

Hebrews 2:5-18

“The Captain Of Our Salvation”

The bible says, “*The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.*” Prov 15:33 So far throughout the book of Hebrews we’ve been focusing *on*, & following along in the flow of the *exaltation* of Jesus as God. The Scriptures both declare it & demonstrate it, & all throughout Ch 1 the writer shows us scripture that ratifies & verifies the fact of the deity of J.C. The fact that He’s above all powers & principalities, He’s not a created being, He’s not angelic in nature, He’s far above the angelic hosts. Far from being created, He’s the Creator. The angels worship Him, serve Him, He’s eternal in nature, God the Father testifying to the fact of Jesus’ deity & full equality when He said (as we saw in Vs 8) “Your throne O God is forever & ever.” It just doesn’t get any more obvious than that, when God calls Jesus God what else is there to say? We recognized His sovereignty, His consistency, (He’s unchanging) & He sits on the very throne of Heaven at the right hand of the Father. I just don’t know how to put it any plainer the bible is clear, Jesus is God.

Therefore (as we read in Ch 2) we *must* give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. In ignoring/neglecting the word of God as spoken through J.C. you will find yourself in the imminent danger of drifting. Because if the word spoken through angels (that is the law) proved non-negotiable, & every transgression & disobedience received a just reward, that is proper penalties ensued the violation. How shall we *escape* if we neglect so great a salvation, spoken of by the Lord Himself, confirmed through the apostles & prophets, God the Father Himself bearing witness through signs, wonders, various miracles, & gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? Well the answer is obvious; we’re not going to escape. The idea there is that if there was no circumventing the lesser, there’s *definitely* no getting around the greater. You can not neglect God’s work in your life through J.C. & think that there won’t be ramifications to that. God will deal w/such neglect accordingly; we’re to give the more earnest heed to the word spoken by God through J.C... So our focus thus far has been on the *exaltation* of Jesus, the fact that God has honored Him, set Him far above any one or any thing.

But as we noticed just a minute or 2 ago the bible declares that before honor, comes humility. Prior to the exaltation of Christ, there was the *humiliation* of Christ. That is God (the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity) humbled Himself stepping out of the eternal bliss & ecstasy of Heaven, laid aside His glory & robed Himself in the limitations of humanity. God (though He never compromised His deity) stepped fully into humanity, He became a Man. So today the page is turned & the focus switches from the *exaltation* of Jesus to the *humiliation* of Jesus. We’ve spoken of His nature as being fully God, but we’re not to overlook the reality of the fact that He was also fully Man. & Listen, it’s equally as essential to you & me (& we’ll develop this as we go on) that Jesus be 100% Man every bit as much as He be 100% God. That’s just as important to the fulfillment of God’s promises to us regarding both salvation & man’s *destination* to rule & reign upon the earth under J.C.

& So to catch the context the writer has been making the case that Jesus is superior to the angels, but there’s a paradox here. Because it’s true Jesus is in every way greater than the angels, yet equally true is the fact that He was made “*a little lower*” than the angels. “A little lower?” Let’s begin...

Vs 5-7

Are you getting a grip on what's being said here? So far the writer of Hebrews has been making an airtight case for Christ as being God. He's worshiped by angels, angels serve Him & His agenda, God *calls* Jesus God, He's eternal, He's the Creator, He's sovereign, He's unchanging, He's upon the throne. Therefore it's paramount that we recognize Him & take heed to His word lest we drift away & are dealt w/accordingly.

& It's like the writer of Hebrews is saying, "Now, having said that, I don't want to impress upon you the fact that Jesus is God to such an extent that you overlook or minimize the fact that He's a Man as well." He's pointing the paradox, the parallel truth that Jesus is both God & Man, & in making his case the 1st thing he points to regarding the humanity of Jesus is the fact that God has made a promise in His word that world to come will be ruled by man. We also know that Jesus will be supreme upon the throne ruling over the earth & that we'll take a secondary, lesser role in ruling under Him. But here's the deal, if God has promised the destiny of ruling over the earth to man, & Jesus isn't a man, then how can He rightfully rule over the earth? Jesus has to be a Man in order to sit upon the throne ruling & reigning the world to come because God has made the promise to reign exclusively to man.

