Devotional Questions – Hebrews 2:5-18, Study Leader's Questions

- 1. On the basis of Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2:5-8, how should you feel about yourself? What hopes should you pray that God would bring quickly to reality in your life?
- 2. In what ways are the sufferings of Christ (Hebrews 2:9) applicable to your own life and in what ways are they not applicable?
- 3. What does it mean to you to be considered a brother of Christ (Hebrews 2:11)? What spiritual desires does that thought awaken in you?
- 4. What was accomplished in the death of Christ (Hebrews 2:14-18) what application or importance is that to you?
- 5. Hebrews 2:18 is a wonderful promise. What are some of the areas in which we are being tested and how does Jesus help us understand and help us? Would you have found it harder to trust Christ for help in any of these areas if [H]e had not come to earth and suffered?

Further Devotional Study with Additional Study Leader's Devotional Questions

- 1. What does Psalm 8:4-6 reveal about the creation of man (Hebrews 2:6-8)?
- 2. Has man maintained his authority over all things? Why or why not (Hebrews 2:9)?
- 3. What is meant by Jesus being made 'perfect' (Hebrews 2:10)?
- 4. List eight reasons [why] Jesus was made lower than angels (became flesh Hebrews 2:9-18).

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 2:5-18, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentaries *Volume I of the Book of Psalms* pp 43-48 and *The Book of Hebrews* pp 38-60 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1600 for detailed comments.

1. On the basis of Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2:5-8, how should you feel about yourself? What hopes should you pray that God would bring quickly to reality in your life?

The individual believer should *know* that he is in subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom Hebrews 2:8 refers according to Philippians 2:9-11, and think, believe and *act* according to Romans 12:1.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

In the turn, the believer should be subject to "<u>the royal law according to the scripture</u>" James 2:8, the AV1611 "<u>for thou hast magnified thy word above</u> all thy name" Psalm 138:2. He is not at liberty to change or even question it.

See Royal Law – James 2:8 www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/.

The reality to pray for, whether it comes quickly or slowly, is in Psalm 138:8 and Proverbs 19:21.

"The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands."

"There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."

Our Dave getting to York University to study Linguistics at post-graduate level is a fulfilment of Psalm 138:8, Proverbs 19:21.

2. In what ways are the sufferings of Christ (Hebrews 2:9) applicable to your own life and in what ways are they not applicable?

The sufferings of Christ are applicable to the individual in that "Christ...gave himself for me."

"I am crucified with Christ: <u>nevertheless I live</u>; <u>yet not I</u>, <u>but Christ liveth in me</u>: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, <u>who loved me</u>, <u>and gave</u> himself for me" Galatians 2:20.

The sufferings of Christ are not applicable to any other individual in that, being ungodly, I could not give of myself for myself.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" Romans 5:6.

3. What does it mean to you to be considered a brother of Christ (Hebrews 2:11)? What spiritual desires does that thought awaken in you?

It means that "Christ liveth in me" Galatians 2:20. See Question 2.

The quintessential desire is to keep the temple clean and pure because it is under new management. See *Question 1*.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, whereby Paul is addressing "members in particular" with respect to "the body of Christ" 1 Corinthians 12:27.

Spiritual cleansing includes keeping at bay unclean inputs from "the God of forces" Daniel 11:38 i.e. electricity the highest form of energy in the physical realm and associated with Satan of whom the Lord said "<u>I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven</u>" Luke 10:18 (!).

See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1158, 1351. It is best to have verses memorized to review whenever subjected to popular music, as in shopping malls, supermarkets and gyms.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" Psalm 119:9-11.

"That I might not sin against thee" is the best possible incentive for scripture memory.

4. What was accomplished in the death of Christ (Hebrews 2:14-18) what application or importance is that to you?

See remarks in *Appendix* on Hebrews 2:14 with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ wresting "the power of death" from the Devil at Calvary.

The Lord's *basic* accomplishment with respect to Hebrews 2:14-18 is summarised in Hebrews 2:9 that "he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

No man *need "taste death"* or stay dead even if he *does* taste death according to "the life...in the flesh" Galatians 2:20, Question 2, because the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 11:25-26 "...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..."

It was the certainty of living forever that was one of the main reasons why this writer received the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour on July 19th 1967. That certainty carries all before it for this writer.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" John 5:24, which should be memorised, noting the past change, present condition and future promise embedded in the verse. See Book 1, Knowing Jesus Christ by The Navigators www.eden.co.uk/shop/all products 0/studies in christian living series 814/index.html.

5. Hebrews 2:18 is a wonderful promise. What are some of the areas in which we are being tested and how does Jesus help us understand and help us? Would you have found it harder to trust Christ for help in any of these areas if [H]e had not come to earth and suffered?

