

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

HEBREWS 2:5-9 HE IS THERE

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" ⁷ You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor ⁸ and put everything under his feet."

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

The Son of God always was and always will be. The angels were created, but are immortal. Humankind was created, but destined to die in this mortal life. No angel, but only the Son of God chose to become human and thereby experience life in this world as a human being; a life that necessarily included death. By doing so he became for a little while lower than the angels.

By becoming human, the Son achieved three things. He demonstrated how we were created to live (love God and love neighbor). He showed us how to depend upon God in the face of adversity and suffering. He experienced the anguish of human desolation and death before us and through the resurrection gave us the hope to persevere in order to reach the prize of eternal life.

Because the Son came and died for us, we need not spend our energy and attention on trying to explain to God what it is like to be human. Rather, we are freed to ask for God's strength in the midst of the challenges of life and thank for his grace and mercy. As you experience anxiety about suffering, desolation, disappointment, betrayal or frustration, try to envision the Son of God experiencing the same. He did, and he did it for you, that you might have hope and know how much God loves you.

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing to become human and share in our life. I am overwhelmed by the fact that you did not have to be subject to those things I experience involuntarily, but you did it for me. As you have gone before me, let me not take my eyes off you in the midst of the storms of life, but be ever encouraged to greater perseverance for your sake. Amen.