

HEBREWS 2:5-9

ABIDING IN THE UNFOLDING
GLORIES OF GOSPEL GRACE



The victory of the Lordship of Jesus is affirmed by submission (2:5-8a)

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

- God inaugurated something incredible through the sinless life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of His Son, Jesus Christ
 - The work accomplished by Jesus Christ is not detached from His people
 - What Jesus does for His people sets them apart in notable and glorious ways, not just from unredeemed humanity but also from angelic beings
- What Adam disregarded by consciously choosing loyalty to Eve over loyalty to God, Jesus, the Second Adam, has redeemed and reestablished by His crucifixion and exaltation
 - Jesus isn't managing defeat
 - Jesus is unfolding the ramifications of the victory He achieved

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- His victory impacts this present life and eternal life (i.e. “world to come”)
- Jesus leads His church in reclaiming the nations (one gospel-transformed soul at a time)
 - The angels are no longer ruling the nations of the world
 - Deuteronomy 32:8–9
 - The exaltation of Jesus declares His victory over the defiant angels
 - The church advances His mission by sharing the gospel message that saves and transforms their lives and the lives of others
 - 1 Peter 3:18–22
- It is the redeemed people of the Lord that affirm the rule and reign of Jesus over the people and nations of the world, advancing His cause

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- The Jewish people, primarily addressed in this letter, who put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are undergoing tremendous hardship and suffering
- The victory Jesus achieves by providing salvation for His people blesses His people in life and eternity
 - Yes, following the will and ways of Jesus Christ brings opposition and affliction
 - But the light of His gospel victory is advancing among the peoples of this earth
 - The redeemed of the Lord reap the benefits in life and eternity

The victory of the Lordship of Jesus is affirmed by submission (2:5-8a)

⁶ *It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”*

- “testified somewhere” – the writer is not uncertain of the reference of the quotation, but he is expressing confidence in the promise of God in Scripture
- What Jesus accomplished through affliction and exaltation changes everything, and it is good and glorious
- Psalm 8
- The writer of Hebrews quotes this Psalm applying it to the incarnation of Jesus and to the human beings He redeems
 - The humanity of Jesus, prior to His exaltation, has a form and function “a little lower than the angels”
 - But men and women in their humanity are created as image-bearers of God, the chief glory of all his creation
- Psalm 8 looks back at the creation of man in the image of God
 - God’s design and intention is for His people to take dominion and rule the world for God
 - As the Second Adam, Jesus takes this to another level of glory for us as His people
 - Living in the gospel truth of Jesus isn’t just private and personal
 - With faith in His power and provision, we advance His cause and His glory on earth
- “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”

Patience and perseverance are important while future grace is anticipated (2:8b-9)

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control.

- The sovereign authority of Jesus Christ is all-inclusive
- Having achieved the victory over sin, Satan, death, and hell, Jesus leads His church in a triumphal procession, advancing His cause and expanding His victories
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14–17

At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

- What Jesus is accomplishing is a work in progress
 - Luke 13:20–21
- His work to reclaim the nations is a work of progressive evangelization of individuals, families, and communities
 - Acts 1:8
- His work to refine His people is a work of progressive sanctification
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
- There is much work to be done, and the Lord Jesus is faithful to help us accomplish it

Patience and perseverance are important while future grace is anticipated (2:8b-9)

⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

- Jesus was made lower than the angels “for a little while”
- The plan of God takes time to develop and to be accomplished
 - Jesus, through His incarnation, was lower than the angels for a short period of time
 - His humbled condition didn’t go on indefinitely
- Jesus now rules and reigns at the Father’s right-hand
- Suffering and affliction are temporary and result in a harvest of righteousness
 - I Peter 1:6–7

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- “*taste death for everyone*” – means all types of people, without distinction, not all people without exception
- The suffering and death of Jesus is intentional and purposeful for all those He died to save
 - All affliction is temporary and purposeful
 - Jesus is our Lord and leader, and because He suffered, we, too, will suffer
 - John 15:18–20
- As the suffering of Christ brought glory and goodness, so the suffering of followers of Jesus will do the same
 - Romans 8:35–37
- Patience and perseverance are important while future grace is anticipated

Questions to Consider

- In what ways do you see Jesus unfolding the victory He achieved in your life and in the lives of others?
- What does advancing the cause of Christ on earth mean to you in practical ways?
- How can you keep your heart encouraged when you and your family are experiencing intense suffering and affliction?
- How is seeing everything in subjection to Jesus a work in progress?
- Why are patience and perseverance important while future grace is anticipated?

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