

v5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. v6 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? v7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour v8 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. v9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. v10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. v11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. v12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." v13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." v14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- v15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. v16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. v17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. v18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:5-18

Yesterday in my devotion I spoke about false prophets, who try to attract people by telling them to claim something from God, like God is some dispensing machine, waiting to give them the desires of their heart. The sad reality is that most of the false promises, are for material blessing or status or power. There does not seem to be much reference to God's will or God's purposes in their false claims, and so many of the promises seem to be conditional to you fulfilling the wishes and desires of the false prophets first. I found it quite ironical that, while I was typing the Devotion, every time I typed the word "FALSE" to talk about "FASLE PROPHETS", the predictive text on the phone wanted to automatically type "FALSE PROMISE"!!

In the passage today, we will discover what our true CREATION DESTINY was, what our FUTURE DESTINY is, and how we REGAINED OUR DESTINY through WHAT JESUS DID.

I have called this message:

THE GLORIFICATION OF CHRIST FOR HIS ROLE IN HELPING US RECAPTURE OUR CREATION DESTINY

I am going to split this message over the next couple or three weeks. The more I get into the passage the more there is to share. At the moment it will be split in half, but it may grow as I look deeper into the text.

1. THE CREATION DESTINY OF HUMANITY.

1.1. Humanity was DESTINED to BE IN THE MIND OF GOD.

v6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him,

This verse is quoted out of Psalm 8, which is what we call an ANTHROPOMORPHIC Psalm, which put simply means, a Psalm which describes God using human body parts or emotions.

The original Hebrew word translated "MAN" is the word "ENOSH" which loosely means "A FRAIL MAN". The writer to the Hebrews is reminding us that we are actually extremely frail and weak. We may think we are strong, but in reality, we are but dust or as other verses describe us, grass or flowers, here today but gone tomorrow. (HAMMER ILLUSTRATION)

THE POINT IS THIS!!!

YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY OR SOME RANDOM COLLECTION OF CHEMICALS GIVING RISE TO THE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THEORY OF EVOLUTION!!

YOU ARE MADE WITH A PURPOSE.

***Ephesians 1:3-6** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. v4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love v5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- v6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

***Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

1.2. Humanity was DESTINED to BE IN CONTACT WITH

GOD. - *v6 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?"*

The word translated as "CARE FOR" means "*To be visited*".

Right through Scripture God promises to be with us.

In Genesis 26:3 GOD SAYS TO **Isaac**, "I will be with you"

In Genesis 31:3 GOD SAYS TO **Jacob**, "I will be with you."

In Exodus 3:12 GOD SAYS TO **Moses** "I will be with you."

In Joshua 1:5 GOD SAYS TO **Joshua** "I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

In Judges 6:16 GOD SAYS TO **Gideon** "I will be with you"

In 1 Kings 11:38 GOD SAYS TO **Solomon**

In Isaiah 43:2 GOD SAYS TO **Israel** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

In John 13:33 JESUS SAYS TO **US** "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews,

so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. **BUT IN John 14:16 JESUS SAYS:** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever--

GOD DID NOT CREATE US TO ABANDON US, HE CREATED YOU TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU.

We are social beings because we are made by the TRI-UNITY God.
(POLLYANNA TEA Illustration)

1.3. Humanity was DESTINED to BE ON EARTH.

v7 You made him a little lower than the angels;

Many have misunderstood the phrase “a little lower” over the years.

As you read the passage, the initial impression is that humanity are “Lesser Beings” when compared to the angels. If you consider the capacities of angels, you may be tempted to come to that conclusion.

HOWEVER, the phrase “a little lower” can also refer to a spatial dimension. The angels are in the heavenlies and us humans are on earth. This understanding is in line with how we understand **v9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour*** JESUS COULD NEVER BE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS IN A VALUE PERSPECTIVE.

Many have questioned the significance of earth in terms of the whole universe. The more we understand about the universe, the more our minds are filled with awe and wonder. WHO ARE WE IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS?

HOWEVER, friends, THE EARTH HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN REVELATION. E.G. A new Heaven and a NEW EARTH

1.4. Humanity was DESTINED to HAVE WORTH AND VALUE.

v7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour.

One of the things that made Apartheid, not only a “crime against humanity” but also sin in the eyes of God, was that the system devalued the worth of PEOPLE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. That the creators of the Apartheid system, based their beliefs on the Word of God, must have broken God’s heart.

Any system, from Hitler to communism, from the caste system in Asian countries to the Class system in European countries, is in direct conflict to the description of humanity found in this verse.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. v10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1.5. Humanity was DESTINED to RULE THE WORLD.

*You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honour v8 and **put everything under his feet? In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him.***

The task of ruling the world is one of the first tasks given to Adam and Eve at the creation of the world.

Genesis 1:26-30 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." v27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. v28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." v29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. v30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*

As custodians of the earth, we must be motivated to look after the earth, not only because we have a responsibility to leave an inheritance for our children and grandchildren, WE MUST DO SO BECAUSE WE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD FOR OUR ACTIONS.

1.6. Humanity was DESTINED to BE THE RECIPIENTS OF SALVATION.

v5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.

Of all of the things that make us different from the angels, the greatest is this one. ONLY WE CAN EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS.

*1 Peter 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, v11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. v12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. **Even angels long to look into these things.***