

Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:5-15: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶ But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" ⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸ subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now 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 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus¹ is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

FEAR IS A POWERFUL FORCE IN LIFE. FEAR CAN BE POSITIVE IN THAT IT CAN MAKE US CAUTIOUS, AND ALERT TO DANGER. BUT FEAR CAN ALSO PARALYZE US IF WE LET IT CONTROL US RATHER THAN GUIDE US OR WARN US, AS IT IS MEANT TO DO.

FOR EXAMPLE, A MISSIONARY NAMED ELIZABETH ELLIOT SHARED A STORY ABOUT AN EXPERIENCE SHE HAD IN THE JUNGLES OF SOUTH AMERICA.

SHE WAS FOLLOWING HER NATIVE GUIDE WHEN THE TRAIL SUDDENLY DROPPED OFF INTO A RAVINE. THE ONLY WAY TO CROSS WAS BY WALKING ON A TREE THAT HAD FALLEN ACROSS THE GAP.

HER GUIDE CROSSED OVER EASILY BUT ELIZABETH FROZE, TOO FRIGHTENED TO CROSS, UNTIL HER GUIDE CAME BACK AND OFFERED HER HIS HAND TO LEAD HER SAFELY ACROSS.

THERE ARE TIMES IN LIFE WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH SUCH CHALLENGES, THAT NO MATTER WHAT OUR OWN STRENGTH OR SKILL MAY BE WE CANNOT OVERCOME THEM ALONE.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE MESSAGE OF THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES WHICH POINT US TOWARDS SEEKING THE HELP OF THE LORD OUR GOD.

IN PSALM 26:9-10, DAVID CALLS TO THE LORD FOR HELP AND DELIVERANCE, PLEADING- "DO NOT SWEEP ME AWAY WITH SINNERS, NOR MY LIFE WITH THE BLOODTHIRSTY, THOSE IN WHOSE HANDS ARE EVIL DEVICES, AND WHOSE RIGHT HANDS ARE FULL OF BRIBES."

IN OTHER WORDS, DAVID ASKS GOD TO SAVE HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES, WHO ALSO OPPOSE GOD'S WILL AND LAW.

THE WORD "ENEMY" ELICITS A VARIETY OF IMAGES MOSTLY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

THEY INCLUDE THOSE WHO SEEK ECONOMIC OR PHYSICAL HARM TO US OR OUR COUNTRY.

WE MAY ALSO SEE AS A SORT OF ENEMY PEOPLE WHO ARE MERELY POLITICAL OR BUSINESS OPPONENTS, THOSE WE FEAR, OR THOSE WITH WHOM WE JUST DO NOT GET ALONG.

BUT REAL ENEMIES ARE THOSE PEOPLE OR THINGS WITH THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO CAUSE ACTUAL HARM OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER.

INCLUDED AMONG THE NON-HUMAN ENEMIES ARE THE CONDITIONS OF SIN AND DEATH, WHICH MANY PEOPLE VIEW AS REAL ENEMIES TO THEIR WELL BEING.

BUT THERE IS ALSO A GREATER ENEMY THAT DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF PRESENCE IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE TODAY.

ONE OF THE VERSES OF MARTIN LUTHER'S HYMN: "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD", NAMES THAT ENEMY, SAYING:

"AND THOUGH THIS WORLD WITH DEVILS FILLED, SHOULD THREATEN TO UNDO US. WE WILL NOT FEAR, FOR GOD HATH WILLED HIS TRUTH TO TRIUMPH THROUGH US.

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS GRIM, WE TREMBLE NOT FOR HIM; HIS RAGE WE CAN ENDURE, FOR LO HIS DOOM IS SURE, ONE LITTLE WORD SHALL FELL HIM."

YES, THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE AT THE HEART OF ALL OUR ENEMIES, OF EVERY TYPE, BE THEY REAL OR IMAGINED.

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, ADDRESSES THE FEARS OF JEWISH-CHRISTIANS WHO STRUGGLED WITH FEAR OF PERSECUTION, AND WERE TEMPTED TO TURN FROM CHRIST BACK TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY THE LAW.

