



For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 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.” 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. 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. 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. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” 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, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 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. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* ([Heb 2:5–18](#)). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

We don't think of Jesus as the "ultimate man" because we don't understand who He is. Remember, He's stronger than angels. Angels are so strong they are called "wind" and "fire." Jesus is stronger than a tornado and more powerful than a blazing inferno. He's strong!

Who's qualified to decide who is the “ultimate man?” God, the Creator. He made us. He should decide.

The writer of Hebrews looked to the Psalms, and other Old Testament scriptures, and found that God's Word affirms that Jesus is the "ultimate man." He's the man every man should try to be like.

To explore how the writer of Hebrews holds Jesus up as the ultimate man we will consider:

- What is man that you are mindful of him? (Hebrews 2:5-9)
- Why is Jesus not ashamed to call them brothers? (Hebrews 2:10-12)
- Who are the children God has given Jesus? (Hebrews 2:13-16)
- Why was Jesus made like His brothers? (Hebrews 2:17-18)

What Is Man that You Are Mindful of Him?

[Hebrews 2:5-9](#)

“For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 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.” 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. 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.”

Where do we get our ideas about what makes someone the “ultimate man”? Most likely, from the people around us when we grew up. After reaching adulthood we may have adjusted our understanding a little, but most of us stay with what we learned when we were young, and only make slight changes after that.

We live in a sinful world. Our understanding of manhood is shaped by the sinful men we have known. The writer of Hebrews quoted Psalm 8. This is a Psalm written by David. It is a meditation on God’s relationship with humanity. David asks God, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” The word “man” refers to both men and women. David pondered why God bothered to pay so much attention to human beings.

Compared to God humans are smaller than ants.

God created other creatures like angels. Angels are much more important than human beings. Why does God bother with human beings when He could be spending His time with angels? He thinks that God gives more attention to human beings than they deserve.

Here on earth God placed human beings over all the other living creatures. Human beings shape and mold the earth and make it into many different things. David wonders, why did God give this kind of ability to human beings?

The writer of Hebrews looks at Psalm 8 and thinks, “David was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this. But if you look closely, you will see that this psalm is a better description of Jesus Christ than King David.”

In the new creation Jesus will be the King and ruler of all creation. “We do not yet see everything in subjection to him” (Hebrews 2:8). But when Jesus returns and only the new creation remains, God will leave “nothing outside his control” (Hebrews 2:8).

When Jesus was born as a baby He was “for a little while made lower than the angels” (Hebrews 2:9). And why did Jesus become a human being? So that He could die on the cross to pay the price of believer’s sins “so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews 2:9).

God knew what He was going to do when He caused David to write these words. The words were true of David. He was created lower than the angels. He was a human being having dominion over the earth. But these words are a far better description of Jesus. He will reign over all creation in the age to come, not just other creatures on earth. He was temporarily made lower than the angels when He was born as human being. But when He died and rose again, He ascended to Heaven and sat at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven.

Don’t miss what comes next in Psalm 8:4 and in Hebrews 2:6, “What is man, that you are mindful of him or the son of man, that you care for him?” David’s father was a man, so that would mean that David was a son of man. Many times Jesus called Himself, the “Son of Man” so it is a very appropriate title for Him. There are 74 verses in the gospels where Jesus used the phrase “son of man”. The title “son of man” is a better title for Jesus than it was for David.

This is the amazing thing about how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament. Passages of Old Testament described circumstances that took place at the time they were written. But when Jesus came believers saw that

under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit these same words described Jesus even better. God had known this all along but it surprised first New Testament believers.

Why Is Jesus Not Ashamed to Call them Brothers?

[Hebrews 2:10-12](#)

“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**. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is **not ashamed to call them brothers**, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.””

In Hebrews 2:10 we are told that God the Father provided salvation for believers, “**bringing many sons to glory**.” When Jesus died on the cross He was made “**perfect through suffering**.” (Hebrews 2:10). I used to wonder, “Wasn’t Jesus completely perfect when He was in Heaven? How could the Son of God, who was perfect, be made more perfect?”

The point is that until Jesus came to earth, He had not done what He needed to do to become the Savior of sinners. Only after suffering on the cross did He become the perfect Savior of sinners. Until that happened there was no salvation available to sinners. Only after His death and resurrection did He become the perfect Savior of sinners. The Greek word translated as “perfect” has a meaning that doesn’t come through in English. It means that a process has been completed. It is finished. Until Jesus died on the cross, the work of salvation was incomplete. After His death and resurrection, the work was completed and He was the perfect Savior of sinners. In English that sense of the work being complete and finished isn’t clear. But in Greek it is very clear.

Now let’s get to Hebrews 2:12, which quotes Psalm 22:22: “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you” ESV. This is another Psalm written by David. Again, David says something that was true of himself, but the writer of Hebrews understood it as a more accurate description of Jesus. David proclaimed God’s name to his fellow Israelites, during their times of worship. Jesus also proclaimed the truth about God to His followers during their times of worship. One example of the times of when Jesus worshipped with His disciples was just after His last supper with them (“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives” Matthew 26:30, ESV).