Now when we talk about "the world to come" what's the reference there? Did you see it there in Vs 5? "For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels." Angels were not created to rule & reign, they were created to serve. Of course we're familiar w/the fact that there was 1 angel who wanted to rule & reign, & he said in his heart, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." Isa 14:13-14 His name of course being Lucifer which means "light bearer" or "morning star" today we know him as Satan or the devil. But he purposed in his heart to exalt himself against the Lord & be in a position of ruling & reigning, pride & iniquity was found in him & as you know he was cast down taking 1/3 of the angelic hosts w/him. **But even still he seeks to rule & reign, he longs to be worshiped as God, yet he'll be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit. God didn't create the angels for the purpose of ruling, or reigning. But He has given to man (those who are found in Christ) the destiny to rule the earth.** You remember when He 1st created man He said, "...let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Gen 1:26 Of course Adam forfeited that dominion in the garden to Satan, but the *destiny* remains for the believer in J.C. There in Rev Ch 5 we see Jesus taking the title deed to the earth out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. & We read where the 24 elders fell down before the lamb & erupted in spontaneous worship saying, "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Rev 5:9-10 "We shall reign on the earth?" Yeah, in the world to come, that is when Satan is bound for 1,000 yrs & the millennial kingdom of Christ is established, it's not for angels to rule & reign, God hasn't put the world to come in subjection to *angels*, but to man.

Vs6

Now when he says, "One has testified in a certain place." That's not saying he doesn't know where it's at, it's saying that where it's at is a non issue, it's what God has declared in His word that is the issue. & What's been declared in God's word is that man will rule upon the earth. & In these Vs (Vs 6-8) we see 4 things; if you take notes you might jot it down. **We see #1 The person, #2 The position, #3 The privilege, & #4 The promise of power.** & Though what we have here is a Psalm of David (Ps 8), we see here where the Holy Spirit lifts this portion of scripture from its common *interpretation* being a psalm simply about man in general. & Makes w/it an *application* that revolves specifically around J.C.

Because it's true that *collectively* believers will reign in some capacity upon the earth. But who's the promise given to *specifically/individually*, who is it that will reign w/total dominion over all the earth? None other than Jesus Himself, which means that Jesus *must be* fully Man.

Now Vs 6 asks a question. "What is man?" Believe me when I tell you that, that is a loaded question, it's a question that hours could be spent developing. How many different lenses could that question be examined through? What is man *psychologically*, what is man *physiologically*, what is man *emotionally*, what is man *scientifically*, we could consider what is man as he was intended to be *originally*, or in the big picture what is man *ultimately* or *eventually*. But I think for our purposes perhaps it's best to simply reflect for a moment upon what is man *currently/specifically*, what is man? Man is a lost sinner, all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God, there are none that are righteous, there are none who seek after God, they have altogether turned aside & have become unprofitable. That's what man is, a lost & lonely sinner in desperate need of a Savior. **What a humbling question, when we consider the holiness of God, the righteousness, the awesome power, the incredible & ingenious creation, so much variety, from things so small we can't even see them w/our eye, to things so great in magnitude that we can't even comprehend them w/our mind. & Somewhere in the midst of it all like a spec of dust somewhere in the universe stands you & me. & Yet God is *mindful* of us, you are constantly recalled to God's mind, He thinks thoughts toward you, personally. Thoughts of peace & not of evil, to give you a future & a hope. David said, "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."** Ps 40:5 What unbelievable mercy God has displayed, for all that you're not, for all that I'm not, yet He's mindful of me, & of you. **He "takes care" of us; the word here is like unto a visit by the doctor. He comes into your room to visit you, that is look after you & tend to your needs. God takes care of you. #1 We see the person of man.**
Vs7

Vs 7 contains both our 2nd & 3rd observation regarding this particular portion, the position & the privilege of man. The position, "a little lower than the angels." The privilege, "crowned w/glory & honor." Now we realize again that there is a collective interpretation to this that lends itself to believers in general. But we need to see here that the specific application that's being made here in Hebrews applies to none other than Jesus Himself. "Made a little lower than the angels, yet crowned w/glory & honor, set over the works of Your (that is God's) hands." & **Again the implication in being made a little lower than the angels speaks to the fact of His humanity. & I suppose now is as good a time as any to underscore the fact that when we speak of Jesus being both God & Man, we're not saying 50% God, & 50% Man. Or 60/40 or any other percentage ratio, we're not saying that He was Man on the outside, but God on the inside, we're saying that he was *fully* God, & *fully* Man. The bible teaches that both natures co-exist simultaneously in full, in Christ. & He didn't shed being a man when He ascended to heaven; He's still God & Man in heaven. There's one Mediator between God & man, who is it? The Man (1 Tim 2:5) Christ Jesus.**

So the demonstration of Hebrews Ch 1 & 2 is the fact that Jesus is both God (in full) & Man (in full). & We have to understand both as being true. Do you realize that the 1st false teaching that arose in church history wasn't that people didn't believe that Jesus was God. That's what people seem to struggle w/today, they don't believe Jesus is God.

