

Hebrews 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Analysis

'A little lower than the angels' quotes Psalm 8:5, applying it christologically. The paradox of incarnation—the Creator becoming creature—is captured in 'crowned with glory and honour.' The phrase 'taste death for every man' uses 'taste' (Greek 'geuomai') not to minimize but to emphasize the full experience of death. The substitutionary atonement ('for every man') is clearly taught.

Historical Context

Psalm 8 originally celebrated humanity's exalted position in creation. Hebrews reinterprets it as messianic, showing how Christ fulfilled humanity's intended destiny by first identifying with human limitations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's voluntary humiliation in the incarnation demonstrate the depth of God's love?
2. What does it mean that Christ tasted death for you specifically?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ δὲ βραχύ τι παρ' ἀγγέλους ἡλαττωμένον βλέπομεν
who **But** **a little** ^{G5100} **than** **the angels** **lower** **we see**
G3588 G1161 G1024 G3844 G32 G1642 G991

Ἰησοῦν διὰ τοῦ πάθημα τοῦ θανάτου δόξῃ καὶ
Jesus **for** **who** **the suffering** **who** **death** **with glory** **and**
G2424 G1223 G3588 G3804 G3588 G2288 G1391 G2532

τιμῇ ἐστεφανωμένον ὅπως χάριτι θεοῦ ὑπὲρ παντὸς
honour **crowned** **that** **by the grace** **of God** **for** **every man**
G5092 G4737 G3704 G5485 G2316 G5228 G3956

γεύσεται θανάτου
he **death**
G1089 G2288

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 5:9 (References God): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Acts 2:33 (References God): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

1 John 2:2 (Parallel theme): And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 3:16 (References God): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:18 (Parallel theme): Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

John 1:29 (References Jesus): The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Hebrews 10:5 (Parallel theme): Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Romans 5:8 (References God): But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 12:32 (Parallel theme): And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Hebrews 7:25 (References God): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.