

## Hebrews 2:5-9

Last time, as we transitioned from **Ch. 1** which revealed Jesus as the Son of God, we moved to **Ch. 2** which reveals Jesus as the Son of Man. And (as we worked through the first four verses of **Ch. 2**) it started out with a warning to not *drift* away from or *neglect* the things we have heard about **who Jesus is and how He secured our salvation**.

- And the part that stood out to me personally is if you reduce the personhood of Jesus to being only His humanity and do not keep hold of (or grasp) Him being the Son of God (His deity), you stand in real danger of *drifting, neglecting*, and therefore minimizing **1)** who He is, **2)** what He has done **3)** and what He has said. You don't want to do that.
- The reason I believe the Holy Spirit started here is due to what we will be covering today. He knew (and knows) that certain groups and individuals would latch onto these next pieces and read them completely wrong because they did not grasp what had been said in **Ch. 1** (or the rest of the bible for that matter) **and would therefore diminish Jesus to some kind of divinely inspired figure, but not God.**
- This is the fatal flaw found in Judaism, Islam, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, the Word of Faith movement, and many other groups. Don't let it become your fatal flaw. **Jesus is 100% God who took on humanity** (making Him also 100% man) in order to be our Savior.

And just as in last week's study, because there is so much we can pick out of these verses we will cover today, **1)** I'm going to first read **verses 5-8** together, **2)** followed by an incredibly basic outline, **3)** and then we are going to go through the verses one piece at a time and do a little deeper dive.

*<sup>5</sup> For He (God the Father) 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>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet." 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* (BTW- we are going to look at **verse 9** today also, but not yet).

Here are the basics. **1)** God never gave dominion over the earth and all that is upon it to angels, but He did give it to man. **2)** Man forfeited it in the fall, **3)** but in the millennial kingdom, those who received Jesus will see a return to the dominion God had intended. **4)** (**verse 9** spoiler alert) But the only way this could be done was for Jesus to add to His deity, humanity, **5)** and come to pay the penalty for the sin of mankind, (spoiler alert for the rest of **Ch. 2**) bringing **grace and representation** to all who would receive Him. And now let's gather more treasure.

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*<sup>5</sup> For He (God) has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.*

In noting that God has not put the world to come in subjection to angels, (by inference and context) the initial point is that **He did however put it under subjection of mankind** (more to come in **verses 7-8**).

- Now the reason this is important in the matter of showing that Jesus is greater than angels, **will come together once we get to verse 9**. From **verses 5-8** He is building His case. But in the process of building His case there are some amazing truths that are revealed here.
- And that occurs through **1)** the revisiting of biblical history, **2)** the fulfillment of much Old Testament scripture showing Jesus is the Messiah, **3)** some incredible understanding of the love God has for us, **4)** and what the **future** holds for all who have received Jesus as their Great God and Savior (**Titus 2:13** [Granville Sharp rule]).

So if you go back to **Gen. 1:26-28** you find that God's original plan was to give dominion over the earth, and all that is in it, to man. Adam received that directly from God. But Adam (representing all mankind) marred that **dominion in the fall**. Now men, before anyone says something like, "wasn't that actually Eve who led Adam to sin?", there are a few things to consider. **1)** If any other humans who have ever lived were the first humans they would have been the ones who blew it for everyone else. Freewill is an amazing gift and yet a powerful responsibility. **And freewill also declares Gods glory, for it reveals that only He is 100% righteous** (**Ecc. 7:20, Rom. 3:10-12**). **The very thing we see in Jesus** (**Mark 10:18, Jer. 23:5-6**).

- **2)** And if we look at **1 Cor. 15:21-22 & 45** we read "*For since by man came death* (speaking of Adam), *by Man* (capitol "M"- speaking of Jesus) *also came the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, even*

*so in Christ all shall be made alive*”, and “*The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam* (referring to Jesus) *became a life-giving spirit* (notice there is no mention of Eve here)”.

- So beyond showing that man had dominion and forfeited it, **we are also made aware that man is to take responsibility for spiritual headship in his family** (1 Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22-33, Col. 3:18-19, 1 Pet. 3:1-7). **Something Adam first forfeited to his wife, and for which God held Adam accountable** (Gen. 3) (Now this isn't man dominating his wife. Don't get that wrong). **But in forfeiting his responsibility for the position God had given him, he opened the door to forfeit the place of dominion God had given all his offspring!**
- So this is **some of the biblical history** this one verse pulls up. And it's necessary for us to understand this to see where He is going in building this case of Jesus superiority over angels as the Son of Man.

