

The Son of Man In Power and Humility

HEBREWS 2:5-10

Review

- God has spoken to us in His Son
- God's Son is superior to the Angels
- Do not neglect "so great a salvation."
- If we do, how will we escape? (First Warning)

Hebrews 2:5-8

- ⁵ For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. ⁶ But one has testified somewhere, saying,
- “WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM?
OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?
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.”
- 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.

The Problem of Jesus' Humanity

- The issue that the author here is addressing is the following:
 - How can the Son of God (Jesus Christ) be superior to the angels and sit in power and authority at the Father's right hand
 - And yet become a human?
 - --Not only a human but a humiliated, suffering, and disrespected human, powerless to save himself when humans were killing Him?

Authority in the World to Come

- V. 5 “For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.”
- Were the readers (Jewish Christians) believing that, the in the world to come, angels would be in authority?
- A statement about authority in a new world to come, a new heaven and a new earth?

Vague References in Hebrews

- V. 6 “But one has testified somewhere saying...” (used throughout Hebrews)
- Well known passage
- Oral tradition, readings with no chapters and verses
- The stress on the divine authorship of Holy Scriptures, as opposed to the earthly authorship of the scriptures (Is it really Isaiah or Paul who said that?)
- Citing a well known proof text is evidence that the audience were Jewish Christians.

Psalm 8

- “What is man that you are mindful of him...”
- O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!

Psalm 8

- “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained;
⁴ What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?”
(Psalm 8:3-4)
- See also Psalm 144:3-4; Psalm 39:5 “man at his best is a mere breath”

Psalm 8

Yet You have made him a little lower than
God, [possibly “lower” in the sense of time, i.e. “for a little while”]

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,

7 All sheep and oxen,

And also the beasts of the field, (Psalm 8:5-8)

Psalm 8 Applied in a New Way to Christ

- The word is clearly “man” and “the son of man” in Psalm 8
- But “the son of man” was Jesus’ most common way of referring to himself
- This passage opens of the meaning of “man” to mean Jesus Christ
- Psalm 8 originally applied to human beings
- The deeper meaning of the “Old Testament revealed”

Hebrews 2:6-8 – A Parallel Meaning

“WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM?
OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED
ABOUT HIM?

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.”

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.

Interpretive Technique of the Author

- **Midrash**
an early Jewish interpretation of or commentary on a Biblical text, clarifying or expounding a point of law or developing or illustrating a moral principle.
- A Christian commentary on the Old Testament (explaining a “mystery,” veiled until Christ’s first coming)
- The author of Hebrews makes a Midrashic Treatment of an Old Testament Passage.

Jesus Briefly Humbled

- V. 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.”

Jesus Briefly Humbled

- Jesus is the forerunner
- Jesus is the prototype of the new human
- He is transformed by death; His physical death
- But he is transformed to a new type, or form (the resurrection body of Christ)
- He does this, by the grace of God, through the means of “tasting death for everyone”

Jesus Briefly Humbled

- By becoming a man, Jesus is brought lower than the angels, but only briefly
- He suffers humiliation, defeat, disgrace, human death, separation from God the Father, in order to win the entire war, and to put all things under His authority
- The purpose of this demotion, is to taste death for everyone, and become the first human in a glorified state

Paul Makes the Same Point

- ⁶ [*Christ Jesus*] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (**Philippians 2:6-11**)

Bringing Many Sons to Glory

- V. 10 “For it was fitting for Him [Jesus Christ], for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.”

Becoming Like Us – Becoming Like Him

- Jesus was perfected through His sufferings – He became fully human
- Not morally or ethically “perfect” in His essence or being, He was already perfect -- He was and is God incarnate.
- But he was made perfect in the sense of being brought to a certain “completeness” associated with **the fulfillment of God’s plan**. He had not become human before.

Becoming Like Us – Becoming Like Him

- Through His suffering and death we obtain:
 - Salvation
 - Glory
- “the author of their salvation through suffering”
- **Jesus became like us so that we may become like Him.**