

Paul has shown from the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, is greater than the angels, even the angels that appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to Moses to reveal the law of God. This revelation is great and binding upon Israel, and those who despised it perished under the wrath of God. How much more, the writer asked, is someone worthy of the wrath of God if they neglect and despise the word that was given by Jesus Christ, the Son of God? This message was given by Jesus Christ Himself, who appeared with signs and wonders. It was also preached by those who heard Christ and God bore witness to their preaching by signs and wonders and by gifts of the Holy Ghost. This message we have in the New Testament, which is a fulfillment and explanation of the Old Testament.

After given this warning, the writer of Hebrews now launches into the main part of the book: the summary and explanation of what the message of the Lord Jesus was. This section begins with Chapter 2, verse 5, and treats of what is in the mind of the Father when the world was created—a mystery that was only revealed at the coming of Christ, thought hinted at in the Old Testament. I would like to point out three things concerning this mind of the Father, that is put before us in summary in verses 5-18, and unpacked in the rest of the book of Hebrews. First, The Father’s Eternal Plan; Second, The Father’s Captain to ensure the success of the Plan; Third, The Father’s Perfect Salvation

You might say that the book of Hebrews is an unpacking of Paul’s writing to the Ephesians in chapter 3 of the mystery that was hidden from the foundation of the world and only revealed at the coming of Christ. This is the promise of Christ at the beginning of the Sermon on the mountain: “Blessed Are the Meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” When this is fully unpacked in the New Testament, we see that the inheritance is the World to Come, and the meek are those, both Jew and Gentile, who have trusted in Christ and received the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Today is Father’s Day, and I want to honor our Father in Heaven, the Father of our Lord Jesus, of whom all the family in heaven and earth in names.

- I. The Father’s Eternal Plan. To place all of the works of His hands under the rule of man
 - A. This is the fullness of the salvation spoken of in verse 3: the “great salvation” would not be the message of the angels, but the message of the Son of God.
 - B. This is said to be the fulfillment of the words of David in Psalm 8. Let us look at this:
 1. This is a compressed prophecy of the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of Heaven. I am sure that David himself might have had curious thoughts about the scope of this prophecy, for nothing that happened in his lifetime or in the lifetime of Solomon reached the scope of these words.
 2. The knot is untied when we see that it was always the intention of God to bring salvation to the world and exalt man in the person of Jesus Christ, as this text says.
 3. This is confirmed in Titus 1:1-3. This inheritance is eternal life, which was ordained of God in Christ before the world began; this is the truth according to godliness, and the hope is that which is in the promise of God, which included the resurrection from the dead and exaltation with Christ in the Heavens.
 - C. Two things should be emphasized:
 1. God is mindful of man and visits him. The figure is of a king who really cares for His people and appears among them to see and address their needs and injustices. God has been overseeing the history of the world and preparing a people for the inheritance that He has for them.
 2. Man was made for a time lower than the angels, but was to be crowned with glory. This is seen fulfilled in Christ, for all of the race is included in Him. Man was to be head over all things, but Adam lost this because of sin and listening to the voice of the Serpent; but God had something better from the beginning: the coming of Christ and the preparation of the people for the Lord by the gift of the Holy Spirit. What man lost in Adam, he regains by faith in Jesus Christ.
- II. The Father’s Champion. Jesus Christ was sent to secure for Himself a people and an inheritance.
 - A. Just as there was a period of testing for Adam, which he failed, there was a period of testing for the Last Adam, which He endured and triumphed. This took place during the years of his humiliation, climaxing in the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and the horrors of the Cross.
 - B. In Christ all the hopes of mankind are concealed. Vs. 9. Every man must find his hope there, or he has no hope at all.
 - C. The people who inherit are thus described:
 1. They are men, not angels.
 2. They are sanctified brothers of Christ: they are sanctified by His blood; set apart to holiness.
 3. They are called the church: the called ones. Verse 12 quotes Psalm 22 that speaks of the death of Christ on the cross.
 4. They are called the children of God; they are born of the Spirit. Psalm 8 speaks of the tongues of infants that refute those who would deny the goodness and providence of God.
 5. They are called flesh and blood. They are fully human. Jesus became fully human in order to redeem us by His death on the cross. This was the plan from the beginning.
 6. They are called the seed of Abraham. They are men of faith and of the covenant of faith.

7. You cannot get universal atonement from verse 9 unless you proof text and ignore the rest of the chapter. It was verse 16 and the context that first got me thinking of Limited Atonement many, many years ago. I had already accepted predestination, but this fleshed out the Reformed Theology of the doctrine of personal salvation.

D. There is so much more; but if you assimilate that, we will have done well.

III. The Father’s Perfect Salvation.

A. It is secured by a merciful and faithful high priest: the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. He was made like His brothers. Salvation comes from God becoming man; not from man becoming God.
2. He is merciful: He loves and cares for His people. Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so.
3. He is faithful: He will perform all that He promised.

B. He is merciful and faithful in things pertaining to God.

1. Priests speak to God for the people. All that God requires is satisfied by Jesus Christ. He takes care of the God business. Your job is to trust him. Paul expressed this eloquently, and we sing it in a hymn: “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” Jesus is a worthy and faithful priest, and takes care of all God’s requirements. Trust in Him.
2. Chief of these things: “Reconciliation for the sins of the people.” “The people” = those described above. Reconciliation for the sins—the sins. If sins are reconciled, then what is left to stand against the favor of God? Jesus Christ our Savior accomplishes three things for us:
 - a. Justification – quick now, what is justification? It ought to be on the tip of your tongue: “He takes away the guilt—the law is satisfied,” Just as if I had never sinned.
 - b. Sanctification – quick: He disciplines us and conforms us to Christ; makes us holy.
 - c. Glorification- quick: He will raise us from the dead and secure our eternal perfection, making us ready for our eternal inheritance.

Application:

- A. In Christ we reign over all things for our eternal happiness and accomplishment, including judging angels, which we do now; for we are called to evaluate even the messages of angels, as Paul says in Galatians.
- B. In Christ we seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God.
- C. In Christ we seek those things which are only hinted at in the best things on earth:
 - a. We taste and understand that the Lord is gracious; we will feast at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - b. We hear the sweet words of promise from our Heavenly Father, and hearing, our souls live. Sweeter music than any ever composed on this earth.
 - c. We sense the gracious perfume of His presence and joy in the things of Christ. Of Christ it is said in Psalm 45:6-8 “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.” How sweet a smell is it when the church loves righteousness and hates wickedness, as our Lord does. We also are anointed with the oil of gladness, a sweet savor of Christ in every place.
- D. In Christ we find the true riches of wisdom and knowledge, more precious than silver or gold, than the most choice jewels of earth; sweeter honey than can be found on earth; His rewards are great for His people. His words are “more to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”
- E. Though there be trials and temptation in the present world, yet we rejoice in the world to come, wherein reigns righteousness and holiness and peace. This is in Christ alone.

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.