

FIXING Your EYES upon JESUS

The Better NAME: The SON: Superlative MAN: Hebrews 2:5-9

Class FIVE

I Preparation

1. Typical human characteristics.

Each of us has been told we resemble another family member – those characteristics handed down (like the curve in my thumbs just like my dad's). Other things may be less obvious. For a moment, think of some distinctive (physical, emotional, personality etc.) you have inherited from your family of origin. How do you feel about it?

2. Atypical humility.

The most amazing (and humbling) fact about God's Son is the incredible st_____ he made when He came to earth. It is startling to think that the One who created the Universe, the eternal Son, came as a baby to earth to live a perfect life and please His Father. It seems strange to say the One who created and sustains all things, was born in the im_____ of man and forever will identify with us, His blood-bought throng!

II Particulars:

It is important to understand we don't read the Bible for a good feeling; we study the Bible to find the meaning of the text; we find the meaning of the text when we follow the thought. This author never fails to follow the primary thought he is developing for this book: **no one in the past, present nor future, none in heaven nor on earth is grander or greater than the Son.**

In following this theme, the author continues to exalt God's Son. He centerpiece His greatness and His superiority over the pr_____ (1:1, 2a). He lifts high His divine person as One who is a 'S_____'. He confirms His identity as 'Y_____ ' (*the LORD God*) (1:5-13). These titles confirm with conv_____ proof that He is b_____ than the angels (1:1-14) because the angels are N_____ called 'SON'. Because the SON is the greatest, all belief systems that dishonor Him, fail in every way. Hence the warning in 2:1-4 to '...not neglect so great a salvation...' is serious and life-threatening.

At this point, he gives 'one more reason' the Son is superlative to the angels. Beginning with the word '...for...' in 2:5 (which is connected to v. 14) *he develops another thread* to show why the angels are inferior to the Son.

Without naming David as author of Psalm 8, our author quotes from Psalm 8 in Hebrews 2:6-8. After staring at the incredible work of God's hands, he quotes the Psalmist's own question: 'Why would You remember or c_____ for man who is l_____ than the angels (who seem more important)? Yet at the same time You gave man more re_____ than the angels. Then you have said that someday, **all things** in the 'inhabited world' will be sub_____ to _____ and he will receive g_____ and h_____!! The angels will never have that h_____ and the present state of man restricts man from r_____ over the world because of the issue of _____, known as 'the FALL' ('The wages of _____ is _____...') But there IS a M_____ who changed everything for humanity and t_____ d_____ and is crowned with glory and honor! ('...the g_____ of God is e_____ l_____ through J_____ C_____ our L_____.' (Romans 6:23)

1. Imagine David lying on the Bethlehem fields, caring for sheep on a moon-lit night thinking about the Lord and the greatness of His name as he drinks in the creation! Read Psalm 8:1-3 so you will understand the question he raises about man in v. 4.

2. **Genesis 1:26-31** reveals God's charge to man. What two verbs reveal his original responsibility over the earth? Genesis 3 records a cosmic event that changed everything. Comment on how the fallen-angel Satan (Rev. 12; 9) lied about God. What curse does God bring upon man and woman in Genesis 3, so their honorable responsibility was forfeited?

3. Our Hebrews' author quotes Ps. 8:6-8 in Heb. 2:5-9 and helps us see the order of created beings in the universe. Where does the Son fit into this order?

4. What and whom do you suppose the author is describing when he refers to the one the Father has chosen to rule *'the inhabited world to come'*? Could the OT and Acts 1:7 be a clue?

III LIFE IMPACT

The Jewish nation was expecting the Messiah. From Genesis 12 to the end of M_____, four leadership groups of Israel - prophets, priests and judges and kings - knew the promised R_____ would someday come. They told the Israelites and her leaders but they refused to listen and obey. Because the promises to A_____ and D_____ were made by God, He kept His pro_____ that there would someday be a m_____, a g_____ seed, a descendant of J_____, a s____ of David to r_____ the inhabited w_____ as King of Kings and LORD of Lords!

(**** two words are used for 'world' - kosmos and *oikoumene*: *the second one is used here: 'the inhabited world to come' (not the order of the present age, the church or eternal state but the kingdom that will come to pass on the earth (see 1:6 - second advent)* The future dominion over the nations and kingdoms of the world will someday be subjected to a man: Christ Jesus.

When hard times hit, professing believers who neglect what they've heard about the Messiah, drift away. True believers hold to *the One who suffered for them* and do not drift!

1. What contrasts are essential for us to understand in Heb. 2:5-9 that come from Ps. 8?

2. What answer does the Psalmist give for his question in Ps. 8 quoted for the readers of Hebrews by the author: 'What is man (compare to???) that you ...?'

3. What do you understand David's prophecy to mean re the Son of Man? How has Christ 'already' been crowned with glory and honor? What 'not yet' aspect remains to this?

IV For Discussion

Therefore, the author (not naming the Psalmist) quotes from Psalm 8 (David's Psalm) to clarify the v_____ of man related to the po_____ of the angels. Man was given d_____ to be master over the inhabited world; it was tw_____ in the Fall; sin masters man and man's auth_____ over the world is postponed. The Savior has re_____ it's effect by his blood sacrifice and won the victory over d_____!

