**First Baptist Church Merritt Island**
**Senior Pastor Titus Green**
**September 20, 2026**
**HEBREWS: Jesus Is Better**
**Jesus is a Perfect Savior**
**Hebrews 2:5-18 (Part 1)**

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This morning, we are continuing our study through the book of Hebrews. This book is written to a group of Christians who come from a predominantly Jewish background and are suffering persecution for following Jesus. Some of them are considering leaving Christianity to return to the Old Testament practice of Judaism. So, the author of Hebrews is writing to show them how foolish and dangerous it is to abandon Jesus. He is better than anything and everything. Specifically, He is better than the things from the Old Testament associated with Judaism. Those things were shadows of Christ, but Jesus is the reality. He's the fulfillment of all that that was pictured and promised and prophesied in the Old Testament.

And the first two chapters of Hebrews are focused on the fact that Jesus is superior to the angels. Angels played a significant role in Judaism. They were God's messengers who were also granted power to defend God's people from both physical and spiritual attack. Angels are great and glorious beings…but Jesus is better.

And our text is filled with example after example of the superiority of Christ. Before we read out text, let me give you the big idea.

**BIG IDEA: JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANGELS BECAUSE HE REIGNS OVER CREATION AND PERFECTLY SAVES US SO THAT WE CAN REIGN IN VICTORY WITH HIM.**

As I read our text, that's what I see to be the main point the author is making. Jesus is better than the angels because He reigns over all of creation – including the angels. And Jesus not only reigns over creation, He entered creation as a man so that He could raise us up from the curse of sin to a life of glorious victory in which we will reign with Him. No one but Jesus could do that. And that's why Jesus is better.

**Hebrews 2:5-18**
***For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." 13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the***

***power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.***

This morning, we are only going to get through half of this text. But this is all one section, and the thoughts are so interconnected that I want to try my best to keep the big picture in view as we work our way through the some of the details. So, let me do a quick overview of this text through the lens of our big idea and then we'll dig a little deeper into some of the specifics.

The first part of our big idea is **JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANGELS BECAUSE HE REIGNS OVER CREATION.** That's right there in verses 5 and 9.

***Hebrews 2:5***
***For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.***

***Hebrews 2:9***
***But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death.***

Jesus is the One who ultimately reigns overs the entire universe and everything in it. Angels don't rule this universe, Jesus does. So, Jesus is better.

The next part of our big idea is that **JESUS PERFECTLY SAVES US** because He is our perfect Savior. You see that in verse 10.

***Hebrews 2:10***
***For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.***

Jesus is the founder of our salvation. The word founder means "originator, initiator, leader." Jesus initiated our salvation. The King of Heaven and earth came into this world on a mission to save us. And in His suffering, His salvation was made perfect, or complete.

The last part of our big idea is that **JESUS SAVES US SO THAT WE CAN REIGN IN VICTORY WITH HIM.** That's a significant part of our text. There are at least 6 ways Jesus raises us up to a place of victory.

- He gives us victory over this fallen world. – verses 5-8
- He gives us victory over death. – verses 9 and 14
- He gives us victory over the devil. – verse 14
- He gives us victory over fear. – verse 15
- He gives us victory over the punishment of our sin. – verse 17
- He gives us victory over temptation. – verse 18

In every way imaginable, Jesus is better than angels. **HE REIGNS OVER CREATION AND PERFECTLY SAVES US SO THAT WE CAN REIGN IN VICTORY WITH HIM.**

Now, let's walk through the first part of our text a little at a time.

***Hebrews 2:5***
***For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.***

There is a new world coming. Last week, we looked at Revelation 21 and saw that God is going to recreate the heavens and the earth. It will be a glorious world. This introduces a really important question – *To whom is the world to come subjected?* Who will reign and rule in that new world? At first glance, it seems easy to answer that question. It's Jesus. That's the right answer, but it isn't the full answer. Let's keep reading.

***Hebrews 2:6-8***
***It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet."***

When the author says, "it has been testified somewhere," that's not his way of saying he doesn't know what passage he's quoting. It's his way of reinforcing what he talked about in chapter 1 – God is the One who is speaking in the Old Testament. So, the human author isn't mentioned. But, like the author, we know this is a quote from Psalm 8. And notice that Psalm 8 is talking about man. The Hebrew word for man is the word for mankind. It's saying God has given mankind an honorable position in creation, namely, God has put creation in subjection to mankind.

