

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #8, Chapter 2:5-10

Read Chapter 2 before beginning this lesson.

William Barclay, in his commentary on this passage, writes,

“It is by no means an easy task to grasp the meaning of this passage; but, when we do, it is a tremendous thing. The writer begins with a quotation from psalm 8:4–6. If we are ever to understand this passage correctly, we must understand one thing: *the whole reference of psalm 8 is to human beings*. It sings of the glory that god gave to *men and women*. There is no reference to the messiah.”¹

1. The author of Hebrews resumes his original argument that Christ is superior to the angels in vs. 5. What point does he make in vs. 5? Who is the *He* of vs. 5?
2. Write down at least two observations you can make about vs. 5.
3. What do we know about the *world* and the *world to come*? Record what you learn below from the following verses.
 - a. The world: 1 Cor. 2:6; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:2
 - b. The world to come: Is. 65:17-25; Matt. 12:32; 1 Cor. 6:3; Heb. 11:16; 13:14; 2 Pet. 3:13
4. Continuing with his thought that the angels are not going to rule in the age to come, the writer of Hebrews quotes from Ps. 8. Read Ps. 8 in its entirety and then summarize its contents.

¹ William Barclay, *The Letter to the Hebrews*, The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), 27–28.

5. Hebrews 2:6 begins with the contrasting word *but*. The writer contrasts the angels and their situation *with what*?

6. What point does the writer of Hebrews make as he quotes from Ps. 8 in Heb. 2:6-8? Be sure to consider vs. 5 as you formulate your answer.

7. List what you learn about man in vss. 6-8.

8. List what you learn about God's actions in vss. 6-8.

9. The second half of vs. 8 reads, "For in subjecting all things to *him*, He left nothing that is not subject to *him*. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to *him*." Who does the *him* refer to in vs. 8? Consider vss. 5-8 as your form your answer.

10. The second half of vs. 8 is no longer a quote from Ps. 8 but the author's summary of what had been stated previously. As he considers these truths he adds, *But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him*. Why don't we see everything subjected to man at this time? See Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12; 8:19-23; 1 Jn. 5:19.

11. Comment upon *what we see* and *what we don't see* in vss. 8 and 9.

12. In vss. 6-8 the writer of Hebrews reveals the glory God intended for man, then he switches and begins to discuss Jesus. There is a connection between what he wrote about man and the new thoughts he begins to develop about Jesus, the problem is that the transition statement stayed in the mind of the writer of Hebrews! Write a transition sentence that bridges the gap in thought between vss. 8 and 9.

“He died to rid us of our frustration and our bondage and our weakness and to give us the dominion we ought to have. He died to re-create us until we become what we were originally created to be.”
~William Barclay²

13. How was Jesus made lower than the angels according to vs. 9?
14. The Scriptures frequently attest that before honor comes humility. Jesus humbled Himself by the *suffering of death*, but what honor came to Him? See vs. 9; Eph. 1:20-23; and Phil 2:5-11.
15. What was the purpose of Christ being made lower than the angels (vs. 9)?
16. Define *taste* [Strong’s #1089]. Explain why the word *taste* is the perfect word to describe Jesus’ experience with death. Acts 2:24; Rom. 6:9; and Heb. 2:14 will help you form your answer.
17. Who is doing the action in vs. 10? What is He doing?

²William Barclay, *The Letter to the Hebrews*, The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), 29–30.

18. Verse 10 contains some intriguing words we need to dig into if we are going to mine the nuggets from this verse.
- a. Define *fitting* [Strong's #4241 (KJV *it became*)].

 - b. Define *perfect* [Strong's #5048].

 - c. Define *author* [Strong's #747 (KJV *captain*)].
19. We know that Jesus' divine nature is perfect, without flaw, without sin, without need of perfecting, but as our Captain/Author/Leader Jesus' humanity was completed through His sufferings. What do you learn from the following verses about the completing work of Jesus Christ? See Heb. 2:17; 5:8-9; 7:25-28; 12:2-3; 1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 3:14-15; Jn. 19:30.
20. What was the purpose of Jesus' suffering according to vs. 10? See also Rom. 8:30; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:17; 2 Tim. 2:10.
21. What sweetness there is in knowing that Jesus Christ went before us in suffering and death. He understands the difficulty of your trial; He knows yours sorrows and He will bring you to glory through them. He went first! Now He beckons you to follow Him home. Jesus was not exempt from the sufferings and trials that God has now called you to undergo. How does that knowledge encourage you today?

Read the words from Samuel Rutherford, a Puritan preacher who understood the fellowship of suffering with Christ.³

Be patient; Christ went to Heaven with many a wrong. His visage and countenance was all marred more than the sons of men. You may not be above your Master; many a black stroke received innocent Jesus, and He received no recompense, but referred them all to the great court-day, when all things shall be righted. [Pg. 15]

When we shall come home and enter to the possession of our Brother's fair kingdom, and when our head shall find the weight of the eternal crown of glory, and when we shall look back to the pains and sufferings; then shall we see life and sorrow to be less than one step or stride from a prison to glory; and that our little inch of time-suffering is not worthy of our first night's welcome home to heaven. [Pg. 16]

Be content to wade through the waters betwixt you and glory with Him, holding His hand fast; for He knoweth all the fords. Although you may get wet, yet you cannot drown, being in His company. Be not afraid, therefore, when you come even to the black and swelling river of death to put in your foot and wade after Him; the current, no matter how strong, cannot carry you down; the Son of God, His death and resurrection, are stepping stones and a stay to you; set down your feet by faith upon these stones and go through as on dry land; if you knew what He is preparing for you, you would be too glad. [Pg. 41]

³ Samuel Rutherford, Ellen S. Lister, editor, *The Loveliness of Christ* (Moscow, Id.: reprinted by Community Christian Ministries, 1990).