a little while lower than the angels*.
  - But why was He made lower? The verse goes on to say: *for the suffering of death*.
  - Recall earlier we mentioned one of the aspects of being lower than angels is that angels don't die & men do.
  - A major requirement for being mankind's Savior is the ability to die, which angels can't do.
  - That's part of the reason Jesus came to earth as a man.



*Phil 2:6-8* *who, (Jesus), being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*



- With all the superiority Jesus has over angels, amazingly enough, one of the points of superiority was that He became a man *for the suffering of death*.
- If ever God's power was perfected in weakness, (2Cor 12:9), it was at the cross, where His death purchased life for as many as are willing to believe.



- ° In *Luke 20*, Jesus tells us that resurrected believers will no longer be lower than the angels.  
*Luke 20:35-36* But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead ... <sup>36</sup>can no longer die, for they are equal to the angels.

- So it seems that for this season of life, while we live on this earth in these mortal bodies, that we also *are for a little while lower than the angels.*
- The one who; *for the suffering of death was crowned with glory and honor*, is already in His resurrected body, & sitting at the right hand of God.
- He is no longer lower than the angels, but King of kings & Lord of lords.



<sup>10</sup> *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in leading many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

- ° This is a difficult verse to understand the way it was translated.
  - We know Jesus is, & always was, perfect in every way; (That's why He could die for us).
  - So how can it say He was **made perfect** thru sufferings; Or does it really say that?
  - Gk; *perfect*; *teleiosai*; *to finish, to make complete, to make perfect.*
    - It comes from the word Jesus spoke on the cross: *tetelestai, it is finished; paid in full.*
  - In the Greek, the word **make** does not refer to the, **captain**; but it's actually part of the word; *perfect*; **to make perfect.**

<i>in leading,</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>sons</i>	<i>unto</i>	<i>glory</i>
ἀγαγόντα,	πολλοὺς	υἱοὺς	εἰς	δόξαν
<i>to make perfect</i>	<i>their salvation</i>	<i>through</i>	<i>sufferings</i>	
τελειῶσαι·	τῆς σωτηρίας	διὰ	παθημάτων	

- So what is it that's being **made perfect** if it's not our captain?
- It's the **salvation** of many sons; A better way of translating this verse might be:

*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, for the captain, in leading many sons to glory, to make perfect their salvation, through sufferings.*

- Jesus wasn't the thing being perfected/completed on the cross, it was the salvation of man.
- The suffering & death Jesus endured on the cross, made salvation possible, so He could:  
*lead many sons to glory.*

<sup>11</sup> *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren ...*

- ° *He who sanctifies* is Jesus; & those *being sanctified* are believing men & women; mankind.
  - Jesus has become one of us; a man, part of "mankind", & He is still a man, even today.
- ° Jesus is *not ashamed to call us His brothers* because He is a man; our brother in a real sense.
  - This is really a pretty big thing; Most people of authority & power like to be seen as special & better or smarter than everyone else; They tend to feel superior to average people.
  - Jesus is very happy being included with us; He left His heavenly position to be one of us.

<sup>12</sup> *saying: I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.*

- This is a quote from *Psalms* 22:22, which is another prayer of Jesus from the cross.
  - But in v22 something changes & He's in *the midst of the assembly*; What assembly & where?
    - Right after Jesus died, He went to Abraham's Bosom where the righteous dead were waiting for the Messiah; *the midst of the assembly*, *Lk* 23:43.
  - Can you imagine Jesus singing praises to the Father, with His brethren in Paradise.



<sup>13</sup> *And again: I will put My trust in Him. And again: Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.*

- This is a quote from *Isaiah* 8:17-18.
  - As Jesus is there in Paradise; standing with all His brethren, still a man, & He says: *I will put My trust in Him*; Jesus is confessing that His faith is in God.
  - This sounds odd to say but, just like us, Jesus had to have faith that the Father would resurrect Him from the dead also.
- *Here am I and the children whom God has given Me*; Can you hear His joy in this statement?
  - Jesus is standing in Paradise with His brethren, & they are all singing & praising the Father together for the first time.
  - This is what the last 4000 years has been about; God living together with His children.



<sup>14</sup> *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*  
<sup>15</sup> *and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

- How can we possibly comprehend this statement?
  - God Almighty became a man for the very purpose of dying for our sins!
  - We've heard this so many times, the real meaning of it is often lost to us; But we need to stop & think about what it was He did for us.
- *that through death He might destroy him*; Gk- destrō; katargese; to abolish; to set aside.
  - The sense of the word is to cause something to be made invalid, or to make useless.
  - The devil isn't destroyed as we know the term, but his power has been made useless to those who, through faith, trust & actively follow Jesus & His word.
- *him who had the power of death*; Gk- hadē is in the present tense; has; The devil still has it.
  - He is still out there deceiving people & destroying their lives, even after the cross.
    - Because of sin, the curse is still on this world & people still die.
  - But Jesus won the victory over death & **He** now holds **the keys to death & Hades**; *Rev* 1:18.
  - All mankind still dies, but now after the cross, Jesus has freed those who believe in Him & **the second death** has no power over them; *Rev* 2:11, 20:6, 21:8.
  - Believers don't go to Hades any longer; After the cross, all believers souls go to heaven to be with God; *2Cor* 5:8 *To be absent from the body & present with the Lord ...*

- The only people who still go to Hades are those who've rejected Jesus & are waiting for the final Great White Throne Judgment.

<sup>16</sup> *For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.*

- ° Jesus didn't die for the redemption of the angels who sinned.
  - He didn't promise to redeem angels when they sinned like He promised Adam after he sinned.
  - He didn't become an angel, & live as an angel, & take their punishment for sins.

**2 Peter 2:4** *God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment...*

- Why does God love mankind so much more than the angels?
- We can't answer that, but we can choose to return His love from our heart.

- ° *but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham;*

Who is this seed of Abraham?

**Gal 3:16** *Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*

- From that day in the garden when Adam sinned; God promised the **seed** of the woman would deliver mankind from their sins.
- That **seed** was, & always has been Jesus; He is the only one God could make the NC with.



<sup>17</sup> *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

<sup>18</sup> *For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

- ° The only reason Jesus **HAD** to be made like His brethren, is because of God's love for us.
  - I can't explain it, but God loves us! He wants us to be with Him forever.
  - He loves us so much He was willing to step off His eternal throne & die a shameful & horrific death as a criminal, to free us from the penalty of our own sinful nature.

- ° This brings us back to verse 6:

*"What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? <sup>7</sup>You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. <sup>8a</sup>You have put all things in subjection under his feet."*

- I think for all eternity we will be discovering what it means to be loved by God.