That's a reference to God's original design for man at the dawn of creation.

*Genesis 1:26–28*
*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Mankind was created by God to bear His image in this world and to share His work of governing over creation. The word that's used in Genesis is "dominion." That word means to rule. It's a reference to having authority over a certain domain. Man was given authority to rule over the natural order of this world.

Plants thrived under his care without thorns and weeds and disease. Animals seemed to respond to and cooperate with him in a way that didn't produce fear or danger. We don't know what all it included, but mankind was empowered by God to represent Him in this world and be part of His work of ruling over creation.

But then something went tragically wrong**.** Adam and Eve rebelled against God and because of their sin, mankind fell from our place of glory and honor. A curse came upon this whole world.

That's what the last part of verse 8 is referring to…

***Hebrews 2:8***
***…At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.***

Mankind is not living with everything in subjection to him the way it was before the fall. Just try to plant a garden and you'll be reminded that nature is working against us as much as it's working for us. I have some bougainvillea that are continually trying to exercise dominion over me.

Add to that mosquitoes and hurricanes and draught and heart disease and sore muscles and sleepless nights…the list goes on and on. We are subject to creation more than it is subject to us.

We are broken people living in a broken world. And we all know it deep down. We feel deeply in our souls that it isn't supposed to be like this. You read the headlines and see the horrific things taking place in our world and you know, it isn't supposed to be like this. You look around your life – at dysfunctional relationships or pain that doesn't make sense – and you think, "It isn't supposed to be like this." And you're right. We are living in a world that is under the curse of sin.

And the ultimate reminder of that fact is death itself. With all our technology and ability to harness the forces of nature, we have no dominion over death. And if this was where the story ended, it would be a sad and hopeless story.

But Hebrews isn't written to tell us how bad off we are. It's written to show us how incredible Jesus is. So, let's keep reading.

***Hebrews 2:9***
***But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.***

We don't currently see mankind exercising dominion over creation. But we do see one Man who has done what the first Adam and every other man since has been unable to do. Jesus became a man so that He could be the Ultimate representative of mankind. Psalm 8 has a double meaning. It's referring to mankind in general, but it's pointing to the ultimate representative of Mankind – Jesus Christ the Son of God.

He is a new kind of Adam. Where the first Adam failed, this second Adam succeeded.

Jesus has exercised dominion. He entered into this cursed world as one of us. He lived subject to nature – He had to eat and drink and sleep. He experienced weakness and pain. Verse 9 says He suffered and died. He took the curse of mankind upon Himself at the cross. That's why verse 9 says that by the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone.

But death didn't win. Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus exercised dominion over death. He walked out of that grave alive and well and victorious and glorified. Now, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father where He rules and reigns forever. And just like mankind was subject to the curse because of the actions of the first Adam, mankind can now be liberated from the curse by the actions of the second Adam, the perfect man, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Now, look at verse 10.

***Hebrews 2:10***
***For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.***

Jesus was perfected through suffering. That isn't saying Jesus was imperfect or had sin before He suffered. It means that He was able to be a perfect Savior through His suffering. The word "perfect"

is a verb that means “to complete, to fulfill, to reach the end goal.” Jesus’ salvation wasn’t complete until He took the curse of our sin upon Himself. In order to do that, Jesus had to become a flesh and blood man. He had to become one of us so that He could suffer and die at the cross. And since He was victorious over sin and suffering and death on our behalf, verse 10 says He is able to bring many sons to glory. That’s referring to all who place their faith and trust in Him. We will be brought to glory by the work of Jesus.

And what is that glory? Look at verse 11…

***Hebrews 2:11***
***For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,***

This is amazing. In Christ, we have been sanctified. That’s another word for being made holy – just like Jesus. That’s why Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Through His work at the cross, Jesus has made a way for us to share His standing before God as our Father. We become children of God when we place our faith in Jesus.

So, get this. Jesus lowered Himself to become a man so that He could raise up every man, woman, and child to become like Him as they place their trust in Him. And, as children of God, we are set to inherit everything that belongs to God.

Listen to how Paul describes this same dynamic in Romans 8.

*Romans 8:16–17*
*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

Jesus became one of us so that He could take on the curse of our sin and restore us to God as our Father as we place our faith and trust in Him. And, since we are now children of God, we stand to inherit everything that belongs to God. One day, we will all stand glorified with Jesus. As Psalm 8 says, we will once again be crowned with glory and honor.

