

I. Review

- 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.
- B. These two identities qualify Him to be the perfect captain of our salvation. The writer will now talk about how He will relate to us now, and in the age to come, as brethren because of these two identities.

II. Verse by Verse (Heb. 2:11-18)

- A. Are all of one - There are a few different aspects of the oneness or solidarity that Jesus has with us as a result of the incarnation. The context of this statement is that He is the perfect captain of our salvation.
1. Same Family - Jesus is fully God and fully man. The fully man aspect of who He is means that we are of one family with Him. He is a man forever and will always relate to humanity as a human, not as something different. We share the same Father and also share the same spiritual father of faith in Abraham. (Mt. 6:9; Heb. 2:16)
 2. Same Frame - Jesus shared in all the limitations of the human frame. Physical pain, hunger, exhaustion, limited mobility, etc. He experienced humanity's warfare from darkness, and the gross injustice that accompanies the curse, including the loss of personal family members and friends. (Satan's attack, John's death, weakness)

3. Same Process - Jesus as a man engaged with His Father and the Spirit through faith and reliance upon God. He grew in spiritual understanding, belief, and experience just as all humans. He was tested, perfected, and proven through obedience, chastening, and suffering. He looked to a coming Kingdom and a hope that caused Him to live differently than that of the world around Him. (grew in favor with God, learned obedience)
 4. Same Destiny - Jesus as a Man is destined to rule and reign over the earth and have all creation subjected to Him. There is an ache in Him to see the earth free of all sin, death, and the curse. He lived as a sojourner looking for the restoration of all things. Even now, He waits with us for the fulfillment of all the great promises of God to humanity. (Father, I desire)
- B. For He is not ashamed to call them Brethren - Jesus is our brother in family, frame, process, and destiny. He knows our experience because it's His experience. He calls us and sees us as His brothers and sisters because we are. Possibly the most shocking part of this statement is the truth that He is not ashamed of this reality, He's not ashamed to identify as us or with us. On the contrary, He is bold, unregretful, unashamed, and confident to call us brethren.
1. Brethren includes Women - Some modern translations say "brothers and sisters" or "believers" in place of brother/brethren. This is an attempt by the translators to show that the plural word, "brethren", does not exclude women when used in most contexts, especially when brethren is the preferred title of Paul for the church. (Acts 2)
- C. For He says - The writer cites three proofs that Jesus the Messiah calls His people His brethren from the Psalms and Prophets. In each of these examples, the Messiah associates Himself affectionately and confidently with His brethren at the end of the age when the journey of salvation is complete.
1. Congregation of Worshipers - Psalm 22:22

"Behold, then, in your midst, there stood this glorious One whom angels worship, who is the brightness of his Father's glory in the very heaven of heavens; yet when he stood here, it was to join in the worship of his people, declaring the Father's name unto his brethren, and with them singing praises unto the Most High. Does not this bring him very near to you? Does it not seem as if he might come at any moment, and sit in that pew with you; I feel as if already he stood on this platform side by side with me; why should he not?" (Spurgeon)

2. Community of Faith and Trust in the Father - Is. 8:17 - The writer of Hebrews shows us that Isaiah is talking about Jesus and the entire congregation of faith at the end of the age. We stand together with Jesus and sing to the father concerning the celebration of His vindication and faithfulness of His prophetic promises in His word. Isaiah bound up the promises and testimony that the Lord had given him and awaited their vindication. At the end of the age, Jesus stands with us as part of the community of Faith, declaring our Father has come through on every promise, and we have become an eternal miraculous testimony, a sign, and wonder of God's goodness and faithfulness.
3. Declaration of Family - Is. 8:18 - Here the writer points out the tenderness and fondness that Jesus has in His heart for us as His family. We are His precious children that were a gift to Him from His Father. Jesus provides for us and prepares us for the future as a loving parent who has a greater experience in traveling the same path. (Jn. 14:1-3)

D. He shared in the same humanity that through death He might destroy Him who had the power of death, that is the devil - Jesus became our fully human brother in the incarnation so that as a man He would enter into the prison of death in order to free all men from that very prison by dying in their place. He laid down His life willingly and sinlessly and experienced death on our behalf, thus destroying the authority of Satan's tyrannical reign of sin and death over humanity.

1. The emphasis is that Jesus destroyed the power of death that Satan had over the human race. The power or curse of death that is over humanity through the fall of Adam stands as the barricade against humanity's destiny in God. We are born in slavery to an undefeatable taskmaster of sin and an unchangable hopelessness resulting in death to our indwelling ache and felt destiny to dwell in perfect goodness forever. (Rom. 5:12-21)

E. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage - Fear of death is the great bondage of humanity. We spend great amounts of time, energy, and strength making sure we stay as far away from death as possible. At the root of most of our endeavors and priorities is the avoidance and fear of death. The bucket list, the essential retirement account, the obsession with health, and the dread of our eventual death are all daily struggles for almost everyone. All of these things are relentless taskmasters to most. (Ps. 55:2-8)

1. Delivered from Fear of Death - Jesus defeated death and now if we die it is a gain and if we live it is to glorify Jesus. A believer need not have the same fear as an unbeliever. We are not compelled to live for the present, like the rest of the world. We do not need to live for ourselves and put ourselves first. We have been freed by the substitutionary work of Jesus on our behalf and the hope of the promise of the age to come. (Job 33:19-33; 1 Cor. 15:54-57)
2. The problem with the tyrannical innate fear of death is that it mostly dwells in the subconscious. It is one thing to not fear death intellectually or consciously and a very different thing to not fear death to the depths of our soul. We would all live, act, and feel differently if we truly did not fear death. How much less we would feel compelled or be so driven to do or achieve certain things, how much different we might feel about time, relationships, and priorities. (2 Cor. 1:8-11; 1 Pet. 1:13-25)