ITS AUTHOR SEEKS TO STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGE THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST, AND IN GOD'S ASSURANCE OF SALVATION THROUGH HIM, AND HIM ALONE.

THE OPENING VERSES POINT US TOWARDS THE ONE LITTLE WORD OF POWER AND HOPE THAT GOD SPOKE TO THE WORLD THAT HAD REJECTED HER CREATOR.

THE BEGINNING OF THE LETTER PROCLAIMS JESUS, WHOM JOHN CALLED "THE WORD MADE FLESH", TO BE THAT SINGLE, YET POWERFUL WORD, GOD HAS SPOKEN.

JESUS, WHO HAS BEEN WITH GOD FROM THE BEGINNING, AND IS ONE WITH GOD, IS LAUDED FOR HIS RADIANCE AND MAJESTY. HE IS NAMED AS THE ONE WHO HAS CONQUERED SIN, AND ABIDES AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER IN HEAVEN.

THUS HIS NAME, MEANING HIS PERSON, IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN THE ANGELS THAT THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN HIM AND THEM.

JESUS INDEED IS, ALONG WITH GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SPIRIT, ABOVE ALL OTHERS; AND HIS POWER IS UNEQUALED EVEN BY ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL COMBINED.

THIS THEME, FOUND IN THE OPENING VERSES OF HEBREWS, IS CARRIED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE LETTER. THE LETTER PROCLAIMS THE UNIQUE AND PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PERSON AND PRESENCE OF CHRIST.

THE DESCRIPTION OF JESUS IN THE FIRST FOUR VERSES OF HEBREWS BRINGS TO MIND THE WORDS ABOUT GOD FOUND IN AN OLD HYMN:

"IMMORTAL INVISIBLE GOD, ONLY WISE, IN LIGHT IN ACCESSIBLE HID FROM OUR EYES."

HOWEVER, THINKING OF JESUS' DIVINITY CAN MAKE HIM ONE WHO IS TO BE FEARED, AND THUS A WORD FROM GOD WE TREMBLE TO HEAR.

DEUTERONOMY 5:25 RECORDS THAT AFTER HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD WITH THEIR OWN EARS THE PEOPLE BEGGED MOSES TO REMAIN AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THEM AND THE LORD, LEST THEY DIE.

SURELY, THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS WAS MINDFUL OF THIS FEAR.

THEREFORE, HE WENT ON TO ASSURE READERS THAT WHILE JESUS IS THE WORD SENT TO PEOPLE DIRECTLY FROM GOD, HE IS ALSO APPROACHABLE.

HE QUOTES A PORTION OF PSALM 8 TO EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS TRUE.

IT IS TRUE BECAUSE FOR A WHILE, JESUS BECAME A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS HE RULES OVER.

AND YET NOW, HE IS ONCE AGAIN SEATED BY HIS FATHER'S SIDE AND REIGNS OVER ALL, WITH ALL THINGS BELOW HIS FEET IN SUBMISSION TO HIM. AS IF THEY WERE HIS FOOTSTOOL.

HOWEVER, CHRIST'S GREAT AUTHORITY COMES THROUGH HIS HUMILITY, SUFFERING, AND DEATH FOR OUR SAKES.

YES, JESUS IS GOD'S IMPRINT IN THE WORLD. THIS MEANS HE IS GOD'S STAMP PRESSED INTO THE WORLD. HE IS THE IMAGE OF GOD SENT FOR US TO SEE AND HEAR.

IN BIBLICAL TIMES, AN IMPRINT WAS WHAT ONE SAW IN THE WAX SEAL THAT CLOSED LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. THE STAMP WAS PLACED ON HOT WAX AND WHEN REMOVED IT LEFT AN IMPRINT OF ITS EXACT LIKENESS.

SIMILARLY, JESUS IS DESCRIBED AS GOD'S IMPRINT IN THE FLESH. AND HE SHOWS US NOT ONLY WHO GOD IS, BUT WHO WE AS THOSE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, ARE SUPPOSED TO BE.

JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT EVEN THE BEST OF THE BEST OF US WILL FALL FAR SHORT OF THE PERFECT HUMANITY OF JESUS, HE STILL CLAIMS US.

