

God's majesty in creation may cause one to ask with the Psalmist, "what is man that You are mindful of him?" Sin might raise a similar question, why would God bother with such rebellious creatures.

Jesus being man, though sinless, raised doubts in some people's minds. Were not angels more magnificent and powerful than mankind? How does Jesus being a man fit into God's plan for the Messiah? Wouldn't that make him less than the angels? No. Becoming man was a path which God the Son took to provide salvation in His death for mankind as a man leading to His exaltation.

**I. Jesus becoming man was fulfilling God's eternal plan of honor and dominion for mankind (2:5–8).**

1. *God's intention for mankind was to receive honor and have dominion over all the earth (2:6–8a).*

Hebrews 2:6–8a quotes Psalm 8:4–6 in which King David ascribes praise to God and marvels at His creation, only to ask, "what then is man?" Though lower than angels, God assigned to man glory and honor by granting dominion over all the created beings on earth.

It is originally reported in Genesis 1:26–28 that God assigned to Adam and Eve rule over all created living beings, which the author to Hebrews additionally affirms (2:8b).

2. *God's intention at creation will be fulfilled in the future (2:5).*

The "world to come" is the time of the kingdom when all enemies are made the footstool of the Son (cf. 1:13). It will not be ruled by angels, but by the Son.

Jesus, the Messiah, will reign as King. Because He is man, He will fulfil God's original intention for man.

Those redeemed by Jesus will also reign with Him (cf. 2 Tim 2:12; Revelation 5:10; 20:6; 22:5). The dominion given to mankind at creation (Genesis 1:26–28) will again be to mankind in Christ. Not angels, but the Redeemer and the redeemed will reign.

Jesus is not lessened by becoming man and seeing Him as man. God determined from creation that man has dominion and Jesus is the perfect man.

**II. Jesus becoming man was solving the hindrance to man having honor and dominion (2:8–9).**

1. *The bad state of affairs: We do not see everything subject to man.*

Though mankind at creation was assigned dominion, we do not see that subjection now because man's rebellion has intervened. The ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17–19) and at Noah's time God restricted animals by putting a fear of man in them (Genesis 9:2). Man's sin is the reason why sinless Jesus became man to taste death (vs.9).

2. *The good state of affairs: We do see Jesus.*

We do not see Jesus with physical eyes, but we see Him in the authenticated message (2:2–4), i.e., in the Bible. We see His exaltation in the "dispersions of the Holy Spirit" (2:4). The outpouring of the Spirit was proof of the exaltation (Acts 2:33).

We see from Scripture that Jesus, God the Son became man, that He suffered death willingly (cf. John 10:17–18), and that He was exalted because of His obedience unto death (Philippians 2:7–8).

We see Jesus becoming a man to taste death for everyone. To taste something is to experience it (cf. Mark 9:1; Psalm 34:8). In some way the death of Jesus Christ affected every human being. Only those who believe will be saved, but no one can claim that God has made no provision for his or her salvation. The gospel message is to be proclaimed to everyone.

Becoming a man did not mean angels were superior to Jesus, even though during His earthly ministry His human status was below that of angels. Becoming a man was a path to greater glory and He became the One Man to whom we can look for all that we need.

Jesus is the solution for sin, and the resolution of man's seeming insignificance. Thank and praise God for that. Follow the humility of Christ and be obedient to the gospel message. Look to Jesus for salvation and for significance in life. He shows how mindful God is of you. We can see Jesus, so look to Jesus.

*For further reflection:*

In what ways is the proverb "humility comes before honor" (Prov 15:33) applicable to the Son becoming man and what ways is it not (cf. Phil 2:7–8)?

How should the mandate to have dominion and the present absence of subjection affect our relation to creation today in light of Hebrews 2:5–9?

What encouragement do you find personally in the honor and glory given to Jesus?