Hebrews 2:18 should be memorised. The temptations are the same as they have always been.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16. Compare Genesis 3:6.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."

Note also Matthew 4:1-10 "...command that these stones be made bread...cast thyself down...All these things will I give thee..."

"<u>Heaven and earth shall pass away</u>, <u>but my words shall not pass away</u>" Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33.

The Devil has never got over that threefold whipping he got in the wilderness from that threefold "It is written...It is writt

the believer from that Book, usually by means of "heady, highminded" 2 Timothy 3:4 sowing of doubt via "the tree of knowledge" Genesis 2:9 i.e. "Yea, hath God said...?" Genesis 3:1 e.g. maybe it wasn't a whale, Matthew 12:40, just a very big fish as in the NIVs, NKJV, neatly covering up for the Devil, of whom the whale is a type, Genesis 1:21, also changed in the NIVs, NKJV, Ezekiel 32:2, also changed in the NIVs, NKJV. See Psalm 104:26 (!) and the Ruckman Reference Bible p 839. See also Did The Catholic Church Give Us The Bible? by David W. Daniels, available from Chick Publications, with respect to the Devil's six-millennia long war against "the words of the LORD" Psalm 12:6.

Therefore 1 Corinthians 10:13 should be memorised in order to trust God for the way of escape, as needed, as Joseph did who "fled, and got him out" Genesis 39:12.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

It would be more difficult to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for help in temptation had He not come and fulfilled Hebrews 4:15.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

By way of encouragement therefore, see this extract from the study **Hebrews 1, 2 Part 1**, *Introduction*, noting Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? <u>If God be for us</u>, who can be against us?"

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Hebrews 1 Overview-2:1-4.

Whatever the Christian's calling, therefore, "according to the power that worketh in us" Ephesians 3:20 he is the best man for it that God can call and he should therefore rest in 2 Corinthians 9:8 and obey Colossians 4:17.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

"Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."

Amen.

Further Devotional Study Questions – Answers to Questions

- 1. What does Psalm 8:4-6 reveal about the creation of man (Hebrews 2:6-8)?
 - It was in the mind of God, not a chance happening via evolution i.e. "science falsely so called" 1 Timothy 6:20. Man's creation was not in any other being's mind but of God's mind toward man David says "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand..." Psalm 139:17-18. No being but God thinks voluntarily of concern for man.
 - Note that the AV1611 preserves a dual application of the expression "<u>How precious also are thy thoughts unto me</u>, <u>O God!</u>" The NIVs miss it and the NKJV is weaker, changing "unto" to "to." See *In Awe of Thy Word* by Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger pp 244ff for the important distinction between these two terms
 - It was in the affection of God, Who continued to visit His creature man, "the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" where "the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" Genesis 3:8, 9, clearly having expected to find him.

- It was in the wisdom of God, Who "made him a little lower than the angels" "which are greater in power and might" 2 Peter 2:11 so that man "without strength" Romans 5:6, Question 2, could be "redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" 1 Peter 1:18-19. Angels, who of themselves don't have blood, being spirits, Hebrews 1:13, 14, see Appendix and remarks on Hebrews 2:16, cannot be redeemed by blood and therefore "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" 2 Peter 2:4 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" Jude 6. See Genesis 6:1, 2 and the Ruckman Reference Bible pp 14.
- It was in the bountifulness of God, in that "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" Genesis 1:27-28. That is how God "crowned him with glory and honour" Psalm 8:5 and gave man earthly dominion over "everything that he had made" Genesis 1:31 with Psalm 8:6. Man is therefore not meant to colonise outer space of his own volition, which would then become a violation of Psalm 115:16 "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men."
- 2. Has man maintained his authority over all things? Why or why not (Hebrews 2:9)?

He has not done so over all things but he retains some dominion over other living creatures, which fear man and which can be subdued by him and certainly killed by him, without exception. Dr Ruckman points out that lions don't believe in evolution. A lion will only fear an ape if it is a *naked* ape. See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Volume I of the Book of Psalms* p 48.

"And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered" Genesis 9:2.

"For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind" James 3:7.

Such dominion that man still has is because God says so, Genesis 9:2, or enables it, James 3:17. That is an encouragement with respect to the full and future reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth "For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him" Hebrews 2:8. See Isaiah 11:1-10, 65:25. David describes the Lord's full and future reign as follows:

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth" Psalm 72:8.

3. What is meant by Jesus being made 'perfect' (Hebrews 2:10)?

The Lord was made perfect in that He was perfect in obedience in undergoing His sufferings.