Jesus was not ashamed to call those who believed in Him His brothers! I have read that verse many times, and it never fails to give me a sense of well-being. Jesus, the Creator of the Universe, is not ashamed to call me His brother! If you believe in Him, you can also make that claim. It doesn’t matter what anyone else says, Jesus says He is the brother of all who believe in Him. He’s not ashamed to say it. Don’t be afraid to claim it. Jesus said it is true.

Who Are the Children God Has Given Jesus?

[Hebrews 2:13-16](#)

“And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and **the children God has given me**.” 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, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.”

Two more Old Testament passages are quoted. Both quotations come from Isaiah 8:17&18:

¹⁷ I will wait for the Lord, who is **hiding his face from the house of Jacob**, and I will hope in him. ¹⁸ Behold, I and **the children whom the Lord** has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

The connection between the words of Isaiah and the words in Hebrews is not easy to see. The part about God giving the children is clear. It’s more difficult to see when Isaiah is talking about God “**hiding his face from the house of Jacob**”. In Isaiah’s time God was in the process of sending His people, also called the house

of Jacob, into exile. Yet, Isaiah could foresee a future when God would call His “children” back to Himself. IN the Gospels, Jesus is calling God’s people back to Himself. That is exactly what was happening with Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. Adam was also a “son of God” (Luke 3:38 – “Adam the son of God.”) Adam’s descendants, then, were also “sons of God.” As “sons of God” they are God’s children. God gave a group of people to Jesus as His own people (see John 17:7, 9, 11, 12, 22, 24). God the Father ordained that these people would follow Jesus and believe in Him. The writer of Hebrews called these people “the children whom the Lord has given”. These people were given by God the Father to Jesus.

Don’t miss this! The devil had the power of death. When a person sinned, the devil caused that person to die, and to spend eternity in Hell. But Jesus defeated the devil. After that people who believed in Him were also able to inherit eternal life. Believers now belonged to Jesus and not to the devil. God the Father has given them to Jesus. They will spend eternity in heaven and not in hell.

Jesus’ gift of salvation applies to human beings, but not to angels. Jesus died and rose again, so that He could save every sinful human being who believes in Him. His power will make this happen.

Why Was Jesus Made Like His Brothers?

[Hebrews 2:17-18](#)

“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. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is **able to help those who are being tempted.**”

We don’t know every detail about what Jesus did to accomplish salvation, and why He had to do it. What we do know is that His death and suffering were absolutely necessary. There was no other way God could forgive the sinners. We also know that Jesus was able to do this only because He became a human being. If Jesus hadn’t become a human being all sinners would still be condemned to Hell.

The writer of Hebrews used the word “propitiation” to describe what Jesus did when He suffered on the cross. That word has a very specific meaning. It means that God the Father poured out His wrath on Jesus as He suffered on the cross. The sins of human beings deserved God’s wrath. If Jesus hadn’t died on the cross, as a “propitiation”, every human being would need to spend eternity paying for his or her sin. The price of sin had to be paid.

Only by becoming a human being could Jesus pay this price. He bore the price of all the sins of those who believe in Him.

In addition to paying the price of believer’s sins, Jesus became a perfect Savior. He experienced temptation. Through His experience of temptation Jesus became “able to help those who are being tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). He knows how it feels. He’s experienced it for Himself (see Matthew 4).

When you struggle with sin and temptation, go to Jesus in prayer. Ask Him for help. He will help you. He knows what you are going through because He’s been through it too. Unlike you and me He did not give in to temptation. He knows what it takes to resist temptation and win. He can get you through those hard times so that you will be victorious. He is the perfect Savior because He has experienced pain and suffering like you, and He alone can bring you to victory over sin and death.

The Founder of Salvation (Hebrews 2:5–18)

P A E H S G D E T P M E T
D D B R R N T H I N G S E
P E K S E I F I T C N A S
C A N E H H E L T T I L T
G T B W T T W N H R K A I
L H S V O Y Y E E E A S F
Y U U Y R R R R M W E L I
P L F R B E C D O O P E E
I E F D F V I L C L S G D
C P E O N E N I E U G N A
Y O R R M I A H A E K A M
F E E T A Y M C H O N O R
F V D G T C E J B U S G O
R H A K K B M U B N H W O

For it was not to **angels** that God **subjected** the world to **come**, of which we are **speaking**. 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**.” 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. 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. 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**. For he who **sanctifies** and those who are **sanctified** all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them **brothers**, saying, “I will tell of your **name** to my **brothers**; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” And **again**, “I will put my trust in him.” And **again**, “Behold, I and the **children** God has given me.” 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, and deliver all those who through fear of **death** were **subject** to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not **angels** that he **helps**, but he **helps** the offspring of Abraham. **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. For **because** he himself has **suffered** when **tempted**, he is able to **help** those who are being **tempted**. ([ESV](#))