We can now look at what is meant by angels not having *subjection* (or dominion) in **the world to come**. And that means exactly what it says (the millennium). Knowing that man has forfeited the dominion God had given us, **we understand that in this current world, in its current state, the faithful angels** (Mark 8:38) **1** are the ones helping God minister to us **2** and delivering judgement on certain individuals and peoples who He determines need to be dealt with even before coming before *the great white throne* judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

- And the **unfaithful angels** who followed Lucifer in his rebellion certainly have a degree of power over those who have not received Jesus (Eph. 2:2, 2 Cor. 4:3-4). So for unredeemed, we see that angels tend to exert far more dominion than they do over any part of the natural world.
- But when he speaks of *the world to come*, this is addressing that which is still future. And the bible has told us that **in Gods restoration plan, the world and creation will not be in subjection to angels.**
- **In the world to come, 1)** those who have been redeemed and since died, **2)** or went up in the rapture, **3)** or gave their lives to Jesus during the tribulation **and died for it** (Rev. 5:9-10 & 20:4-6), will be ruling and reigning with Christ for a thousand years. **Angels have no such position. This is what God has in store for His people** (their future).

<sup>6</sup> *But one testified in a certain place, saying: “What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the* (should be “a” because this is an indefinite article [ESV & NIV]) *son of man that You take care of him?*

Now, this is one of those verses that King David wrote in *Psa. 8:4-7*, and which I have pondered over many times. Because if you really think about it, it's crazy (from a human standpoint) that the eternal God of all creation, power, and knowledge (which certainly includes the knowledge of all our thoughts and actions- **all of them**), **would spend time thinking about and caring for us.** From the standpoint of an angel, this must amaze them, because they see our ways (both beautiful and terrible) also.

- So let's unpack this a little. First, we should see that here the term “*son of man*”, is correctly noted in the NKJV in being in the lower case, for **this is speaking of mankind and not of Jesus.** We covered Jesus being the *Son* in *Ch. 1*. So how do we know for sure this is speaking of us and not of Jesus?
- The text here clearly speaks of *man* as an indefinite article (*huios anthropou*). But when “*Son*” is used to speak of Jesus, it is the **definite article** (He is **the** one and only Son [John 1:14, 1:18, 3:18]).
- And **context** makes it clear. Like in *Dan. 7:13-14* where Jesus is called “*the Son of Man*” who rules over **all peoples** (mankind) (see also *John 17:1-2*). This distinguishes Him from every other human being, whom He shall rule over as the righteous and perpetually perfect King.

Now with all of that in mind, I want to take us back to our first thoughts regarding this verse. And that is that **1)** God sees us, **2)** is constantly present in our lives, **3)** and not only takes care of us **but has an innate desire to do so.** David wrote a few more powerful truths in this regard, and one is found in *Psa. 40:5*, saying, “*Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.* Folks, if you have been walking with Jesus for any length of time, I'm betting if you set down to record all the wonderful works God has done for you, **you wouldn't even get close to capturing them all.**

- The truth is even if you are relatively young in your new life in Jesus, *1:14* reminded us God has dispatched angels to keep us prior to our coming to Him in faith for our salvation. Which means that none of us (regardless of how long we have been in Jesus) can recount all the thought He has had for us, **because He has never stopped being preset and attentive.**

- And if you're going through something (or even many somethings) right now that causes you to at moments wonder if God has forgotten you, or simply doesn't care, **be reminded right now that nothing can be further from the truth...**
- As miniscule as we appear in all of created order, those who belong to Jesus are never alone, never abandoned, never forgotten. God is taking care of you even when you can't quite feel His presence. **He has designed us for a very special relationship with Himself and has an eternal plan for you.**

*<sup>7</sup> You have made him (mankind) a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands.*

When he says God made humanity a little lower than the angels, **I don't think anyone can be certain if this was the case before the fall or a result of the fall.** Because as we already talked about, **God did give mankind dominion originally.** But for certain we can acknowledge that humanity has been, and continues to be, **a little lower than the angels** because of the fall and its consequence of **currently living in perishing bodies, which marred the image of God in us, and residing on a corrupted earth** (we'll come back to this in **verse 8**).

- And yet, when you and I were redeemed by receiving the work of Jesus in our place (substitutionary atonement), some amazing things occurred. **1** We were immediately made a new creation **2** and declared justified (just as if I had never sinned) **3** and righteous (because of the righteousness of Jesus being placed over us).
- And the bible tells us that while we (currently living upon the earth in this present body) are being **sanctified**, we are simultaneously **seated with Jesus in the heavenlies** (Eph. 2:6). **So, two realities exist for us, and neither currently cancels out the other.** And in the reality that **1** we are still in this mortal human body, **2** and that Jesus has not called us home, **3** nor has He come back to judge and **restore** the world, **4** while we are still being sanctified, **5** **we are not ready to take the position to rule and reign under the headship of Jesus yet.**
- But because we are seated with Him in the heavenlies, He has given us a position of **stewardship** now. But when He returns to judge the world and establish His kingdom, we will be coming with Him. And then, **having a glorified body which no longer sins or has it's current frailties**, we will be ready to rule and reign under Him then.

This becomes very obvious even when you witness those who went into ministry and you could sense the Holy Spirit anointing their ministries. But somewhere along the way the old nature drew them into the old carnal desires to money, lust, their own glory ... **I'm talking about those who were directed and empowered by God and crashed** (drifted or neglected). **That frailty will one day be gone.** And that day will be when we are in His literal physical presence. Then we will be ready for what He has in store for us in **the earth to come.**

And we should think about this too. Angels also had the ability to rebel (sin) against God (2 Pet. 2:4). But the dividing line between **1** which angels have given themselves to God **2** and which have chosen rebellion is **already established and sealed.** That's history for them.

