

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Hebrew 02: 08-10

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. This week we'll be reading Hebrew chapter 2, and today we'll read from verse 8 to verse 10.

The author of Hebrews, in chapter 1, proves that Christ, as the Son of God, surpasses the angels in His name, identity, position, existence, and victory. Then, in chapter 2, verses 4-18, it elaborates that Christ, as the Son of Man, is also superior to the angels. This is shown through what Christ, as the Son of Man, accomplished to fulfill God's predetermined will, surpassing the angels.

At creation, God bestowed humanity with an exalted identity and mission. God intended for man to represent Him in ruling over all things He created. Although the first man, Adam, failed and lost the authority to rule, God did not abandon humanity. God's will remains unshaken and will ultimately be fulfilled. What was lost through man, God determined to regain through man. In the world to come, humanity will be crowned with glory and honor and will regain authority to rule over all things created by God, subjecting all under man's feet.

How does God accomplish this purpose? Today's passage tells us how the Son of God became the last Adam. Through His suffering and death, He not only brought salvation to humanity but also leads people into glory.

Verse 08: "You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him."

"All things in subjection under his feet" refers to the future world, specifically when Christ returns and establishes His millennial kingdom on earth. At that time, all things will be subject to humanity and placed under man's authority. The author,

fearing that people might become arrogant and think they could conquer all things through force, clarifies what it means for all things to be subject to man: there will be nothing left that is not under his subjection.

This points to a complete submission, which can only be achieved in the kingdom ruled by Christ. In the world under Satan's rule, everyone operates out of self-interest, resulting in a survival-of-the-fittest scenario. The strong expand their territories and oppress the weak; as the weak are gradually eliminated or even driven to extinction, the ecological balance is disrupted, ultimately threatening the survival of the strong. Therefore, under Satan's system, the best outcome is merely a balance of interests, which is far from complete submission.

What does it mean for all things to be subjected under man's feet, as God has said? To understand God's intent and His method of restoring humanity, we can review the trajectory of man's fall as recorded in Genesis chapters 3 to 6. In Genesis 3, Adam disobeyed God's command by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As a result, man's spirit died, severing fellowship with God, and humanity was driven out of the Garden of Eden.

By Genesis 4, the second generation of humanity experienced jealousy in matters of worship, which led to murder, corrupting man's soul. Then, in Genesis 6, certain angels who abandoned their proper domain took human women as wives, producing giants. This was not part of God's original creation, and humanity's body became corrupted. God declared that man had become flesh, with thoughts that were only evil continually. As a result, God judged that generation with the flood, saving only Noah and his family of eight, who built the ark and were delivered through the flood.

From this, we see the trajectory of humanity's fall: it began with the death of the spirit, followed by the corruption of the soul, and finally the defilement of the body. For all things to be subjected under man's feet, the path of restoration must also begin with the spirit, then proceed to the soul, and finally to the body. Without following this process, God's purpose cannot be fulfilled. As of now, we do not see all things subjected under man's feet.

We see that human relying on their intelligence and ingenuity, have invented various tools to conquer other species and satisfy their selfish desires. In the process, they have unknowingly destroyed the ecological environment that sustains human life. Some visionary individuals have recognized this long-term crisis and attempted to limit human development. However, these restrictions harm the interests of those with vested advantages, leading to disputes among people. These disputes often escalate and expand into regional wars. Is this not a microcosm of all human history? In a world ruled by Satan, it is impossible to fulfill God's purpose of subjecting all things under man's feet.

Verse 09: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."

Man is unable to save himself, so God prepared salvation for humanity. God's method of salvation is the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. According to God's predetermined will and plan, God's Son, the Word, became flesh and came into the world in the form of a man—He is the last Adam. The first Adam failed and brought all of humanity under the dominion of sin, but through the last Adam, God intended to rescue humanity from the power of sin.

Jesus Christ came to earth 2,000 years ago. Because Jesus took on human form, He was made "a little lower than the angels," referring to His experience of physical limitations while on earth. He became hungry like man, thirsty like man, and tired like man. He was 100% human, and therefore, in that aspect, He was a little lower than the angels. God's intention through Jesus Christ is to open a way to glory for all of humanity.

Often, our understanding of Jesus is limited to His death for us, solving the issue of our sin and allowing God to forgive us. While this understanding is good, it is incomplete and insufficient. Forgiveness of sins is a passive solution to our issue with God, but it is only the first step, not the end goal. The positive purpose is that Jesus is meant to be our example, or more precisely, He is to be our model. What

Jesus obtained through His humanity, we are also meant to experience in the same way. Jesus went through the suffering of death and received honor and glory as His crown.

Christ became "a little lower than the angels" so that He could endure the suffering of death. Angels are spirits, and spirits do not die; therefore, Christ had to become flesh, take on a human body, in order to go through the suffering of death. However, the suffering of death was only the process; the result was to receive honor and glory as His crown. This is God's way and His law. One must first humble oneself before being exalted and receiving honor; one must first die before being resurrected and receiving glory.

Jesus Christ is the first prototype. He has already humbled Himself, and He has already suffered death. God then exalted Him and resurrected Him, so He received honor and glory as His crown. Beloved brothers and sisters, when Jesus Christ was fulfilling His mission on earth, He repeatedly told His disciples, "A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a student greater than his teacher." The path Christ walked, His disciples must also walk. In fact, it is the same today. If we are willing to follow Christ on the path of humility, on the path of the cross, we too will, like Jesus, receive honor and glory as our crown, so that He, by the grace of God, may taste death for everyone.