YES, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT JESUS CLAIMS THE FAMILY TIES THAT BIND US TO HIM AND ONE ANOTHER, WITHOUT SHAME BECAUSE OF OUR IMPERFECTIONS AND SINFULNESS.

HE DOES THIS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE HUMAN- LIVING IN A SIN FILLED WORLD.

WE CAN PRAISE THE LORD OUR GOD THAT HIS SON, JESUS, BECAME A MAN, BECAUSE AS A HUMAN BEING HE IS NOT ONLY APPROACHABLE BY US, HE IS ONE WITH US.

THIS IS THE DUAL EMPHASIS THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS WANTS HIS READERS TO HEAR AND BELIEVE. BUT WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE JESUS, AS A HUMAN BEING REMAINED WHAT ADAM AND EVE AND THE REST OF US HAVE NOT, WHICH IS WITHOUT SIN - IN THOUGHT, WORD, OR DEED.

HE CAME FROM THE THRONE OF HEAVEN TO WEAR A CROWN OF THORNES AND BE ENTHRONED ON A TREE.

JESUS SHED HIS RADIANCE AND WAS CLOTHED IN HUMAN FLESH SO THAT GOD COULD SPEAK TO SINNERS FACE TO FACE.

JONI ERICKSON TADA WROTE A BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTION OF THE BLESSING OF CHRIST'S INCARNATION IN HER BOOK- "A LAMP UNTO MY FEET."

SHE SAID: "JUST THINK, EVERY PROMISE GOD HAS EVER MADE FINDS ITS FULFILLMENT IN JESUS. GOD DOESN'T JUST GIVE US GRACE, HE GIVES US JESUS, THE LORD OF GRACE.

IF IT'S PEACE (WE SEEK), IT'S ONLY FOUND IN JESUS, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. EVEN LIFE ITSELF IS FOUND IN THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. CHRISTIANITY ISN'T ALL THAT COMPLICATED...IT'S JESUS."

TRULY JESUS IS GOD'S MOST POWERFUL AND PERFECT WORD HE HAS EVER, OR WILL EVER, SPEAK TO THE WORLD.

HE OPENS THE WAY OF LIFE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S SELF TO ALL WHO WELCOME HIM AND TAKE HIS HAND.

INDEED, JESUS IS THE ONE WHO, HAVING GONE BEFORE US, TURNS BACK AND OFFERS HIS HAND FOR US TO TAKE.

IN THIS WAY HE CAN HELP US FIRST, TO TRAVEL THROUGH LIFE, AND THEN TO TRAVEL FROM OUR EARTHLY EXISTENCE TO BRING US INTO OUR ETERNAL HOME.

TRULY JESUS IS OUR GUIDE AND FRIEND, OUR MASTER AND OUR BROTHER. HE IS THE WORD OF GRACE AND HOPE, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR IS THE LIVING VOICE OF ALMIGHTY GOD PRESENTED IN A WORD WE CAN HEAR AND RECEIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF OUR OWN SINFULNESS.

JESUS UNDERSTANDS, FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE, THE JOYS, AND THE STRUGGLES OF LIVING IN A MORTAL BODY, WITH A LIMITED MIND, AND A HUMAN SPIRIT.

AND BY HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH, HE WHO IS PERFECT, MADE US PERFECT BY REMOVING THE STAIN OF OUR SINS.

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS BRINGS TOGETHER THE RECOGNITION OF JESUS' PARTICIPATION IN CREATION AND THE PURPOSE OF HIS INCARNATION, SUFFERING, AND DEATH.

THE PURPOSE IS OF COURSE TO SAVE US, AS WELL AS TO BRING US INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD NO MATTER THE ORIGINS OF OUR BIRTH.

THIS MOST CENTRAL PART OF GOD'S WORK AND PLAN OF SALVATION WAS CARRIED OUT THROUGH HIS SON'S EARTHLY LIFE- INCLUDING HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH.

THUS WE ARE REMINDED WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS WAS NO ACCIDENT, NOR A FAILURE OF GOD'S PLAN.

IRONICALLY ONE MODERN OFF SHOOT OF CHRISTIANITY TEACHES THAT JESUS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAVIOR, BUT HE FAILED IN THAT ROLE BY BEING CRUCIFIED, THEREFORE A NEW SAVIOR MUST COME.