- For humanity, we have not yet arrived at that point. Which means both angels and humans have free will. But because the final person has not yet come to Jesus (Rom. 11:25-27), **our current position will hold until that last one comes in.** Then will come the rapture of the church.
- But when the age of grace (that period in which people can still come to Jesus before He judges the earth) is over, then those who are His will be **crowned... with the glory and honor which only Jesus has earned**, but has chosen to share with us.
- And as a side note, there is not one mention in scripture of angels ever receiving crowns of any type. God has reserved this for mankind, who He made in His own image (Gen. 9:6).

*<sup>8</sup> You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He (capitol "H") put all in subjection under him (lower case "h"), He (God) left nothing that is not put under him (mankind). But now we do not yet see all things put under him (mankind).*

We started with **Gen. 1:26-28** which told us God **had** given **all** dominion on earth to man, **but we certainly see that man does not have dominion over all the works of God's hands** (verse 7) at this time. We vacated what God gave to mankind, and fallen angels filled the void. Yet God uses His faithful angels to minister to us currently (1:14).

- And in the fall, we see **man expelled from the garden** and holy angels set in place to keep him from reentering to have access to The Tree of Life (Gen. 3:24).

- And man, who was never supposed to die, **now has an end to his days on earth** (Rom. 5:12). Meaning that when he dies, the things that he did have **stewardship** over now become someone else's (Psa. 49:10).
- And we see that the animals are not in subjection to us, as they were intended to be. Ask any cat 😊.

And just to drive this home further, this future returned dominion (which is coming but has not yet arrived) **includes us judging angels** (1 Cor. 6:3). Those angels which have chosen to rebel against God, have already been marked for their destruction. So our role in judging them seems to be procedural. It is clear to God who they are and not one of them is escaping the judgment they have chosen (just like people choose- made possible by free will).

- But **in terms of the angels who have ministered to us in our times of needs** (as the Lord dispatched them), I envision our judgment being more like the bema seat of Christ for us. And I pray that we will be able to thank and reward them for **1)** the many times they have fought for and protected us. **2)** The times they have snatched us out of the fire, **3)** saved us from our frailties, **4)** strengthen us, **5)** delivered news of Gods incredible plan of salvation (all aspects), **6)** watched over our nation... I pray that as God fully restores the position to us that we forfeited, that we will care for them in even greater measure than they did for us. What an honor that would be (but I do not pretend to know yet what that will look like).
- Being given a level of dominion certainly brings with it responsibility. A responsibility we are not ready for yet. Because if that dominion is not **at all times** exercised from the heart of God within us, it will not fulfill His will or honor Him. Currently mankind struggles with pride, greed, lust, position, fear, hurt, worry... And although for us who have been saved, those things are not to be a part of our life in Christ, if we let them, they will pop back up from time to time. **But in the world to come, all those things will be gone for those who enter the millennial kingdom in a glorified body.**
- In *the earth to come* we will be filled with perfect peace, enduring grace, balanced humility, righteousness, and love. Now, if you are a student of the bible, you know we have been told we are not to wait until that day to make these qualities ours. **They are to be our reality every day.** But as mentioned, on occasion, the frailty of our flesh can allow the old nature to pop its head back up. **But not in the ages to come!**

Now that he's set up the point he is making here (which **1)** included biblical history, **2)** the fulfillment of Old Testament scripture, **3)** some incredible understanding of the love God has for us, **4)** and what the future holds for all who have received Jesus as their Great God and Savior), we come to the best part!

***<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.***

Hey folks, we're not yet experiencing everything God intended for us, **but we see Jesus!** Now, I know you don't yet see Him with your eyes, like those who walked upon the earth with Him in His first coming. But if you have come to Him for salvation, **1)** you see Him all over your life and experiences. **2)** He was with you the day you accepted Him. **3)** You see Him in the way He has been working in and through you. **4)** You see Him in the ways He's ministered to you (even if He sent angels to carry that ministry out). **5)** You see Him in your devotional time in the word of God because He is *the Word* (John 1:1 & 14). **Just because we do not see His face, doesn't mean we don't see Him.**

- And even though His physical feet are not currently standing with us upon the earth, **He is here.** God is omnipresent. And what Eph. 1:20-23 assures us is **everything is now under Jesus' dominion.** Yet we don't currently see that as we would like to. But Heb. 12:2 tells us we are to be *looking unto Jesus* (the NIV translates this "*Fixing our eyes on Jesus*"). So this is to be our heart's desire and our life's practice. **Is it yours?**
- And because of the cross, He has taken back everything man has forfeited. And in order for Him to do that, He had to allow Himself to step into our lowly position, in a fallen creation, to **taste death for everyone** of us.

We covered a lot about the position and condition of mankind compared to angels today. But the truth is it was all to prepare us to understand why Jesus had to take on humanity to save us. And I can't wait until next week to come back to **verse 9** and being to unpack this more, because I'm out of time today. **But** (until then) **we see Jesus...**