

# The Destiny of Man Revealed

Text: Hebrews 2:5-8

Date: 10-29-23

## 1. Angels will not rule in the future world to come (Heb. 2:5).

The writer indicates then this is the subject *wherof we speak*: angels compared to man and Jesus. Here we have more proof of the superiority of God over angels. If angels are next below God, and Jesus is God, then Jesus is obviously superior to angels. But while angels are superior to humans, were involved in the giving of the Mosaic Law, and helped in certain important events and functions in Biblical history, the author clearly states they will not rule over the future earth.

The word *world* means *inhabited earth* and is “understood as a collection of governmental units and the people living in them”.<sup>1</sup>

This is the future inhabited world and must refer to the Millennial Kingdom where man will co-rule and reign with Jesus Christ. See Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6.

Although this current world is ruled by angelic beings – false ones led by Satan himself, John 12:31 tells us that in the future the *ruler of this world will be cast out*. John 14:30.

Angelic superiority over mankind is temporary and will not exist in the same way in the future. They will serve, and mankind will rule with Christ. Man was given dominion over this world prior to the Fall (Gen. 1:26-28), but subsequent to man’s sinful rebellious collapse that dominion was lost. Angels rule this world but in the future that will revert back to God’s original design and angels will be servants.

**Question:** But what about Christ? He is a man; thus He must be lower than the angels, right? Well, yes and no. Just as man was made a little lower than the angels for a short time, so Christ was as well. But that doesn’t mean Christ would remain that way. Christ was exalted back to His rightful place after His redemptive work on the cross. Man also will be placed over angels and, as Paul writes, they will one day help in the judgment of angels (I Cor. 6:3).

## 2. Man was made lower than angels temporarily, but ultimately angels will be subject to man (Heb. 2:6-7)

David reflects on man as compared to the glorious work of God’s creation. When compared to the heavens, the work of God’s fingers, the moon, sun, stars, galaxies and beyond, man seems so insignificant and small. Yet, God cares for mankind. God is mindful of his every movements, being, and character.

God made man to be a *little lower than the angels*. What does that mean?

This could mean for a short/little time man is lower than angels. Or, it could mean that man is less than in rank or lower than angels on account of his frailty, fallibility, and temporal position on this earth.

“Man is confined to the earth and to relatively nearby space. Angels, on the other hand, are not confined to the spiritual. They are able to come to earth at will, and have supernatural power and strength that even sinless man did not have. Not only that, but man’s only direct communion with God has been that which he had with Jesus while He was on earth. Angels have continual access to the throne of God. Angels are spirit beings; man is made out of the dust of the earth. After Satan rebelled, the faithful angels were secured in holiness forever; after Adam rebelled, all men were cursed with him. In Adam, all died (1 Cor. 15:22). At the time of the creation, angels were perfect; man was only innocent. Even in his innocence, man had the choice to sin. Still more importantly, angels were never subject to death as man was”.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Brannan, R., ed. (2020). In [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#). Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Hebrews](#) (pp. 54–55). Moody Press.

So, man is temporarily lower than the angels. Someday in the future that will change when man lives in the state of re-creation.

### **3. Man's dominion has been temporarily lost (Heb. 2:8).**

Man was chosen to rule over all. The writer gives an apt illustration of when a conquering king defeated his enemy. When the newly defeated people came before the king or for that fact when anyone came before the king they lowered themselves, bowed, and sometimes kissed the king's feet. This is what it means to be *under his feet*. Under his feet indicates supremacy over all. That was man's early position.

But man lost that dominion and failed to realize his full potential.

Sin altered the destiny of man. He lost fellowship with God. He became His enemy. Pain came. Sin came. Disease came. The world became a wicked place. The ground was cursed. Animals were cursed. Man was cursed.

### **Conclusion**

The fall then prevented man from coming to the place that He wanted for him. Psalm 8 makes it clear that God desired man to be crowned with glory and honor, but "sin with its curse held man back from reaching that goal. . ." (Kent 54). We are sinners, but we are not hopeless. We are cursed, but we have been given help. God sent us His Son in human flesh, He lived among us yet never sinned, He died to take the punishment for our sin and to make a way for us to be restored to Him, and now He lives in Heaven preparing a place for us. We should never stop rejoicing over the truth that the Word became flesh!