G. K. Chesterton once said this, and he was right: *"Whatever else is, or is not, true, this one thing is certain. Man is not what he was meant to be. Instead of having the mastery, he is mastered. Instead of ruling, he is enslaved. Instead of being characterized by strength, he's characterized by great weakness. Instead of being an ally of the Lord God, subject to Him, the Scriptures tell us that he is a rebel against God. Instead of being characterized by glory, he's characterized by shame. Man seeks his destiny by tyranny and cruelty. There is still something planted within the nature of man that leads him to want to rule."* (quoted by SLJ, Hebrews, *The Glorious Destiny*)

V WORSHIP: CROWN Him with MANY CROWNS - Matthew Bridges 1851

We Study Scripture not to feel good but to understand
the meaning of the text



FIXING our EYES upon JESUS
More about ANGELS, ELECT and FALLEN

In your Resource package, you have notes on the nature of Angels for the purpose of getting a little of their history and their nature. This confirms the contrast the author of Hebrew, using the OT, shows between the holy angels and the Son God has spoken through to us in the last days.

The contrast reveals what the author of Hebrews wants the first Hebrew readers to know: angels are created beings with personality, capable of great intelligence and moral responsibility. Angels were all created simultaneously in innumerable numbers (Heb. 2:22; Rev. 5:11) They are held responsible for their service and their moral choices.

Angels fall into two major classifications:

***The unfallen angels** called 'holy' angels (Matt. 25:31)

***Unfallen angels** fall into special classes; certain individuals are:

✓ Michael, the a_____ is **the head of all** the h_____ angels; his name means '_____?' (Dan. 10:21; 12:1; 1 Thess. 4:16; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7-10)

✓ Gabriel, one of the p_____ m_____s of God; his name means 'h_____ of G_____' and was entrusted with **important messages** to Daniel (Dan. 8:16; 9:21) to Zacharias (Luke 1:18, 19) and to the virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

✓ Most unfallen angels are not given individual names; they are described as e_____ angels (1 Ti. 5:21); they did not rebel against God.

✓ The expressions, '**principalities and powers**' are used to refer to all angels, fallen or unfallen. (Luke 21:36; Rom. 8:38; Eph. 1:21, 3:10; Col. 1:16, 2:10, 15; 1 Pet. 3:22) Satan was **originally created for this purpose.** (Ez. 28:14)

Some angels are **designated 'cherubim'** (after the fall, living creatures proclaiming God's holiness (Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:18; Ez. 1:1-18) others as **Seraphim** - mentioned only once in the Bible and celebrate God's holiness - Isaiah 6:2-7

****There is unceasing warfare** between the holy angels and fallen angels for control of men in history.

****There is joy in the presence of the angels (heaven)** when one sinner repents (Luke 15)

****Angels are sometime employed as servants** such as those to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3 in The Revelation

****Angels serve those who are 'heirs of salvation'** (Heb. 1:14!)

****The church is said to 'judge the world'** of the future as well as '**judge angels**' as to their service to God (1 Cor. 6:1-3)

***The fallen angels** rebelled against God, chose to follow Satan (Jn. 8:44)

Satan was originally the highest of created angels who guarded the very holiness of God but sinned when he said, 'I will make myself like the Most High'... **Satan alone** is given mention by name in Scripture

***the fallen angels** have been divided into two classes:

✓ those **who are free** - roaming as 'demons' or 'devils' on the earth; they are constantly referred to throughout the NT (Mark 5:19, 15; Luke 8:30; 1 Tim. 4:1)

✓ those **who are bound** - reserved in chains unto judgment: 1 Cor. 6:3; 2 Pete. 2:4 and Jude 6)

***The fallen angels** are Satan's servants in all his undertakings and they share his doom (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

***The fallen angels** have not changed in their style since their choice to follow Satan – they share his role as the ‘Father of lies and a murderer from the beginning’ (John 8:44; Matt. 4:1-11) and is the accuser of the brethren (Gen. 3:1-4; Job 2:1-6; Zech. 3:1,2; Matt. 4:3; Rev. 12:1)

***True believers in Christ Jesus** do not to fear the devil for Christ has conquered and defeated him through His death and resurrection:

✓ **Jesus is the greatest authority** in the universe! He created all things including Satan and followers and has authority over them. Col. 1:16-17 owes judgment.

✓ Jesus showed **He is greater than Satan** by resisting Satan’s attack. Mt. 4:1-11

✓ All demons that Jesus met, feared Him; they know Who He is! Mt. 8:28-30

✓ Jesus enabled His followers to have authority over demons with God’s Word and prayer: including us. Lk. 10:17-19, Eph. 6:10

✓ Jesus destroyed Satan’s power by dying on the cross. Heb. 2:14 and rising from death so that He disarmed spiritual rulers and authorities Col. 2:15. As God’s enemy; God only owes Satan judgment.

✓ The Spirit of God indwells us; He is greater than Satan. 1 John 4:4. Satan cannot indwell any Christian; the Spirit of God lives within all true believers.

✓ The Scripture promises Satan can’t touch us. 1 John 5:18-19

✓ The true believer is safely kept by the power of God (Phil. 1:6) and Satan nor any demons cannot separate true believers from the love of God in Christ Jesus. exist The promise in Romans 8:35-39 is clear:

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long;

We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

✓ We were **delivered from Satan’s domain** and transferred to Jesus’ Kingdom when we trusted in Christ. Colossians 1:13

✓ Satan and his forces only attack with God’s permission. Job 1:2, Luke 22:31-32 but never destroy; he roars.

✓ All born again in Christ Jesus have a God-provided defense in our salvation: the armor of God, to resist all satanic attacks. Eph. 6:10-18

✓ The Bible commands us to resist Satan with God’s word and he will flee. 1 Peter 5:8-9, James 4:7

✓ When tests in the Christian life are allowed to come from God and Satan brings pressure on the believer (as in Job and his family), Satan did not win. God blessed Job afterwards more than before. Job 42:10-17