

HEBREWS – LEVITICUS

Hebrews 2:5-9

March 26, 2023

Hebrews 2:5-9

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?

⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,

⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

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. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹

“This is the Word of God” – “Thanks be to God.”

When the Jesus Movement began to take America by storm and hippies who dressed like Jesus were coming to Jesus in California and elsewhere back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, some radical for the time musicians and bands began to gain some popularity. Artists like Evergreen, Larry Norman, and Love Song were shaking up the Christian music world. Then, in the 1980s, CCM, or contemporary Christian music began to shift to more pop-music, mainstream soundalikes, and with karaoke-style cassette accompaniment tapes, became a mainstay among many youth groups and churches. As the Jesus music pop trinity of Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, and Sandy Patty gained fame, songs now viewed as classic, and even featured in some hymnbooks were

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Heb 2:5–9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

becoming known. One of these songs, written by Smitty and sung by Patty still brings me back to state evangelism conferences and youth rallies. Many of you here have absolutely no idea what I'm talking about, while others of you are mentally going back through your personal history and can almost hear those songs.

This one especially...

“Oh Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name.
Prince of Peace, mighty God
O Lord God Almighty.”

Creative lyrics stick with you right?

This was one of those songs that some who just decided not to like new music claimed to be a seven-eleven song (seven words, eleven times over and over) as this song was repetitive.

Yet, as creative as Michael W. Smith is, he gets no points for being a wordsmith here.

Look with me to an ancient hymnwriter's work. A song older than my grandparent's favorite southern gospel tune.

Psalm 8

**¹ O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
² Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.**

- 3 **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**
- 4 **what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**
- 5 **Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.**
- 6 **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,**
- 7 **all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,**
- 8 **the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**
- 9 **O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! ²**

When we declare after reading scripture that “This is the Word of God” is no small thing. It is not minor statement. It is not a miniscule declaration, but a reminder that God so loves us by revealing his nature, his truth, his love throughout the ages. Songs may hit a note that causes deep feelings. Music may amazingly cause joy and comfort and even tears at times. Statements and quotes and historical revelations can jog our memory and remind us of things we know, but perhaps have forgotten, but the Word of God...don’t miss this...the Word of God given by God is more than a collection of phrases, sentences, laws, and instructions.

The word is life. And the Word (Scriptures) declares *the* Word (Jesus.) As John stated in his gospel account, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”³**

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name!!!

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 8:1–9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Jn 1:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

That may not seem lifechanging for some of you. It may not be something that allows for two pages of notes and cross-references for language studies, but the beauty of this portion of scripture to the readers in the first century was comfort. Following a warning from the author, from God, that drifting away is not only possible, but likely if the truth is forgotten. If comfortable Christianity is sought, then not found (because it is an oxymoron and not true) then drifting to the safety of the known past is common.

A dire warning given in the first four verses that we covered last week.

Followed by what?

A declaration of comfort. Of God's deep love for his sheep, his children, his welcomed ones, redeemed ones, rescued ones.

THE WARNING

Once more, let's look back at 2:3

³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?⁴

Simple and tragic answer – we cannot escape. We cannot escape sin, hell, this world, trouble, addiction, fear, abuse, insecurity, emptiness, the traps and snares of the one intent on stealing, killing, and destroying.

We cannot. I cannot. You cannot. Escape is not possible...if we neglect such a great salvation.

THE QUESTION

⁶It has been testified somewhere *(this is not a statement of ignorance, but a statement of testimony),*

**“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?”**

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

**7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,
8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”⁵**

To the Hebrews who grew up studying the law and the prophets. These who sang the psalms together and studied the poetry of the Old Testament, the words resonate. It’s like hearing an old song but understanding it in a new way.

Thus, the author of the letter takes the readers back to a song they know. It is a song that declares who Christ is, even though written thousands of years prior. He quotes Psalm 8 (primarily the verses speaking of man and his position in authority as compared to angels) and the creation narrative in Genesis through a lens that one theologian calls “the lens of redemptive history.”⁶

The world was created good – declared so by God. Sin infects it and that which is good is now fallen and flawed. Thus, every human being in history, and that means every human being in this room has failed to fulfill the purpose for which he or she was created.

THE ANSWER

But, look here family. There is a great salvation!

When the wonder of the gospel is met with “Hmmm, that’s interesting. Let me write that down,” we may be revealing that we have drifted so very far already that the grace we declare to be amazing in song is little more than a placeholder for commonly used religious epithets.

But isn’t that human nature? Isn’t that what happens? Even for Christians we can find ourselves so fully saved and secure in our salvation that our joy has been shelved. This is not a call for

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:6–8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ Schriener, Thomas R. *Hebrews: Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2020), 85.

emotionalism. I've seen more of that manufactured by skilled speakers and inspirational talks than I care to remember. I've been around this evangelical machine a long time and while I fight my inner cynic, I have seen how the sausage is made and long for authenticity in our worship, our service, and our building of biblical community.

So, like the Hebrews who were drifting, I too need a clear reminder.

I fall short. We fall short.

We tell ourselves “Be whatever you want” and “You have it within you” and “You have what it takes” and a host of other self-motivating statements. I get it because we're inundated with messages that tell us how deeply messed up we are. A sly comment, a smart-aleck spouse, a self-justifying persona rises and we are a mess. It's clear, but empty positive platitudes will never be enough to get us through the day...or at least days to come.

But there was one. This is where it gets so good.

One who did fulfill every single purpose he was given. One who is more than human, but fully human. One who is fully God and creator of angels, but as the psalmist stated and the Hebrew writer repeated “for a little while” became “lower than the angels.”

As a baby in a manger – lower than the angels.

As a tempted man in the wilderness, ministered to by the angels – lower than the angels.

As the grieving friend at the tomb of his friend – lower than the angels.

As the beaten and broken, bloody accused dying on a cross outside Jerusalem – lower than the angels.

By choice.

For the glory of the Father.

For the rescue of me. Of you. Of all who would receive.

THE COMFORT

³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?⁷

This is how...

⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.⁸

Trusting and surrendering. Repenting and turning. Receiving and seeing the truth. The Son of God, God the Son, Jesus the Christ, who was made a little lower than the angels for a time so that he could do what no other human being could.

He fulfilled the purpose. He lived to die. To die not just because the wages of sin is death and something or someone has to die (that is true) but because through his death, the way of salvation was made open, clear, and available. The gate on the narrow road was opened through this cross, this death, this payment. And now “by the grace of God” he tasted death for who? For whom? EVERYONE.

“Oh Lord, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Prince of Peace, mighty God
O Lord God Almighty.”