

I. Review

A. Jesus's Supremacy over Angels - In the theology and culture of the Jews of that day angels were seen and honored as the highest created being. Angels were seen as the most privileged and righteous beings since they dwelt with God in heaven. Angels were credited as the administrators of God, primarily they administered His revelation (Law and Prophets) and judgments. The author of Hebrews establishes the biblical case for the supremacy of Jesus of Nazareth over angels.

1. He stands alone as the unique Begotten Son (Ps. 2; 2 Sam. 7:14)
2. Angels have been commanded to worship Him. (Deut. 32:43)
3. Angels are ministering spirits to the Sovereign Ruler. (Ps. 104:4)
4. Jesus is the Sovereign Ruler (Ps. 45:6)
5. Jesus is the highest in Righteousness (Ps. 45:7)
6. The Begotten Son is unchanging as Creator and King (Ps. 102:25-27)
7. The Son sits while angels stand to wait upon Him (Ps. 110:1)
8. Angels proclaimed a shadow of salvation and God upheld their testimony (Law and Prophets)
9. Jesus proclaimed the fullness of salvation how much more will God uphold it. (Four Gospels)
10. Angels don't inherit salvation, Humanity does. (Ps. 8)
11. Angels serve those who will inherit salvation. (Ps. 8)
12. Jesus as a man secured salvation for all humanity forever. (1 Cor. 15)

II. The Necessity and Desire of the Incarnation (Heb. 2:9-10)

A. The writer of Hebrews has just shown that humanity is destined by God to rule eternally over all of creation including angels. Jesus has secured this destiny through the incarnation and His substitutionary work. The author will use two main points or themes concerning the incarnation throughout the next few verses of His argument concerning Jesus' supremacy over angels and the revelation of salvation that angels brought, namely the law and prophets.

1. Identity as the Lamb of God - Jesus accomplished justification that qualifies us for eternal life. Jesus in His identity as man secured humanity's eternal life through His substitutionary death and resurrection as a man on humanity's behalf.
2. Identity as Messianic King - Jesus as a man is qualified to rule the earth and bring all of creation under the authority and rulership of humanity.

God gave man dominion over the earth, but man forfeited his power (not his right or authority) to take that dominion through sin, and the principle of death took away the power to rule. But Jesus came and through His humility and suffering He defeated the power of death and made possible the fulfillment of God's promise that humans will have dominion over the earth – fulfilled both through Jesus' own dominion and the rule of believers with Him - David Guzik

B. Verse by Verse Heb. 2:9-18

1. Made a little lower - As we have pointed out throughout this series the primary identity or aspect of the person of Jesus that is in view through this portion of the letter is His humanity. He has accomplished our justification and will accomplish our salvation as the son of man. (“Son of Man” is overwhelmingly His favorite title for Himself. He used it thirty times in the book of Matthew alone)
2. Fitting for Him to suffer - Surely God could have conceived of a way to bring about salvation for humanity that did not involve the suffering of God the Son. But it was fitting for Jesus to do this at the cost of His own agony and sacrifice. Jesus Himself said that the greatest expression of real love involves self sacrifice. God's love for us had to show itself in sacrifice and God could not sacrifice unless He added humanity to His deity and suffered on our behalf. (2 Sam. 24:24; Mal. 1:13-14; Jn. 15:13; 1 Jn. 3:16)
3. Bringing many sons to glory - This phrase quite possibly describes the relational mission of Jesus better than many other descriptions we could come up with concerning the nature of His work. (1 Cor. 2:6-8; 1 Pet. 5:1, 10; 2 Pet. 1:3)
4. Captain of their salvation - The original Greek word translated, “captain”, speaks of Jesus as the author, pioneer, orchestrator, and pathfinder of our salvation. He charted His own course and also charted ours. He is the originator, source, leader, and finisher of our salvation. (Heb. 12:1-2; Rev. 1:8, 11)

“Now, seeing that it is the will of the Lord to lead us to glory by the Captain of our salvation, I want you to be worthy of your Leader. Do you not think that, sometimes, we act as if we had no Captain? We fancy that we have to fight our way to heaven by the might of our own right hand, and by our own skill; but it is not so. If you start before your Captain gives you the order to march, you will have to come back again; and if you try to fight apart from your Captain, you will rue [regret] the day.” (Spurgeon)

5. Perfect through suffering - There is nothing lacking in the perfection of God. There is nothing in His nature or character that needs to be improved upon. What is in view here is the fact that it was perfect in righteousness or rightness that Jesus suffered as a man on our behalf. God the Son suffered pain, lack, abandonment, betrayal, loss, humiliation, gross injustice, mocking, physical diminishment, and death in order to prove His love and to minister greater love to you through it. This is what the bible calls, "perfect love". God loves perfectly and it was fitting that Jesus demonstrated His perfect love to us through His suffering. (1 Jn. 4:7-11, 17-19
 - a. His humanity is also in view in this statement, "fitting for Him to suffer", as it pertains to the necessity of the incarnation. It is by a man and through a man that the world fell and it is by a man and through a man that the world will be saved and restored. (Is. 53:3-12)

"We know that had he only been God yet still he would not have been fitted for a perfect Savior, unless he had become man. Man had sinned; man must suffer. It was man in whom God's purposes had been for a while defeated; it must be in man that God must triumph over his great enemy." (Spurgeon)

- C. This is not a dry academic study of the purposes and plan of God. These verses are alive with the desire of God for friendship and deep relational intimacy with us forever. The incarnation plan of God was far more than necessity, but rather, deep love and desire being acted upon in order to bring us to the nearness and partnership that He had ordained before the foundation of the world. (Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Pet. 1:18-20; Rev. 13:8)