

**HEBREWS 2:5-9**  
**CHRIST—GREATER THAN ANGELS !**

*For He [God the Father] has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying:*

*What is man that You are mindful of him,  
 Or the son of man [Son of Man] that You take care of him?  
 You have made him a little lower than the angels;  
 You have crowned him with glory and honor,  
 And set him over the works of Your hands.  
 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*

*For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Does the topic of “angels” interest you? Maybe it was about ten years ago that “angels” became popular items for jewelry and pins, artwork and plaques. Indeed, angels are intriguing. The word “angel” means messenger. The Bible tells us they are beings without a physical body—invisible. Yet they can think, act, talk/communicate, move. At times they take bodily and visible form. Think of the angel who protected Daniel in the lions’ den, the angel Gabriel who appeared to Mary the virgin to tell her that by a miracle of God she would give birth to the Christ Child, the angels who appeared the shepherds when the Savior was born, the angels who appeared to the women at the empty tomb on Easter morning, etc. We don’t know exactly how many angels there are. The Book of Revelation tells us that John saw ten thousand times ten thousand, thousands of thousands, of angels around the throne (Revelation 5:11). Angels are created beings. *For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16).* Genesis 1-2 does not tell us on which day of creation angels were made. I imagine each of you can tell me about a time that you or your child had a very close call, but God’s angels intervened.

It seems the people, to whom this ‘Letter to the Hebrews’ was written, were so fascinated and intrigued by angels, that they were on the verge of honoring angels above Christ. To them, perhaps, Jesus of Nazareth was a physical flesh and blood “brother,” but angels were invisible and so mysterious! However, the writer to the Hebrews shows them that Jesus is superior to every other thing! He is superior to the Old Testament priesthood with all its regalia, superior to the Old Testament sacrifices directly commanded by God, superior to the entire Old Covenant given by God at Mt. Sinai, and superior to the angels—the very first thing he discusses with them (chapters 1-2). Superior—

In respect to name—He is the Son of God.  
 In respect to creation—through Him God made the world.  
 In respect to redemption—He purged us from our sins.  
 In respect to position —He sits at the right hand of God.  
 In respect to honor—let all the angels honor Him.  
 In respect to victory—all enemies will be His footstool.  
 In respect to His word—His Word of salvation shall endure forever.  
 In respect to the world to come—which will not be ruled by angels.

That last thought is the first thought of our text: *He [the Father] has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.* The world-to-come belongs to Jesus too.

JESUS is the main focus of his letter. Jesus is the point of everything! The writer quotes words from the Old Testament in Psalm 8:4-6. *What is man that You are mindful of him? Or the son of man [Son of Man] that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.* Here King David gives all glory and praise to God. On what basis? Answer: 1) God's glory is more majestic than the heavens! 2) God's Truth, even though spoken by little babes, shames and silences the enemy! 3) God's power and wisdom are displayed in the heavens, the moon and the stars, and makes man—especially sinful wayward man (including us)—look so puny. Why does God even pay attention to man?

Then the quote goes on, from “man” to “the son of man.” Why does God pay any attention to the “son of man”? Here we must spend some time. From the Hebrew of Psalm 8:4 or from the Greek of The Letter to the Hebrews 2: 6, one cannot tell—Does the writer mean the “the son of man” or “the Son of Man”? The “son of man” (in small letters) would simply mean the descendants of Adam and Eve. The term “Son of Man” would mean Jesus, the representative from, and for, the human race. He is the one who stepped in, to be punished for the sins of man, in order to save man from the fires of hell. If we Psalm 8, were the only Bible reference we had on this, we could not tell whether the Bible means “son of man” or “Son of Man.” But, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the writer of The Letter to the Hebrews makes it very plain saying *You [the Father] have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.* The term “son or man” clearly refers to Jesus, the “Son of Man.” We see “Jesus,” who tasted death for everyone!

There is more. *You have made him a little lower than the angels.* Was Jesu really lower than the angels? When the Son of God, came to earth taking human flesh and blood to be the God-man our Savior, He set aside the full use of His “god-ness,” His divinity. He certainly had it, as we see in His miracles, but He set aside the full use of it. Thus, He got hungry, He got thirsty, He got tired, He even died. Psalm 8 asks: Why would God care for Him in this lowly man-like state?—not very God-like here. The answer: Because He was sent on a special mission, to carry the sins of the world, to salvage sinners for heaven through His blood and death. The text says, *You have made him a little lower than the angels.* Was He? In His State of Humiliation, Jesus was visibly lower than the angels—a lot lower. And that phrase, a little lower than the angels, can also legitimately be translate, *He made Him a little “while”—that is, briefly—lower than the angels.* Jesus State of Humiliation was but a brief time—thirty-some years.

But God the Father was not done. His Son, “the Son of Man,” would not be and remain puny like his sinful human counterparts, or be discarded by His Father forever. Jesus' State of Humiliation would end. *You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands! You have put all things in subjection under his feet!* Jesus, “The Son of Man,” was indeed superior over all—over absolutely everything, even angels. After His death, Jesus returned to life in glory. He descended into hell—not to suffer—but to proclaim His in victory over Satan. He left the tomb in glory. He was no longer in His State of Humiliation, but in His State of Exaltation! He made full use of His god-ness and divinity He depart from the presence of the Emmaus disciples, simply vanishing, He arrived in the locked room where the disciples were, just being there. All things were under His feet. Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2 are not just talking about ordinary “son of man / sons of men,” descended of Adam and Eve, They certainly do have dominion over dogs, cats, cattle, and wild animals to the degree, and over the physical elements of the world. But to say that all things are under his feet can only mean Jesus, The Son of Man, who controls the weather, the earth, the universe, the politics of the world—all things! Jesus is superior!

The text also say, *For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus—who was made a little [for a little while] lower than the angels for the suffering of death—crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.* The ultimate superiority of Jesus, the Son of Man, will be seen when He returns on Judgment Day. Then His complete superiority will be seen by all. Even the demons and the devil are cast out by Him and from Him, locked into hell forever. The Last Day will declare His full glory. Now we see from Scripture the Savior who for was made for a while lower than the angels, in order to tase death, to take-on death which is the wages of sin, for us all—yet emerging victorious. By God's grace, by God's gift, He sent His Son to save us. In Lent we see Jesus humble suffering and laboring for us in love. On Judgement Day we will see Him in full glory. Then He will stand with all things and all opponents—His and ours—under His feet, but with you safe in His arms!

So be it! Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach=---