

Hebrews 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

Analysis

The 'world to come' (Greek 'oikoumenēn tēn mellousan') refers to the age inaugurated by Christ's first coming and consummated at His return. Angels do not rule this new order - humanity does, through Christ the second Adam. Reformed eschatology sees this as the restoration of humanity's original dominion mandate (Genesis 1:28), fulfilled in Christ and extended to believers through union with Him.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic literature spoke of angels ruling the present evil age, with God's direct reign coming in the future. The author subverts this by declaring that the coming age is under human (specifically Christ's) authority, already inaugurated.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does your future authority with Christ in the new creation inform your stewardship responsibilities now?
2. What does it mean that the age to come has already begun in Christ?

Interlinear Text

Οὐ γὰρ ἀγγέλοις ὑπέταξεν τὴν οἰκουμένην τὴν
not For unto the angels hath he G3588 the world G3588
G3756 G1063 G32 G5293 G3625
μέλλουσαν περὶ ἣς λαλοῦμεν
to come whereof G3739 we speak G2980
G3195 G4012 G2980

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:13 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Revelation 11:15 (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Hebrews 6:5 (Parallel theme): And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,