Jesus Christ is the first to go through death and receive glory. The phrase "tasted death" is a very vivid expression, indicating that Jesus personally experienced the taste of death in His humanity. When a person faces death, there are feelings of sorrow, pain, even helplessness and despair. Jesus experienced all of these in His humanity—not only did He experience them, but He tasted them for every individual. Different people, with different backgrounds, experience death differently. Jesus tasted death for every person.

I believe that the most sorrowful aspect of facing death is being unjustly condemned. A person who does not deserve to die is executed by unjust, unreasonable, illegal, or irrational laws. However, throughout history, the one person who most certainly did not deserve to die was Jesus. He never committed a

single wrong, never did anything wrong, never spoke a single wrong word, yet the Father determined that He would bear the sins of humanity. If anyone had a grievance, it was Jesus who suffered the greatest injustice. Yet, Jesus willingly went to the cross, facing the most painful death, because He tasted the death penalty for everyone.

The Greek word for "everyone" here is *pas*, which generally corresponds to the English words "all," "every kind," or "everyone." In fact, this word refers not just to people but to all of God's creation. As Colossians 1:20 says, "and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross." The peace that Jesus accomplished through the cross was for the restoration of all created things, bringing them back to God's original purpose.

Verse 10: "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

It turns out that the "everyone" mentioned earlier refers to all created things. The One who is the source and the end of all things—God—has everything belong to Him. This includes both you and me. Humans were originally meant to belong to God, and this is the purpose for which we were created. Without God, our existence loses its purpose and becomes meaningless. A person who does not live for God ultimately becomes empty, not knowing why they exist.

God is also the source of all things, meaning that all things exist through Him and by Him. This shows that without God, we can do nothing. If what we do is not done by God's power, then our work will not align with God's will. Therefore, in everything we do, if we are to rely on God and live for Him, we must first understand what His will is. And here, it tells us that God's will is to bring many sons to glory.

Earlier, we mentioned that in the eternity past, Christ was the only begotten Son of God. Since He is the only Son, there could not be many sons. So, when did God have

many children? It was when Jesus died and resurrected. Hebrews 1:5 says, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." Paul clearly tells us that "today" refers to the day Jesus resurrected. On that day, a great birth took place in the universe. After Jesus' humanity went through death and resurrection, a new creation was brought forth. On that day, both Jesus and His disciples received new life, marking a historic event.

In John 20:17, on the morning of His resurrection, Jesus said to Mary, who was weeping outside the tomb, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" On the morning of His resurrection, Jesus had to ascend to the Father first because the firstfruits of the harvest had to be offered to God. He called His disciples "brethren," indicating that He and His disciples shared the same Father.

On the evening of the same day, Jesus appeared to His disciples again. In John 20:22, "He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit!'" By receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples received a new life—a life that is heavenly, spiritual, and of God. They became the children of the Father.

God's will is to lead many sons into glory. Notice that the Chinese translation here is very accurate, as it says He will "lead many sons into glory." Both the KJV and ASV also translate it as "sons," consistent with the Greek original. Some earlier versions of the NIV translate it as "sons and daughters," which is inaccurate.

John 1:12 tells us that when we believe in Jesus and are saved by grace, "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." Through faith, we all become children of the Father and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. As Romans 8:16 says, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

After becoming children of the Father, we need to grow until, one day, we mature and are led by the Holy Spirit. At that time, we will grow and become sons of God. Romans 8:14 states, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons

of God." The term "sons" here is not referring to our natural concept of a son, but to the manifestation of a strong spiritual life. When the spiritual life of sisters grows, they also become sons.

God has determined to lead many sons into glory, and so He first made them perfect through the captain of their salvation, who was made perfect through suffering. The term "captain of their salvation" in the KJV translates as "the captain of their salvation," or it could also be translated as "the prince of salvation." This captain is Jesus Christ. God made Jesus Christ suffer to be perfected.

Although Jesus was already perfect by nature, the reason it says He had to suffer to be made perfect here is that in order to be the captain of our salvation, He had to walk the path we must walk. He had to experience the difficulties we face, so that He could understand our inner struggles, our responses to temptations, and the pain we endure in our struggles. He had to undergo every kind of temptation and, in His humanity, overcome them, paving the way for us to walk the victorious path. Thus, He became the captain of our salvation.

The term "captain" implies that the road to glory is a path of struggle. Christ is the captain, having walked it first and overcome, and now He is able to lead us, the recipients of grace, toward glory. The condition is that we must follow in His footsteps. He knows where the traps are, where the ambushes lie, where the quicksand is, and where the wild beasts lurk. He has already planned a way, and He walks alongside us, supplying our needs along the way.

If we are willing to follow in His footsteps, we will grow from being children of God into heirs, gaining the inheritance of God's children. As Paul says in Romans 8:17, "And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Christ was made perfect through suffering, and if we share in His sufferings, we will also share in His glory.

Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we are so grateful to You. You are the captain of our salvation, who endured all kinds of suffering. Though You were perfect, You took on the trials and temptations of humanity, out of compassion for us, so that You may help us in our greatest need. Grant us a heart of gratitude and love, knowing

that all You did was to lead us into glory. Give us the resolve to suffer with You and the heart to follow You faithfully, willing to take up our cross and walk in Your steps. Bless my church, with many companions running this heavenly race together, that it may truly become a holy church without blemish. We pray in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!