Various religions, non-believers in general, that's a major problem for many people to overcome. But that wasn't the struggle of the 1st or 2nd generation after Jesus walked the earth, those around Him had no problem believing that He was God. He demonstrated dominion over the fish, over the fowl, over beasts both wild & domesticated, over the wind & the rain, the sea itself, He spoke prophetically, He worked miraculously, no one would deny these things. The problem people had was in perceiving Him as a Man. God, we'd never deny, but Man? The heresy was called "Docetism" which means "to seem" & the idea was that He *seemed* to be a Man but in reality He was human as you & I are human. Outside of other things 1 problem w/that is that if He weren't fully as human as you & I are human than the promise of God to put all things under the feet of man (1 man, Jesus) in particular would be untrue & make God out to be a liar. So He was made a little lower than the angels, that is He came to this earth (though never sacrificing His deity) in full humanity. Born as we are, grew up like we grow up, stubbed His toe like us, the whole thing, He was as human as you are & I am.

Vs8

The last part of Vs 7 & here in Vs 8 we have the 4th point of observation, "The promise of power." "Set over the works of Your hands, You have put all things in subjection under His feet." God has promised to put all things in subjection to humans, therefore Christ had to be human to be placed in such a position. But the writer points out what seems to be a problem, not everything is in subjection to man. I don't fish a whole lot, you know why? Because I can't just toss my hook out there & cause a fish to bite it, I don't have dominion, fish are subject to me. When I was a boy I was attacked by a German Shepherd, I was traumatized, to this day I'm not real fond of German Shepherds, I didn't have any dominion over that situation whatsoever. Every now & then I have to have my car or truck worked on, it doesn't just run for me because it's in subjection to me. ½ The time my own life seems as though it's not in subjection to me, much less anything else. All things aren't in subjection to man, we don't see that yet.

Vs9

Notice several things here. 1st of all the writer wants us to realize (as we've been pointing out along the way) that all these promises are wrapped up, tied down & fulfilled in Jesus. "But we see Jesus" we don't see these things subject to man yet, but we do see Jesus, & their fulfillment in Him. When we read "We see Jesus." This is speaking of seeing w/understanding, it's seeing Him through eyes of faith, we look *to* Him, trust *in* Him, do you really *see* Jesus, do you know Him, understand Him, find fulfillment *in* Him. "We *see* Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels." Now, back up, who is it that was made a little lower than the angels? Vs 6-7 "man" Jesus is not only God, He's Man as well. & We find here the chief reason He was made a little lower than the angels (& the word little speaks w/reference to time, *for a little while* lower than the angels). (The time period being the 33 yrs pre-resurrection) & the reference to lower isn't a reference to lower in value, remember He's God. But lower in the sense that He was subject to death, why did He become a man, 1st & foremost for the suffering of death, that He might taste death for everyone. (More on that in a minute) But this is where we see the writer tying these previous Vs to Jesus specifically, it's fulfilled in the Man Christ Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels (as the psalm said) crowned w/glory & honor (Vs 7, as the psalm said), that He might taste death, for everyone. Or more literally, "For all things." Through the fall everything was impacted due to sin entering the equation of this world.

But the day is coming when we'll see not only the culmination of our salvation but the restoration of all things, Jesus will restore this world to its proper & intended order.

Vs10

Wow, what this is saying is that it's conceivable that God could've conducted a means of salvation that didn't demand the suffering of His Son, but that it was *fitting* that is *appropriate* for Him (that is God) in bringing many sons to glory (that is saving the likes of you & me & countless others throughout history) to make J.C. (the captain of our salvation, meaning the One who pioneered the way & made the way, Jesus is the way the truth, & the life, no one comes to the Father but by Him) perfect through suffering. Now when this says "perfect" there's no indication that there was ever a moral *imperfection* in Jesus. We're talking here about becoming complete by experience, that is, until Jesus became a Man, & suffered for the sin of the world, He didn't know suffering by experience. Think of it like this, in what way does God in heaven know suffering by experience? **There is no sorrow, there is no pain, there is no suffering in heaven. But when God became a Man, in the person of J.C. it was fitting for Him (in the sense that it "pleased" the Lord to bruise Him) to perfect, that is to make complete by experience the captain of our salvation through suffering.**

& What we see here is the ultimate display of the fact that true love, real giving involves sacrifice. There's way more bound up in the words, "For God so loved the world that He *gave* His only begotten Son," then we'll probably ever know or realize. Real giving, true love involves sacrifice. Remember when David sinned in numbering the people, & the Lord sent a plague upon the land. People were dying, God told David to buy the threshing floor of Ornan, erect an altar & sacrifice there. Ornan upon hearing this said, "David, it's my honor that you would desire anything I have, it's yours take it freely." & David said, "*No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.*" ^{2 Sam 24:24} **If you give it to me, then I give it to the Lord, that's no sacrifice, it means nothing, it cost me nothing. Real giving demands sacrifice, true love is demonstrated so often in sacrifice. Jesus said that there was no greater love to be had than that of laying down one's life for his friends. Sacrifice. Is there a sense of sacrifice in your giving to the Lord? Is there ever a sacrifice of your time, your convenience, your energies, your finances?** Because odds are if it costs nothing, it means nothing, translation; it's not from your heart. Jesus suffered in giving Himself for you, it was a sacrifice, the Father suffered in giving His only Son for you, there was sacrifice involved in your salvation, & it was fitting. God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ *died* for us.

