

Fact Sheet for **"I Need Thee Every Hour"**
Hebrews 2:5-18

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The passage we are considering this morning will bring together eternity past, God's design for our salvation, the creation of the world, the babe born in Bethlehem, Jesus' earthly life, the garden of Gethsemane, the cross, Jesus' present ministry with us and His coming kingdom. This passage is also a pointed reminder of who Jesus is and who we aren't. It will cause us to echo the words of the hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour".

The writer of Hebrews has already written that Jesus, God the Son, is greater than any of the prophets and any of the angels. The heavens and the earth were created through Him, and He upholds all things by the word of His power. He has taken His seat at the right hand of the Father, and one day He will rule over all. Our great salvation is only to be found in our great Savior, and those who neglect it will not escape the coming judgment. With those thoughts the author of Hebrews comes to chapter 2, verse 5.

ESV ⁵ ¶ **For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.**

This is a reference to Christ's coming kingdom. And he quotes Psalm 8:4-6.

⁶ **It has been testified somewhere, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU CARE FOR HIM?"**

Now if you were reading this Psalm, the natural meaning of these words would be about people in general. And it is amazing that God cares for mere people like us. But the writer of Hebrews will take the words "son of man" and refer them specifically to Jesus. Why? **First**, the words "son of man" were often regarded, even in the gospels, as a reference to the Messiah, the Christ. Matthew 16:13-16 is just one example out of many. **Second**, there is a hint of a Jewish interpretive method here. It is called Midrash and the thought goes like this. Although the words "son of man" refer to people in general, the most important man that is included in this will be the Messiah Himself. So these words can be regarded as a reference to Messiah. It is dangerous for us to use this interpretive method, but here we have scripture interpreting scripture.

⁷ **YOU MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR,** ^{8A} **PUTTING EVERYTHING IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."**

When Jesus took on humanity, although He was greater than angels, He became for a little while lower than the angels. That all ended when He rose from the dead. Now the author interprets other aspects of this psalm.

^{8b, c} **Now in putting everything in subjection to him (Jesus), he (the Father) left nothing outside his (the Son's) control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ 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.

But, don't miss the last words of verse 9... **so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone** – Christ's death is sufficient for all (1 John 2:2), but is not effective for all (Heb. 4:2).

¹⁰ ¶ For it was fitting that he (*the Father*), for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation (*Jesus*) perfect through suffering.

Think about it. The Father viewed Jesus' suffering as absolutely necessary for His perfection as our Savior. That suffering had two parts that the author of Hebrews will surface. As we continue we will see these.

¹¹ For he who sanctifies (*Jesus*) and those who are sanctified (*those who are saved*) all have one source. That is why he (*Jesus*) is not ashamed to call them (*us*) brothers, ¹² saying, "I WILL TELL OF YOUR (*the Father's*) NAME TO MY BROTHERS; IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."

¹³ And again, "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again, "BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN GOD HAS GIVEN ME."

The first of these three quotes is from Psalm 22:22. This Psalm is highly regarded as a Messianic Psalm and includes such words as in verses 1, 7, and 18. The second and third of these quotes are from Isaiah 8:17-18. The writer of Hebrews vies them all as Messianic.

¹⁴ ¶ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things (*He became man*), that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

This is the first way Jesus suffered.

¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

But by extension Christians too are children of Abraham (Galatians 3:29).

¹⁷ 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.

Jesus had to become human in order to be our Savior. But that is not all.

¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

We worship a great Savior. We, on the other hand, are severely flawed with sin. We are only saved by grace through Jesus Christ. But now, God calls us to holiness... to righteousness when tempted... And Christ is able to help us in that too, though it may be extremely difficult (Heb. 12:4).

Remember that Jesus can help here too!