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Lower than the Angels; Crowned with Glory Psalm 8 Studies on Christ in the Psalms

***Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
Matthew 23:12***

These words may be quite difficult to follow for those serving in the capitol and in the world of politics. They are actually quite difficult for all of us as we go about our daily lives. As with every other character quality and exhortation we find in the Bible, Jesus Christ is our greatest example. As we continue our series on seeing Christ in the Psalms, and we find in Psalms 8 that Jesus Christ indeed is the greatest example of one who humbled Himself and was exalted!

It will help your understanding our approach to this study if you go to our previous lesson, "The Savior Singing our Songs". You can find this study at <http://www.capitolcom.org/west-virginia/studies>

David was a wonderful songwriter and wrote many amazing Psalms drawn from his life experiences. We can picture David out at night, tending, his sheep, gazing up into the night sky, and writing these words:

Psalm 8

***O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!
2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength
Because of Your adversaries,
To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.
3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?
5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God,
And You crown him with glory and majesty!
6 You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,
7 All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!***

David writes of the glory and majesty of God demonstrated in creation. Gazing into the night sky at the innumerable stars, he asks the poetic question, "What is man?" While so small in light of the glory of the universe, David knows what the Bible says about the creation of man:

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle

and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:26-28)

God created mankind to rule over the all the earth. But we look around us and realize there is a problem. We do not seem to be doing a very good job of ruling over God's creation. Our country and our world face many problems. Our own lives can be a challenge and a struggle. Why is this?

Because of man's sinful rebellion against God, man's rule over this world was ruined. We read of God's curse upon mankind and upon the world because of sin:

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:17-19)

Yet God in His grace and mercy promised to send One who would redeem and save sinful people and restore them to their original position.

While David wrote of his own experiences, we learn that David was a prophet (Acts 2:29-31) and much of what he wrote pointed to and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Psalm 8 is quoted at least four times in the New Testament and

declared to have been written about Jesus. The most pointed of these is found in Hebrews 2:

⁶ ...But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You remember him? Or the son of man, that You are concerned about him? ⁷ "You have made him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor and have appointed him over the works of Your hands; ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet." 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. ⁹ But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (Heb. 2:6-9)

Psalm 8 points to Jesus and was fulfilled in Him! As we read this Psalm and see how it is ultimately fulfilled in Christ we realize this Psalm contains the whole redemptive story:

Creation > Fall > Redemption > Restoration

Hebrew 2:9 says **"We do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels..."** Let us endeavor to see Jesus in Psalm and grow in understanding and appreciation of what He has done for us.

Seeing Jesus in Psalm 8

Aside from the specific references to Jesus in this Psalm pointed out in Hebrews 2, We see in a more general sense how this Psalm points us to Christ. In our previous study, we learned how the Psalms point us to Christ in three ways:

- **Jesus is the Representative Singer of the Psalms**
- **Jesus is the Supreme Singer of the Psalms**
- **Jesus is the Returning Singer of the Psalms**

Let us see how each of these helps us to see Christ in Psalm 8.

Jesus is the Representative Singer of Psalm 8

Jesus as a man here on earth may well have sung this Psalm. It is not hard to imagine Him with his disciples sitting out under a night sky singing this song together. Jesus often offered up praise and thanksgiving to His Father.

Adam was a man, created by God a little lower than the angels to have dominion over all creation and to rule over the earth. He sinned and rebelled against God, was placed under the curse so that it has become a struggle to gain dominion over the earth.

Jesus Christ, God the Son, the 2nd Person of the Trinity took on human nature, was born as a man, and, for a time, was made a little lower than the angels so that He could identify with us and live, suffer, and die for our salvation. In doing so He could sing, ***What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?***

Jesus is the Supreme Singer of Psalm 8

Jesus is God the Son, the creator of universe. Yet He was, for a time made a little lower than the angels when He became a man. He is the supreme example of one who would humble himself in love and service to others.

This is why Paul uses Him as a model for us when he writes how He **"...Emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** (Phil. 2:7-8) Jesus, because of His obedience to His Father, has now been given rule over all things:

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)

So, we see how Jesus is certainly the supreme singer of this Psalm as He was for a time a little lower than the angels but now rules over all things!

Jesus is the Returning Singer of Psalm 8

We read in Hebrews 2:9 that **"we do not yet see all things subjected to Him"**. The key words for us to remember are **"not yet"**. While He is now at the right hand of God, He has chosen to allow us to follow His path of trials and suffering before experiencing glory. We long for the time when we will experience fully Christ's rule and reign.

Amazingly, because of what Christ has done, God will restore sinful people to our original place of ruling over creation. This is what it means for us to be fellow heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17) and rulers with Him (2 Tim. 2:12).

Conclusion

We can grow in our understanding and appreciation of what Christ has done for us as we see Him in Psalm 8. He left the glories of Heaven to become for a time a little lower than the angels. He did this so that He could live, suffer, die and rise again for us that we might be restored with Him to a place of honor and glory. However, we only take part in this through repentance and faith in Him.

INTERIM BIBLE STUDY

Monday, May 21

8:00 AM – Government Org Conference Room (East Wing)

12:00 McManus Conference Room (M254 by Hs. Min. Offices)