

Hebrews 2:5-9 (January 14, 2022)

Reflection: *In our secular world today, what or who do people think is in ultimate control of the world? How would this belief affect the way we think of our hope and purpose?*

Goal: *the goal of this question is to help people see that there is a difference of opinion today as to what controls our world. Many non-Christians think that there is no destiny or control. Ultimately, a belief without God being at the centre of it, means there is no hope or purpose for being a human. That is a bleak outlook for humanity, because even if we progress in some small ways, there is no meaning to anything.*

Read Hebrews 2:5-9

Hebrews 2:5-8a – A Psalm of the Son of Man’s Glory and Dominion

1. The author of Hebrews again shows us that Jesus is superior to angels that God has “subjected the world to come” to Christ and not to angels. He then turns us to Psalm 8:4-6. Read and summarize Psalms 8:1-9 and pay special attention to what this passage says about “man” and the “son of man” (8:4-8).

The glory of God (v.1-3,9)

The beginning of this Psalm speaks of the glory of God. His name is majestic, his glory is above the heavens, his work can be seen in the heavens, and children have strength or sing praise (Matthew 21:15) because of God’s enemies who are put to silence.

The glory of the man (v.4-6,8)

Man is insignificant compared to works of God’s hands and yet you care about him, made him lower than angels, and gave him his own glory and honour. Not just that, but you have given him dominion over creation, and are putting everything under his feet.

2. Is there an issue with the author of Hebrews attributing this Psalm to Jesus? Who else could this passage be referring to, and explain how these qualities fit that person(s)? (Gen 1:26-27) Why is it appropriate to attribute this section to Christ? (Col 1:15-17)

a. Is there an issue with the author of Hebrews attributing this Psalm to Jesus? Who else could this passage be referring to, and explain how these qualities fit that person(s)? (Gen 1:26-27)

The issue with this psalm is that it, at least on the surface, doesn’t seem like it is referring to Jesus Christ. Rather this passage seems to be referring to another person. Two options are often presented here, either all mankind or Adam (though I think mankind is to be preferred in the read). The section on dominion in Psalm 8 points to the concept of man being made in the image of God in Gen 1:26-27, and whatever you may say about man being in God’s image it certainly has something to do with man being made to have dominion over the earth.

b. Why is it appropriate to attribute this section to Christ? (Col 1:15-17)

This attribution doesn’t fail in either case, because it ties back to man, or Adam’s being made to reflect God’s image. 1) We should remember that all Scripture points back to Christ (John 5:39), and in this case how it does that is 2) Jesus is the ideal image bearer and therefore this section can be spoken of him. Either Jesus is the ideal human being (perfect man) and he is the 2nd Adam (perfect Adam).

3. All people bear God's image; how does that make you think of yourself and purpose? How do you think Christians should understand the calling to have dominion?

Goal: To realize that unlike what the world thinks, we do have something we are conforming to. As Christians we believe we aren't just accidents or created without purpose, but because God created us in his image, we have value and purpose. This purpose is to have dominion over the world, which in Genesis has to do with being stewards of the garden, in Israel had to do with conquering the land, and for us today means something entirely different, and that is the spreading the kingdom of God through the message of the gospel (more on this last point later).

Hebrews 2:8b-9 – Jesus' Glory and Dominion

4. Summarize this section and how Jesus connects to 2:6-8a. How does v.8b help us to answer the question, "how can God be in full control and yet there is still evil in the world," and what will the realization of Christ's dominion look like? (1 Cor 15:21-26, Rev 21:1-4)

a. Summarize this section and how Jesus connects to 2:6-8a.

Since this section is about Christ it speaks of everything has been put under subjection to Christ, and all things are under his control. However, this is something we do not yet fully see. What we do see is (at least for them who many bore witness to Jesus' ministry) is Jesus being made lower than angels, he was crowned with glory and honour because of his death and suffering, and this he did for everyone.

b. How does v.8b help us to answer the question, "how can God be in full control and yet there is still evil in the world" and what will the realization of Christ's dominion look like? (1 Cor 15:21-26, Rev 21:1-4)

There is a "now and not yet" effect of God's ruling in the world today. God rules spiritually in the hearts of all believers, this is the current state of the Kingdom of God. One day he will rule both invisibly and visibly, but until then, the effects of sin will still be at work in the world.

There is currently a process of Christ's final victory that is playing out in redemptive history right now where God will defeat all the powers of the world, Satan, and Death. (1 Cor 15:21-26) And when that day comes, Christ will remake all heaven and earth where God will reign both visibly and invisibly, all heaven and earth and there will be no more sin or the effects of sin in heaven or earth. (Rev 21:1-4)

5. From v.9, what did Jesus have to accomplish to put "everything in subjection under his feet?" How does Christ's act of suffering affect us and how is it God's grace to us? (1 Cor 5:18-21)

a. From v.9, what did Jesus have to accomplish to put "everything in subjection under his feet

I think it is important to not be dogmatic here about what Jesus accomplishes in his death, but this has in view the victory he has won with both his death and resurrection together. Jesus' death and resurrection now marks him as king, one who sits at the right hand of God right now. He was enthroned because of his suffering and what he endured. (Phil 2:5-11)

b. How does Christ's act of suffering affect us and how is it God's grace to us? (1 Cor 5:18-21)

Jesus, in his death, conquers sin and death by dying he took all sin on himself and pays its price, and he conquers both because this sets up the time of one day where sin no longer will reign, Satan will be trapped

forever, and death will affect no one. This points back to Genesis 3:15 at the “protoevangelium” or “first gospel” where the seed of Eve will crush the head of the serpent.

Jesus’ death pays for the sin by tasting death for all of us, because all deserve death, but in our stead he died. As it says in Isaiah 53:5, “with his wounds we are healed.”

6. How does Jesus’ accomplishment help us now to fulfil the description of mankind from Psalm 8:6-8? (Heb 2:10, Dan 7:14, Matt 28:16-20, Rom 8:17, 1 Cor 6:3) If Jesus has dominion over all things, what are some practical implications this has for us as believers? (1 Cor 15:25-26, Matthew 28:16-20, Rom 8:18, 8:28)

a. How does Jesus’ accomplishment help us now to fulfil the description of mankind from Psalm 8:6-8?

Now, that Christ has died and raised from the dead we too now have an honour of glory as there we are “sons of glory” as it says in (2:10). I believe this means the glory of the resurrection as Jesus was taken up into glory and it is at his resurrection is where he was crowned, so we too will experience this crowning of glory at our resurrection. This also has new dimensions for our own dominion, that it is now seen through the lens of spreading the kingdom of God through the gospel and thus spreading Christ’s dominion on earth. (Dan 7:14, Matt 28:16-20) We also await a day where we will co-reign with Christ. (Rom 8:17, 1 Cor 6:3)

b. If Jesus has dominion over all things, what are some practical implications this has for us as believers? (1 Cor 15:25-26, Matthew 28:16-20, Rom 8:18, 8:28)

Goal: Many answers to this question. Here are a few:

1 Cor 15:25-26 – That we can have confidence that there is a plan, and we are waiting till final enemy is destroyed.

Matt 28:16-20 – That our gospel message goes with kingly authority, and these are not our words, but they are his. We know that we are backed by his authority over heaven and earth.

Rom 8:18 – That there is a great hope for the future

Rom 8:28 – That all things that happen to us work together for our good and are not just random events

As the song goes, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives." We often forget the great blessing that is ours to know that our God reigns, that there is none like Him in all creation and that we are made in his image. We are eternally grateful for his dominion and the salvation we experience through his name. Spend some time this week reflecting on these great truths!