

Jesus, God's Son and our Brother:

The World is Subjected to Him

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? 7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor 8 and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:5-9

What are big brothers for? **Big brothers...**

...Cut a **path** for us

...**Protect** us from the evils of world

...Take **responsibility** for the stupid things we do

...Take the punishment we **deserve**

There is a KEY to understanding this passage:

Verses 5 to 8 are about humanity and God's intention for us, NOT about **Jesus!**

Verse 5

"The world..."

1. Refers to an occupied **country**

2. Who has occupied this world?

- Is Jesus subjecting the world occupied by evil and Satan?
- Is Jesus the occupier?

3. Both of those are misunderstandings, based on the assumption that Jesus is the **subject**

- Remember: humanity is the subject of verses 5 to 8
- Therefore, humanity is the occupier of the world
- This was by God's **design**, according to Genesis 1
- God subjected the world to us

Verse 6

"Testified"

1. Refers to a solemn **oath**.

2. We are to take the words that follow seriously. They come from a respected source

"What is man..."

1. This is a quote from Psalm 8

2. The quote refers to humanity, not to Jesus

3. This is Hebrew **poetry**: not rhyme but parallel phrases

 "What is man" = "The son of man"

 "you are mindful" = "your care for him"

4. The Psalmist glories in how we insignificant beings have been so **blessed** by God

Verse 7

“Angels”

1. Read Psalm 8: the quote actually says **GOD** (Elohim) not Angels.
2. Did the author misquote the Bible?
 - The Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek, and the Greek says *“angels”*
 - The author is quoting from the Greek translation (the **Septuagint**, or **LXX**, the name referring to the 70 scholars who translated the Bible), not the Hebrew Bible
3. We are only slightly lower than the heavenly realm of **beings**

“Crowned him with glory and honor”

1. Humanity was created to be **GREAT!!!!**
2. Humanity was created to have all of creation subjected to us (Genesis 1)

Verse 8

“everything under his feet.”

1. “Him” and “His” refers to humanity, not to Jesus
2. Everything **INCLUDES** the **angels**

“yet at present...”

1. If we are so great, why is the world in such a mess?
 - The world does not look the way it should, nor the way it was **created**
 - This is a reference to Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit
2. Humanity may have subjected the world, but we have not subjected ourselves to **God**
 - We are frustrated by our own weakness
 - We are defeated by our own temptations
 - The wheels have come off of our relationship to the world.
3. Humanity, which should be free and great, is in a **bondage** of its own making.

Verse 9

“But”

The author is making a transition from talking about humanity to talking about Jesus.

“We see”

1. The world may seem to be a mess (it **is**), and the situation hopeless (it **isn’t**)
 - ...Yet, Jesus, our big brother has cut a path back to this glory
 - The cost for us to be restored to this glory was paid by Jesus’ **death**
2. Jesus actually restores things as they were intended by God at creation
 - Jesus overcame human sin, and is now at his rightful place on the throne
 - This frees us from our bondage and frustration

This passage is the salvation story:

- 1) We were **created** by God for greatness
- 2) We **rebelled** and lost our glory
- 3) Jesus **restored** the dignity and place of humanity by his death