God’s Ultimate Intention

Hebrews 2:5-9

Introduction

Over the next 9 chapters we will focus on two things.

- The person of the High Priest. Hebrews 2:5-7:28
- The ministry of the High Priest. Hebrews 8:1-10:18

There were 4 qualifications for a High Priest. He needed to be:

- One with the people.
- Faithful in his ministry.
- Appointed by God.
- Free from sin.

In this short passage, the writer goes back to show us three things.

I. God’s Original Intention for Man. Hebrews 2:5-8a

God’s original intention was that the world would be ruled by man.

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

27 *So God created man in his own image,*  
   *in the image of God he created him;*  
   *male and female he created them.*

28 *God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*  
*Genesis 1:26-28*

Adam and Eve, the creature king and queen, were given dominion and authority over all the earth under the Lordship of God.

The Psalmist testified to that in Psalm 8:3-6.

*‘When I consider your heavens,*  
  *the work of your fingers,*  
  *the moon and the stars,*  
  *which you have set in place,*
4 what is man that you are mindful of him,  
   the son of man that you care for him?

5 You have made him a little lower than the angels  
   and crowned him with glory and honor.  
6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
   you put everything under his feet.”

But what happened?

II. God’s Original Intention was marred by sin. Hebrews 2:8b

If Adam and Eve had not sinned (and no one after them) we would be living in a perfect world with perfect harmony between God and man and all creation.

It’s hard for us to even imagine that.

So the writer says, “Yet at present, we do not see everything subject to him.”

Man’s dominion over the earth was meant to be for the good of all creation. Instead it has been twisted and abused.

Clearly something has gone wrong with this present world.

“Whatever is or is not true about man, this one thing is certain – man is not what he was meant to be.” G.K. Chesterton

But all is not lost.

III. God’s Ultimate Intention will be fulfilled. Hebrews 2:9

“But we see Jesus.”

God’s original intention and his ultimate intention will be fulfilled through Christ.

Jesus is the perfect man. He’s the second Adam. Psalm 8 is all about him.

- Jesus is the Son of Man.
- Jesus was made a little lower than the angels.
- Jesus is crowned with glory and honor.
- And God has put everything under his feet.

The author of Hebrews calls attention to three key events in the drama of salvation.

- Jesus’ Incarnation (Past)
- Jesus’ Exaltation (Present)
- Jesus’ Final Victory (Future)
We live in the tension between the already and the not yet.

We don’t see it yet, but one day we will. And in that day, we will reign with him.

“They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4

“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 22:5

It is not to angels that God has subjected the world to come. It is to Jesus Christ that “every knee will bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10-11

And we who are his children, will reign with him, forever and ever.

Conclusion

How does this help us living in a broken world?

What are we to do when life is hard and the trials are many?

Look to the Lord Jesus Christ.