

I. Introduction and review: God's plan for human greatness. Gen. 1:26f Psalm 8

II. God set mankind as ruler over the earth. 5-8a

A. God did not give angels dominion over the world. v. 5 Mt. 5:5

1. Why would this be an issue? Dt. 32:8 Da. 10:20-21 12:1 Eph. 6:17 I Jo. 5:19
2. Angels are powerful and glorious, and would seem to make better rulers than men.
3. Angels are not our rulers, but our servants. 1:14
4. One day we will judge angels. I Cor. 6:3

B. Why would God take such notice of mankind as to make *him* king? v. 6 Ps. 8:4-5

1. Compared to the vastness of creation, man seems insignificant. Ps. 8:3
2. God displays His glory by achieving greatness through the weak. Ps. 8:1-2
I Cor. 1:26f Mt. 21:16

C. God determined to elevate mankind to the highest place. v. 7-8a Ps. 8:5

1. In what sense was man *a little lower* than the angels? v. 7a
2. God crowned man with glory and honor. v. 7b Ps. 8:6 Gen. 1:26-27
3. God put the whole cosmos in subjection to man. v. 7c-8 Ps. 8:6-8a Gen. 1:26f 9:6

4. Our author has already introduced this theme. v. 8 1:3,13 Ps. 110:1

III. Mankind lost the dominion we were meant to have. v. 8b

A. It is obvious that humanity has fallen far short of its intended destiny.

B. Man willfully disobeyed God, and as a result lost his ability to exercise proper dominion. Gen. 3:1f Rom. 5:12

1. The fall was a disruption of God's created order.
2. Ironically, man surrendered his dominion to an angel. Jo. 12:31 14:30 I Jo. 5:19
3. Creation itself has been affected by the fall and has turned against man.
Gen. 3:17-19 9:2 Rom. 8:19-22

C. Man, as ruler of creation, is a failure. Rom. 1:23

1. Humanity has been a poor steward of creation.
2. When he tries to express dominion, he fails.
3. Because death reigns, man ultimately cannot. Rom. 5:12-14 I Cor. 15:25-26

D. God's ideal for humanity will still be realized.

1. Our author offers us hope: *not yet*.
2. We need (a great) salvation. 2:3 1:14
3. God has made provision to rescue mankind from his futility.
4. One day we will live and reign in a new earth. Isa. 65:17f Rev. 21-22 II Pe. 3:10f

IV. Jesus Christ has come to restore human dominion over creation. v. 9

A. Where the first Adam failed, Jesus, the second and last Adam, is victorious.

Rom. 5:17-19 I Cor. 15:21-22

1. This is the first time the Son is called *Jesus* (in Hebrews).
2. This Name reminds us of His true humanity and that He is Savior. 2:14 Mt. 1:21
3. Jesus achieves God's ideal for mankind as expressed in Psalm 8. II Co. 1:20

- B. God the Son humbled Himself. 2:14 Phil. 2:5-8**
1. He Whom the angels worship, for a short time, was abased beneath them.
 2. He regained dominion by suffering death in our place. 1:3 2:10
 3. He humbled himself willingly. Heb. 12:2 John 10:18
- C. As a result of His humiliation, He is exalted.**
1. Because Christ has conquered sin and death, He is crowned with glory. 1:3
Is. 53:10f Phil. 2:9-11
 2. He is the first of the new and perfected humanity. Col. 1:17 I Cor. 15:20
 3. At His return, God's ideal for man's rule over creation will be perfectly realized.
1:13 Phil. 2:9-11 Rom. 8:19,21 I Co. 15:25-27 Rev. 21-22 Isa. 11:6f 35:1-2 65:17f
 4. He brings many sons (and daughters) to glory with Him. 2:10 1:14 1:14 Re. 5:10
- D. What does it mean that Christ tasted death?**
1. Your sin deserves everlasting death. Gen. 2:17 Rom. 6:23
 2. Christ died as your substitute. 2:17 9:28 I Pe. 3:18
 3. It is by the grace of God (alone) that you are saved. Eph. 2:8-9 I Jo. 4:10
- E. For whom did Christ taste death?**
1. "All" or "everyone" does not necessarily mean everyone who has ever lived.
Mark 13:13 1:5 Rom. 11:26 8:32 I Co. 6:12 Acts 22:15 John 3:26
 2. If Jesus actually tasted death for everyone, none would be lost because God would have no ground for punishing them. 10:14 9:28 1:3
 - a. Clearly some do not benefit from Christ's death. 10:26-29 Rev. 20:15 22:15
 - b. Only those who believe are saved. 7:25 John 3:16
 - c. Christ did not merely accomplish possible redemption for everyone without exception.
 3. *All* is defined by the context. 2:10-17
 - a. All of the sons He brings to glory. 2:10
 - b. All those who are sanctified. 2:11a
 - c. All His brethren. 2:11b-12
 - d. All those children given Him by God. 2:13
 - e. All the seed of Abraham. 2:16
 4. Christ is freely offered to all without exception. Acts 16:31 Rom. 10:9-11

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. Why doesn't our author tell us who wrote the Psalm from which he quotes?
2. What does Psalm 8 tell us about God's plan for humanity?
3. Why would God choose mankind, instead of the angels, for dominion?
4. Why has mankind failed to achieve its destiny?
5. How has the creation been affected by man's fall?
6. Why does our author use the name *Jesus* here for the first time?
7. In what sense was Jesus a little lower than the angels?
8. What did Jesus do to regain human dominion?
9. What does it mean that Jesus tasted death for everyone?
10. How does this passage apply to our lives?