HEBREWS REFUTES THAT TEACHING, AS WELL AS TEACHINGS THAT WE CAN, IN ANY WAY, EARN OUR OWN SALVATION. INSTEAD, IN JESUS WE SEE AND HEAR THE MERCY, GRACE, COMPASSION, AND LOVE OF GOD.

WE THEREFORE NEED NOT FEAR THAT GOD MAY NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND, FIRST HAND, THE STRUGGLES AND FEARS, THE PAIN AND SORROW, AS WELL AS THE GOODNESS AND MANY PLEASURES OF MORTAL LIFE.

HERE IS A STORY TO ILLUSTRATE THIS POINT: A LITTLE BOY SAW A SIGN "PUPPIES FOR SALE" AT A NEARBY FARM.

HE HAD ONLY A COUPLE OF DOLLARS, BUT ASKED THE PRICE ANYWAY, AND WAS DISHEARTENED TO HEAR IT WAS MUCH MORE THAN HE COULD AFFORD.

AFTER SAYING THAT, HE ASKED IF HE COULD JUST SEE THE PUPPIES. IN RESPONSE THE MAN WHISTLED AND THE MOTHER DOG, FOLLOWED BY HER LITTER, CAME UP TO THE FENCE.

HOWEVER ONE PUPPY LAGGED FAR BEHIND BECAUSE OF A DEFORMITY IN ONE OF HER LEGS.

THE BOY ASKED THE PRICE OF THAT PUPPY, BUT THE MAN SAID HE COULD NOT SELL HER BECAUSE OF HER LEG.

THE BOY THEN PULLED UP ONE OF HIS PANTS LEGS TO REVEAL A BRACE.

HE SAID "I DO NOT WALK TOO GOOD EITHER. I GUESS SHE WILL NEED A LOT OF LOVE AND CARE, I KNOW I DID."

THE FARMER TOLD THE BOY HE COULD HAVE THE PUPPY FOR FREE BECAUSE HE WOULD LOVE HER CAN TAKE CARE OF HER LIKE NO ONE ELSE WOULD.

THIS IS LIKE JESUS AND US. HE CAN IDENTIFY WITH US BECAUSE HE HAS LIVED AS ONE OF US, SHARING OUR WEAKNESSES.

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS OF SCRIPTURE AND WHY WE CAN TRUST THAT WE ARE INDEED BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF GOD'S SON JESUS, OUR SAVIOR.

FURTHERMORE, ON THIS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY WE ARE REMINDED ONCE MORE OF OUR FAMILY UNITY, IN CHRIST, WITH CHRISTIANS ALL ACROSS OUR NATION, AND ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THERE IS ONE THING MORE. WHENEVER WE COME TO THE TABLE TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP WHICH OUR SAVIOR OFFERS, LET US REMEMBER THIS:

WE INVOKE FOR OUR LIVES, THE POWER AND GLORY OF THE ONE LITTLE WORD OF REDEMPTION GOD SPOKE TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

PRAISE GOD FOR JESUS, HIS PRECIOUS WORD SENT INTO THE WORLD, IN ORDER THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH HIM. AMEN

SERMON SUMMARY: HEBREWS 1:1-4 & 2:5-15 “ONE LITTLE WORD”

REAL ENEMIES ARE THOSE PEOPLE OR THINGS WITH THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO CAUSE ACTUAL HARM OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER. INCLUDED AMONG THE NON-HUMAN ENEMIES ARE THE CONDITIONS OF SIN AND DEATH, WHICH MANY PEOPLE VIEW AS REAL ENEMIES TO THEIR WELL BEING.

BUT THERE IS ALSO A GREATER ENEMY THAT DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF PRESENCE IN THE MINDS OF MANY PEOPLE TODAY.