And that informs how we can answer the question we asked a little bit ago: To whom is the world to come subjected? The answer is, “To Jesus and to all who are trusting in Him.”

One day, God will recreate the heavens and the earth. And in that new creation, Jesus will reign supreme over all things. And we will reign with Him!

*2 Timothy 2:11–12*
*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him;*

*Revelation 5:9–10*
*And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

We will reign victorious with Jesus in the New Heavens and Earth. That’s part of the perfect salvation that comes from our perfect Savior as we place our faith and trust in Him.

Next week, we will come back to this text and look at several ways Jesus has already given us victory to reign over things like death and fear and temptation. But, for this morning, I want to close with a few points of application from what we've studied this morning.

APPLICATION

- BE AMAZED BY JESUS

Don't get over the gospel. Think of who Jesus is and what He has done. He left the glory of Heaven so He could suffer and die in your place. He took the curse of sin so that He could set us free and give us victory. He rose from the dead and is going to raise us up, too! He is coming again to receive us to Himself that where He is, there we will be also. He rules and reigns over heaven and earth. Over kings and presidents and nations and natural disasters and disease. Fix your eyes on Jesus and be amazed.

And if you find yourself getting over the gospel, if the good news has started to be old news, ask God to stir your heart in a fresh and new way. There's no one like Jesus. He's better than anyone or anything. Ask God to amaze you over and over again. Be amazed by Jesus. Worship Him. Praise Him. Give Him thanks and give Him glory. Jesus is better.

- BE HOPEFUL ABOUT YOUR DESTINY

It's easy to live discouraged and hopeless in this world. We feel our weakness. We feel the brokenness and sin all around us. It's hard to live with that nagging reminder that it isn't supposed to be like this. But we don't have to live like it will always be like this. In Christ, our destiny is glory.

My daughter, Mia, and I have a core memory from when she was young. The movie Frozen had just come out and I had already seen it in the theatre. Don't ask me why a 40-year-old man went to the theatre to watch Frozen without his little girls. It's none of your business. For whatever reason, I saw Frozen and new my girls would love it. I came home and told them it was incredible and that we were going to see it. They were so excited. Their friends had already watched it and told them how amazing it was.

The day finally came there we were in the theatre. Andi Kay sat next to Emily, and I sat next to Mia. I'll never forget it. There were ads and preview videos that seemed like they would never end. That's part of the curse. I'm sure I thought to myself, "It's not supposed to be like this." Sitting through an hour of pointless ads puts me in a bad mood.

But, through all of it, little Mia sat up on her knees and couldn't take her eyes off the screen. And she was shaking like a leaf. I mean, from head to toe she was shaking like a leaf. And I leaned over and asked, "Sweetheart, are you okay?" She said, "Dad, I'm so excited. I can't wait." She knew something great was on its way. And it totally changed how she lived through the previews.

And in a deeper, more powerful way, that's what this morning's truth is supposed to do to our hearts. Right now, it's like we are stuck watching previews to movies we don't want to see…a world we don't want to be trapped in…

But life won't always be this way. In Christ, in Christ, our destiny is glory. One day, Jesus will return and set up an eternal kingdom where there will no longer be sickness or sadness or sorrow or suffering. Christian, that's your destiny. You will reign with Christ upon this earth. You are more than a conqueror in Him. Every wrong will be made right. It will be glorious. You will be glorious. So, lift up your head and rejoice. Sit on your knees and look ahead. The previews are almost over, and the real show is about to begin. The night is almost past - joy will come in the morning. Don't give up.

Don’t give in.  Don’t despair.  Your Father has already seen it and knows you’re going to love it.  Your destiny is glory!

- BE CAREFUL TO TRUST IN JESUS

The truths of this text are only for those who are trusting in Jesus.  Remember last week we saw that we will not be saved if we neglect this great salvation by failing to trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.  Apart from Christ, we are lost in our sin and destined for eternity separated from God.  And there’s nothing we can do in our own power to make ourselves right with God.  That’s why we need Jesus.  And we don’t just need Him; we have Him as we place our faith and trust in Him.

Do not leave this place today without knowing that your sins are forgiven and God is our Father and Heaven is your eternal home.  Trust in Jesus.  He is better than angels and prophets and anyone else you can name.  And His gift of salvation is available to any and all who will place their faith and trust in Him.