

A LITTLE WHILE LOWER

Hebrews 2:5-9

We discover in this passage that our dominion over creation, which was lost in the Fall, will be restored in the Kingdom of our Lord.

Jesus Will Reign Over the World (2:5)

The Preacher returns to the topic of the exalted Son from chapter one. When Jesus returned to heaven after His death, burial and resurrection by which He *made purification for sins* (1:3) He was both exalted to the right hand of the Father and crowned King in the line of the Davidic Kings of Israel. In verse 8 the Father speaks to the Son about the Son's throne, scepter and kingdom (1:8). In verse 13 the Father seats the Son at His right hand *until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet* (1:13). Implied here and confirmed elsewhere is that once His enemies are subjugated, the Son will establish His Kingdom.

To those suffering persecution for following Jesus, talk of His exaltation and enthronement may ring hollow. "If Jesus is King, why are we suffering?" some might ask. Others might ask "How do we know any of this true; things are definitely not under His control now?"

What follows is almost like a progress report. Hebrews 2:5-9 is a transition from the exaltation of the Son (1:1-14) to the incarnation of the Son (2:10-18). In it we find a proof that Jesus is the coming King Who will set all things right.

Jesus' Reign Will Restore Man's Dominion Over Creation (2:6-8a).

The Preacher quotes from Psalm 8 and applies these things to the Son.

Psalm 8 was written by David. Overwhelmed by God's power and the immensity of the universe, David marveled at the fact that God had committed the dominion of the earth to man (he was reflecting on Genesis 1:26-28).

We were given authority over the earth. When Adam sinned he abdicated his authority to Satan. Far from subduing the earth, the earth subdues us in death (Genesis 3:17-19). But it will not always be so.

What Adam lost, Jesus will restore.

Jesus, the second Adam,¹ fulfills God's original intent for the first Adam.

In Psalm 8, what David originally applied to Adam the Preacher applies to Jesus.

Applied to Jesus, He was made *a little lower than the angels* when He became a human being and lived among us. Jesus was *crowned... with glory and honor* and everything was put in subjection *under his feet* when He was exalted (1:3-13).

The Preacher sees in Psalm 8 the revelation of both the incarnation and the exaltation of Jesus Who will fulfill God's original intent that man rule over creation. What awaits fulfillment is the subjection of everything under his feet.

Hebrews 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ *Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*

Jesus is now King, but everything is not yet in subjection to him. The key word is *yet*. This is what some refer to as the "now – not yet" nature of Christ's present Kingdom. He was crowned King at His exaltation; His Kingdom has been inaugurated. But His Kingdom has not yet been fully realized as it will be when He reigns and rules on the earth and everything is in subjection under His feet. At His second

¹ Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15:45

coming, Jesus will establish His Kingdom on earth and restore to us the glory and honor lost in the fall. In the Millennial Kingdom we will exercise dominion over creation. What the prophet Isaiah describes in Isaiah 11:6-9 is not figurative, but literal.

Isaiah 11:6-9 (ESV)

⁶ *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.* ⁷ *The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.* ⁸ *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.* ⁹ *They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

Someone might ask, "How do we know for sure this will happen?"

Jesus' Incarnation and Exaltation is the Guarantee of His Reign (2:8b-9)

Psalm 8 anticipated that the Son would 1) be made for a little while lower than the angels, 2) be crowned with glory and honor and 3) have everything put in subjection under his feet. Have any of these things come to pass?

#1 has come to pass – Jesus was *made for a little while lower than the angels* - His incarnation.

#2 has come to pass – Jesus was *crowned with glory and honor* - His exaltation.

Since God has fulfilled #1 & #2 we can be confident that He will fulfill #3.

#3 will come to pass - *everything will be put in subjection under His feet* – His Kingdom.

Through Jesus, God will restore to mankind the glory and honor of dominion.

Our dominion over creation which was lost in the Fall will be restored in the Kingdom.

All this is by the grace of God and the faithfulness of the Son Who became man and endured the suffering of death for everyone.

In 2:10-18 the Preacher will go deeper into the necessity and significance of the incarnation.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Consider how gracious and loving God is to restore to us what we lost by our sin and disobedience.

Embrace a fuller understanding of your salvation; your future is vastly more than "go to heaven when you die". God will restore to you the glory and honor of dominion over His creation in the Millennial Kingdom. Let this hope and promise spur you to faithfulness and obedience to Jesus.

Set biblical expectations realizing that suffering is part of the Christian life this side of the grave or Rapture. The fruit of the Spirit is ours along with persecution.²

Understand that Jesus *tasted* (fully experienced) *death for everyone*. He did not die only for the elect as taught by the Reformed/Calvinist doctrine of Limited Atonement.

Trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the payment of your sins and be saved.

² Galatians 5:16-24; 2 Timothy 3:12