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" Hebrews 5:8-9. Use of the word "author" is correct here because the context is salvation's beginning for today's believers. See Appendix with respect to Hebrews 2:10 and the AV1611's correct use of the word "captain" instead of "author."

The Lord's perfect obedience to the revealed will of God was manifest where that will conflicted with His own human will, according to Luke 22:41-42.

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, <u>and kneeled down</u>, <u>and prayed</u>, Saying, <u>Father</u>, <u>if thou be willing</u>, <u>remove this cup from me</u>: <u>nevertheless not my will</u>, <u>but thine</u>, be done."

"In bringing many sons unto glory" the Lord knew firsthand how "to succour them that are tempted" Hebrews 2:18, Question 5, especially in a contest of wills, Romans 7:15-25, so that they would gain glory, ideally without loss of reward, 1 Corinthians 3:15. See the Ruckman Reference Bible pp 1589, 1603. Paul had the same kind of devoted pastoral commitment, using his own experiences to encourage others going through tough times, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

In sum:

"Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" 2 Timothy 2:10.

- 4. List eight reasons [why] Jesus was made lower than angels (became flesh Hebrews 2:9-18).
 - 4.1. "for the suffering of death...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" Hebrews 2:9
 - 4.2. "in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" Hebrews 2:10
 - 4.3. "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" Hebrews 2:14
 - 4.4. "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" Hebrews 2:15
 - 4.5. "that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God" Hebrews 2:17
 - 4.6. "to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" Hebrews 2:17
 - 4.7. So "that he himself hath suffered being tempted" Hebrews 2:18
 - 4.8. So that "he is able to succour them that are tempted" Hebrews 2:18

In sum:

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" 2 Corinthians 5:19-21.

Appendix – Deficiencies of the NIVs

<u>Hebrews 2:7</u>. The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs omit "and didst set him over the works of thy hands" found in the 1611 AV1611 and the 2011+ AV1611.

The JB, NJB, CEV Contemporary English Version, ESV English Standard Version, GNT Good News Translation, HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible, NCV New Century Version, NET New English Translation, NLT New Living Translation, RSV, NRSV, Nestle's 21st Edition Interlinear, the Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text Edition Interlinear also omit the phrase.

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew, Great, Bishops', Geneva Bibles contain the phrase with variation.

The 1582 JR Jesuit Rheims New Testament, 1749-1752 DR Douay-Rheims Bible Challoner's Revision, 1881 RV, ASV, NASV, NKJV, NWT contain the phrase with variation, together with Ricker Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text Edition Interlinear.

J. A. Moorman notes in *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version* p 139 that the phrase is contained in 14 uncial manuscripts, including Aleph, 7 Old Latin copies, which appear to be all the extant copies and the Peshitta Syriac version but is missing from most of the cursives and from P46 and 5 uncials including Vaticanus B, which even Westcott and Hort appear not to have followed on this occasion for their 1881 RV New Testament.

It may be that the phrase was cut out of the cursive manuscripts through the A-millennial false teaching of Greek Orthodox monks and their forbears because it makes no mention of the Lord Jesus Christ reigning now through the Church i.e. the Greek Orthodox Church, which is part of Greek Orthodox false teaching. See *Hazardous Materials* by Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger p 754. If so, or for whatever reason the phrase "and didst set him over the works of thy hands" was cut out of most of the cursive manuscripts, only modern editors fell prey to the omission and not even all of them. Certainly the compilers of the usually faithful pre-1611 precursors to the AV1611 were not so deceived.

<u>Hebrews 2:10</u>. The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs change "[*C*]*captain*" 1611 AV1611, 2011+ AV1611 to "*Pioneer*" 1978 NIV, "*author*" 1984 NIV or "*pioneer*" 2011 NIV.

Of the pre-1611 versions:

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe Bibles have "maker," "author" respectively.

The Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew, Great Bibles have "Lorde" or similar, Tyndale has "lorde," Coverdale has "LORDE."

The Bishops' Bible has "captain."

The Geneva Bible has "Prince."

The 1582 JR New Testament has "author."

Of the post-1611 versions:

The 1749-1752 DR Challoner's Revision, 1881 RV, ASV, NASV, Nestle's 21st Edition Interlinear have "author."

The JB, NJB, Ricker Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text Edition Interlinear have "leader."

The RSV, NRSV, NET have "pioneer."

The CEV, GNT have "Jesus."

The ESV has "founder."

The HCSB has "the source."

The NCV has "the One."

The NLT has "a perfect leader."

The NWT has "Chief Agent."

The Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text Edition Interlinear has "Originator."

The NKJV has "captain."

The Bibles of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation preserve the cross reference to Colossians 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

That is the context of Hebrews 2:10 "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things..." that in turn underlines the precision of the AV1611 Text in having the word "captain."