ONE OF THE VERSES OF MARTIN LUTHER’S HYMN: “A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”, NAMES THAT ENEMY, SAYING:

“AND THOUGH THIS WORLD WITH DEVILS FILLED, SHOULD THREATEN TO UNDO US. WE WILL NOT FEAR, FOR GOD HATH WILLED HIS TRUTH TO TRIUMPH THROUGH US. THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS GRIM, WE TREMBLE NOT FOR HIM; HIS RAGE WE CAN ENDURE, FOR LO HIS DOOM IS SURE, ONE LITTLE WORD SHALL FELL HIM.”

YES, THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE AT THE HEART OF ALL OUR ENEMIES, OF EVERY TYPE, BE THEY REAL OR IMAGINED. THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, ADDRESSES THE FEARS OF JEWISH-CHRISTIANS WHO STRUGGLED WITH FEAR OF PERSECUTION, AND WERE TEMPTED TO TURN FROM CHRIST BACK TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY THE LAW.

ITS AUTHOR SEEKS TO STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGE THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST, AND IN GOD’S ASSURANCE OF SALVATION THROUGH HIM, AND HIM ALONE. THE OPENING VERSES POINT US TOWARDS THE ONE LITTLE WORD OF POWER AND HOPE THAT GOD SPOKE TO THE WORLD THAT HAD REJECTED HER CREATOR.

THE BEGINNING OF THE LETTER PROCLAIMS JESUS, WHOM JOHN CALLED “THE WORD MADE FLESH”, TO BE THAT SINGLE, YET POWERFUL WORD, GOD HAS SPOKEN. JESUS INDEED IS, ALONG WITH GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SPIRIT, ABOVE ALL OTHERS; AND HIS POWER IS UNEQUALED EVEN BY ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL COMBINED.

BUT THINKING OF JESUS’ DIVINITY CAN MAKE HIM ONE WHO IS TO BE FEARED, AND THUS A WORD FROM GOD WE TREMBLE TO HEAR. HOWEVER, CHRIST’S GREAT AUTHORITY COMES THROUGH HIS HUMILITY, SUFFERING, AND DEATH FOR OUR SAKES.

JESUS IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS GOD’S IMPRINT IN THE FLESH. AND HE SHOWS US NOT ONLY WHO GOD IS, BUT WHO WE AS THOSE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, ARE SUPPOSED TO BE.

JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT EVEN THE BEST OF THE BEST OF US WILL FALL FAR SHORT OF THE PERFECT HUMANITY OF JESUS, HE STILL CLAIMS US.

YES, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT JESUS CLAIMS THE FAMILY TIES THAT BIND US TO HIM AND ONE ANOTHER, WITHOUT SHAME BECAUSE OF OUR IMPERFECTIONS AND SINFULNESS. HE DOES THIS BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE HUMAN- LIVING IN A SIN FILLED WORLD.

TRULY JESUS IS GOD’S MOST POWERFUL AND PERFECT WORD HE HAS EVER, OR WILL EVER, SPEAK TO THE WORLD. HE OPENS THE WAY OF LIFE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD’S SELF TO ALL WHO WELCOME HIM AND TAKE HIS HAND.

INDEED, JESUS IS THE ONE WHO, HAVING GONE BEFORE US, TURNS BACK AND OFFERS HIS HAND FOR US TO TAKE. IN THIS WAY HE CAN HELP US FIRST, TO TRAVEL THROUGH LIFE, AND THEN TO TRAVEL FROM OUR EARTHLY EXISTENCE TO BRING US INTO OUR ETERNAL HOME.

TRULY JESUS IS OUR GUIDE AND FRIEND, OUR MASTER AND OUR BROTHER. HE IS THE WORD OF GRACE AND HOPE, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. CHRIST OUR SAVIOR IS THE LIVING VOICE OF ALMIGHTY GOD PRESENTED IN A WORD WE CAN HEAR AND RECEIVE WITHOUT FEAR OF OUR OWN SINFULNESS.

AND WHENEVER WE COME TO THE TABLE TO RECEIVE THE BREAD AND THE CUP WHICH OUR SAVIOR OFFERS, LET US REMEMBER THIS: WE INVOKE FOR OUR LIVES, THE POWER AND GLORY OF THE ONE LITTLE WORD OF REDEMPTION GOD SPOKE TO THE WHOLE WORLD. AMEN

Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:5-15: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶ But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?" ⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸ subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now 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 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus¹ is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.