

"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight in our study of the book of Hebrews we are about to embark upon a passage that will be a real blessing to every one of us. We are going to look at Hebrews 2:5-18 over the weeks to come and I am sure this will be one of those studies that will be something that you will treasure deeply. There are spiritual riches in this passage that will bless your heart in a very special way. The section we are about to step into is going to focus upon the HUMANITY of Jesus Christ. Now in chapter 1 we looked at the writer's words that told of the DEITY of Jesus Christ and that was seen in verses 4-14. But in the section that is before us the writer will set forth the HUMANITY of our Lord.

There is so much focus upon the Deity of Jesus Christ in the church today and very little on His humanity. The humanity of Jesus Christ means so much to you and I as believers and that is what we are going to see in this section before us.

Now it is very interesting that the very first false teaching about our Lord which arose in the early church was not against His deity but it was against His humanity. It was known as *Docetism* which means "to seem". The false teaching was focused against the humanity of our Lord and those who taught Docetism taught that Jesus was not human but He only SEEMED TO BE HUMAN. One of the teachers of Docetism was a man who opposed the Apostle John and his name was Cerinthus. We can see a glimpse of John's refute of this doctrine in 1 John.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

Now this makes me wonder why Satan would attack His humanity. The reason for Satan's attacks is what we shall see in the passage before us as we see the blessing which exists

for us because of His humanity. We shall see here 4 reasons why Jesus Christ became a man.

1. **Jesus Christ became a man to restore our lost destiny.**

Notice Hebrews 2:5

The focus in this verse is on "the world to come". This speaks of the Kingdom Age and the new heaven and the new earth that are to follow after the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth. The "world to come" which the writer references here will begin after the Great Tribulation and after the separation of the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46).

Now it is interesting that in this verse the writer references the "world to come" and then he says, "Whereof we speak". I read this and it made me wonder when he spoke of this "world to come". This is not the subject of the previous verses so why does he say this?

I believe he is pointing to the focus of the Hebrew believers and his own personal focus. By that I mean that the writer was focused not on this world but on the world to come. We know that was true of the Jewish people. They were looking for the Kingdom. This is a great lesson for us! It is so easy to get focused upon this world and be discouraged because we can see it is rapidly going away.

1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

¹⁷ *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Colossians 3:1-3

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

² *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

³ *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

There are many other verses that point our focus toward the "world to come" but the point that I desired for you to see is the writer and those who received this letter were

focused upon the "world to come" and not on this present world. This world will discourage us greatly.

Let us now get back to our text.

Notice Hebrews 2:5 again.

In this verse we see that God hath NOT put the "world to come" under the subjection of the angels. This means that the angels will not have control over the world to come.

Now with this thought there are some other thoughts which we need to consider.

- a. **The earth which we are on today was originally entrusted to man.**

Genesis 2:26-28

²⁶ *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

²⁷ *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

²⁸ *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it**: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

God's original design was for man to king of the earth. We see this as we continue to read in Hebrews 2. Now the writer is going to reach back to the Old Testament and he will quote 3 verses from Psalm 8.

Notice Hebrews 2:6-8a

It is interesting here that the writer does not name David who is the writer of Psalm 8. The reason is because Hebrews is not about David but it is about Jesus and the writer is careful not to distract the readers.

When David wrote these words I can just imagine that he was under the stars on a clear night and as he gazed into the vastness of outer space he was overwhelmed that God would even consider man in the midst of the entire creation. Now in the midst of what David says there is something that is very interesting.

Notice Hebrews 2:7 again.

In this verse David tells us that man was made a little lower than the angels. The verse could read like this: "*Thou madest him a little lower than the angels for a little while or for a brief period*". In other words our position is only temporary.

In these verses David writes about God's original design and how man was created to be the king over His creation and how all things were to be placed in subjection under his feet.

Notice Hebrews 2:8

At the end of this verse we see the futility of man. The writer of Hebrews tells us that we do not YET see the fulfillment of God's original design.

This helps us to understand a lot of what goes on in our world today. God created man to rule over all of creation. But because of sin man is unable to fulfill his part. But within man is still the original desire to exercise his dominion. This is why we see people today striving to climb the ladder to the top of whatever it is in their lives that they are a part of. This is why man probes as far as he can into outer space or goes as deep as he can into the ocean. It is why man today is trying his best to control the climate of the world. We must understand that in God's original design man was appointed to be the king of creation and the desire to have dominion is still in every one of us. The problem today is that when man reaches for dominion sin throws everything out of balance and the dominion is impossible to achieve.

This is even true within our personal lives. We all have had hopes and dreams that we had worked toward reaching only to have them slip through our hands and we were left with the feeling of emptiness. This is exactly what Solomon wrote about.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

¹⁰ *And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

¹¹ *Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was **vanity and vexation of spirit**, and there was no profit under the sun.*

Solomon tells us that it is all vanity meaning emptiness and it is all vexation of spirit meaning it is like trying to catch the wind in your hand. In other words it is impossible to find satisfaction in the things or the accomplishments of this world.

Now listen to this! God's original plan for man has not been fulfilled as of yet and the reason is because of sin. Instead of man being king and ruling over creation sin has made him a slave and sin has ruled over man. Now the history of man consists of nothing but death. Life is a constant struggle and eventually man succumbs to death. Man ends up battling against the very earth which he was created to rule over.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

We are under the curse and life under the curse is a struggle. We are completely out of position for we were created to be king of the earth but now we battle against the earth which is under the curse. So there are 3 things that are keeping us from holding the position which God originally intended for us.

1. Sin
2. The curse
3. Death

That brings us to the next verse.

Notice Hebrews 2:9

The first word of the verse tells us there is a contrast introduced here. The contrast is between us and our Lord Jesus. Man is helpless to regain his position as king of the earth. But in this verse we see our Hope. It is Jesus. He was made a little lower than the angels or in other words He became a man. The reason listed here was so that He could die for our sins.

But there is much more here. Notice that He was "crowned with glory and honor".

Notice Hebrews 2:7 again.

Here we see the same thing is said about man. That fact that we are told the same thing about Jesus means that He became what we failed to become.

Notice Hebrews 2:9

He became a man to suffer and die for EVERY man and therefore, He conquered the 3 things that keep us from fulfilling the position which God intended for us to fill.

1. **He conquered sin for us.**

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin*

2. **He conquered death for us.**

1 Corinthians 15:52-54

⁵² *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory.***

3. **He redeemed us from the curse.**

Galatians 3:13

¹³ *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

Now there is coming a day when we will stand in the position which God originally intended for us to hold. All of creation is looking forward to that day.

Romans 8:18-22

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

¹⁹ *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

²⁰ *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

²¹ *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

²² *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

Conclusion:

This is our hope and it is because of the humanity of Jesus Christ. He became a man and defeated that which keeps us from being king of the earth.

This again was a Truth used by the writer to show the Hebrew believers that Jesus is better than anything else they could possibly turn to. The angels were the mediators of the Old Covenant but the angels could not do what Jesus has done.