

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 4

Hebrews 2 v5 - 18

Key Question - What do you see (what do you focus your heart and mind upon) in these times when things are so hard and difficult that you're tempted to give up your faith?

Key Verse (v9) - "But we see Jesus....."

Context - The writer here is still talking about angels! See - v5 & v9a. Remember that in the face of persecution these believers were being tempted to downgrade / downsize Jesus, making Him to be less than He really and truly was - nothing more than angel. But the point is that at this time these believers needed a Jesus who was more than an angel. And so who is this Jesus that we need at such times of hardship and difficulty? We need the Jesus who is the reigning Lord and the Jesus who is the sympathising Brother.

1. JESUS - THE REIGNING LORD

Key Question (asked by the writer) - Who is going to rule in the world to come - the angels? No! See - v5. The answer (by implication) is - we are! This is what we are destined for - and it's the gospel!

Key Question - What is man? See v6 & Ps 8. The writer gives a 2-fold answer, as He speaks about:-

A. GOD'S ORIGINAL INTENTION FOR MAN

That is - what was man created to be and what was man created to do?

(i) Man's Dignity

See - v7 & Gen 1 v26a. It's man who is made in the image of God - not the angels. He is the crown of God's creation.

(ii) Man's Destiny

See - v8a & Gen 1 v26. God said - 'You're in charge!'

The Problem - Sin came into the world - sin which has both destroyed God's image which was meant to be evidenced in man and which has

disfigured God's earth which was meant to be ruled by man. See - v8b.

B. GOD'S ETERNAL INTENTION FOR MAN

See - v9. Remember that Psalm 8 is a Messianic Psalm which has its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus. See - Phil 2 v8 - 11.

Application - Who was reigning in these days? Was it Nero? On the face of it - yes. But what we're told here is that Jesus is reigning - He is the one "crowned with glory and honour". And we reign with Him! See - Eph 2 v6a.

2. JESUS - THE SYMPATHISING BROTHER

In the gospel we become part of God's family, meaning that Jesus is our Brother. See - v10 - 11a. He is the perfect Brother, and yet is "not ashamed" to call us His brothers. See - v11b - 13.

Key Questions:-

A. WHAT HAS THIS BROTHER DONE FOR US?

See - v14 - 15. In His death upon the cross and His resurrection from the grave He has conquered death so that the fear of death might be taken from us.

B. WHAT IS THIS BROTHER DOING FOR US?

See - v16 - 18. He sympathises with us - and then comes to help us. The word "help" in verse 18, literally means - 'to run to the cry of a child'. In other words, our big Brother in Jesus comes to help us when help is needed.