Vs11-13

The idea behind sighting these 3 areas of scripture & applying them to Christ is simply to say that Jesus is willing to associate w/you & me. Be it in a congregation of worship, a community of trust in the Father, or in the common family of God. Both He who sanctifies & those who are being sanctified are of one. That is we're children of God, Jesus as the only begotten Son of God, you & me as believers, by adoption, we've been brought into the family of God by the blood of J.C. Therefore He is not ashamed to call us brethren. He's not ashamed of His association w/us.

But here's the real question, how many of us are ashamed of our association w/Him? He's the sovereign God of the universe, perfect in all His ways, the fairest of 10,000 times 10,000 & thousands of thousands. I can't think of a single reason why I would be ashamed of Him, but I can think of all sorts of reasons He would be ashamed of me. Yet the irony, how often it's the other way around... God help us, that we should ever be ashamed of Him.

What we should be ashamed of is the fact that we'd ever be ashamed of Him, that we'd ever doubt His love, or His goodness toward us, He was willing to associate w/you & me, even becoming the fullness of humanity that He might suffer & die so that we might never taste death (that is separation from God). Notice

Vs14-15

So even as we're flesh & blood, He shared in the same. Why? He sights 2 reasons, to destroy the devil, & to deliver us. Now this word "destroy" would probably be better rendered "disarm" it doesn't speak of annihilation, Satan is obviously still at work today. The word speaks of "rendering inoperative" that is, as a believer Satan has no power over your life. You've been delivered, set free from bondage, the one the Son sets free is free indeed. As a believer you don't fear death, I don't fear death. & I don't have problem telling you that if you do fear death there's something wrong, you need to seek the Lord on that, be delivered from that. Because Christ frees us from the fear of death, now I didn't say the fear of *dying*. **We're not crazy, dying isn't something anyone looks forward to, & there are all kinds of ways to die that we want nothing to do w/if we had our choice, the process of dying isn't something we hasten. Being separated from loved ones for a time & all the rest. But death itself isn't to be feared, it's an enemy to be sure, but for you it serves God's purpose in your life, it ushers you into His presence.**

Vs16

God's purpose in Christ wasn't directed toward the angels, it was directed toward those who were of the seed of Abraham. Not physically necessarily but spiritually by trust in Christ.

Vs17-18

God, (by experience) knows what you're going through, & being able to identify w/you He is able to then *aid* you in whatever your need may be. In all things He had to be made like us, that He might be both a merciful & a faithful High Priest (which we'll speak more on in a later study, God willing). But understand here that neither the deity, nor the humanity of Jesus is in anyway negotiable. **If either are diminished He's unable to save us, w/out the perfect & sinless nature of God we can't be saved, yet w/out having someone as fully human as we are to stand in the gap for us, we can't be accurately represented before the throne. Fully God, & fully Man Jesus is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him since He always lives to make intercession for them.** He is both merciful, & faithful, maybe your need today is to return to your 1st love, to come back to Christ, He can aid you. Maybe you feel all alone, nobody understands what you're going through, Jesus was a man who understood loneliness, a Man acquainted w/grief & w/sorrow. **He knew what it was like to be betrayed, to be rejected, to be despised, to be misunderstood, to get the raw end of the deal. To have rumors spread about you that aren't true, Jesus is able to aid you. & Again this is a word often times used of doctors, it speak of running to help. If you cry out to Jesus He will run to your rescue, He'll run to meet you & to help you in your time of need.**

Maybe you need freedom from the fear of death, you've never given your heart to Christ & find yourself subject to that bondage. Let Jesus help you today, fully God & fully Man the bible is clear that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Salvation is waiting, just call upon the Lord, turn from your sin, & give your heart to Him.

Prayer Points:

God what a precious portion of Your Word to consider today. & We thank You that You are mindful of man, what a privilege that You would turn Your thoughts toward us, not only collectively, but individually, You know us intimately, & we're blown away. Jesus we thank You for being willing to become the Son of Man, that we might be made the sons of God. May we never be ashamed of You, or of Your word, but may we lead lives of boldness, set apart to You, bringing glory to You.

If you're done kicking against the goads & ready to recognize the love of God & repent of Your sin today I want to give you the opportunity to receive Christ right here, right now. As far as the east is from the west, that's how far He'll remove your sin from you. Just call upon Him, trust in Him, give your heart to Him, & He'll receive you & make you brand new, white as snow. You'll be forgiven of your sin & have your name inserted into the Lamb's book of life.