The AV1611 reading preserves the cross reference to Joshua 5:14-15, revealing a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, thus glorifying Him "that is to be <u>ruler in Israel</u>; whose <u>goings</u> <u>forth</u> have been from of old, from everlasting" Micah 5:2.

"And he said, Nay; but as <u>captain of the host of the LORD</u> am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And <u>the captain of the LORD'S host</u> said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

Most of the modern versions obscure both cross references and thereby fail to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as the AV1611 does. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 347-348.

Hebrews 2:14. The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs change "<u>had</u> the power of death" 1611 AV1611, 2011+ AV1611 past tense to "<u>holds</u> the power of death" present tense.

Of the pre-1611 versions:

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew*, Great Bibles have "had lordship of death."

*Reprinted 1537 Edition, the phrase appears to have been inadvertently omitted from the online 1549 Edition – or possibly inadvertently omitted from that particular edition.

The 1582 JR New Testament has "had the empire of death."

Of the post-1611 versions:

The 1749-1752 DR Challoner's Revision has "had the empire of death."

The 1881 RV, ASV, NASV, JB, NJB, NKJV, CEV, NLT have "had the power of death" or similar.

The RSV, NRSV, ESV, NCV have "has the power of death."

The GNT has "has the power over death."

The HCSB has "holding the power of death."

The NET has "holds the power of death."

The NWT has "having the means to cause death."

Nestle's 21st Edition Interlinear has "having the might of death."

Ricker Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text Edition Interlinear has "has the might of death."

The Farstad-Hodges 'Majority' Text Edition Interlinear has "having the power of death."

The Devil no longer has "the power of death." Before Calvary, the Devil was like Nebuchadnezzar, a type of the antichrist, see Mark of the Beast by Dr Ruckman p 64, Dr Ruckman's commentary The

Book of Revelation pp 369-370, 470-472 and the Ruckman Reference Bible p 1057, "whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive" Daniel 5:19. The Devil could kill "whom he would" unless God expressly forbade him, Job 1:12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2:6, 7.

Since Calvary it appears that the Devil can only kill those whom God expressly gives him permission to because the Lord Jesus Christ has "the power of death."

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" Revelation 1:18.

All the pre-1611 Bibles show that the Lord Jesus Christ, not the Devil, now has "the power of death."

Many of the new versions fail to see this transfer of power and again fail to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as the AV1611 does.

Hebrews 2:16. The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs change "he took not on him the nature of angels" 1611 AV1611, 2011+ AV1611 to "it is not angels he helps."

Of the pre-1611 versions:

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe Bibles have "he took to never angels," "he took never angels" respectively.

The Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew, Great, Bishops' Bibles have "he in no place taketh on him the angels."

The Geneva Bible "he in no sort tooke on him the Angels nature."

The 1582 JR New Testament has "nowhere doth he take angels."

Of the post-1611 versions:

The 1749-1752 DR Challoner's Revision has "nowhere doth he take hold of angels."

The 1881 RV has "not of angels doth he take hold."

The ASV has "not to angels doth he give help."

The RSV has "not with angels that he is concerned."

The NASV has "does not give help to angels."

The JB, NJB have "it was not the angels that he took to himself."

The ESV, GNT have "it is not angels that he helps."

The HCSB has "does not reach out to help angels."

The NCV has "it is not angels that Jesus helps,"

The NET has "his concern is not for angels."

The NKJV has "does not give aid to angels."

The NRSV, CEV, NLT have "did not come to help angels."

The NWT has "is really not assisting angels at all."

Nestle's 21st Edition Interlinear has "he takes hold not of angels."

Ricker Berry's Edition of Stephanus's 1550 Received Text Edition Interlinear has "not indeed of angels takes he hold."

The Farstad-Hodges 'Majority Text Edition Interlinear has "He does not take hold of angels."

The pre-1611 Bibles overall show a progression to the correct reading as found in the AV1611. Most of the modern versions have the wrong reading because Hebrews 2:16 has no reference to the

Lord Jesus Christ helping angels. Hebrews 2:16 refers to the fact that "<u>the Word was made flesh</u>, <u>and dwelt among us</u>" John 1:14 in that "<u>God was manifest in the flesh</u>" 1 Timothy 3:16 in that "<u>he took on him the seed of Abraham</u>" Hebrews 2:16.

"He took <u>not</u> on him <u>the nature of angels</u>" because angels are *spirits*, not *flesh*, Psalm 104:4, Acts 23:9, Hebrews 1:7, 13, 14.

The modern reading makes no sense, misleads the reader, obscures cross references to John 1:14, 1 Timothy 3:16 and again fails to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in the way that the AV1611 consistently does.