



11/17/25

Before the message on Sunday, I would never have guessed that Genesis 5 could have so much meaning of God's blessing in the midst of the curse of death. On first glance, it's just a genealogy. But when we look closer, there's more to see... God's blessing and His perfect, wise, miraculous plan. No matter where you and I look in scripture, there is always reason to praise the Lord.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

The wonderful thing about being a child of God is that He is able to pour blessing on us even in the midst of a broken world experiencing the consequences of sin. I am a child of God, made in His image... having an eternal spirit, having the ability to communicate with Him, and having an understanding of morality built into my core... with Jesus being the way for me to experience an eternal RELATIONSHIP with God Himself. In order for this to happen, Jesus must have all authority, power, wisdom, and love. Hebrew 2:5-18 shows me that He does.

Vs. 5. ~ Even though God used angels to declare His message of hope (vs. 2), angels are not the ones with the highest authority. The world to come is not subjected to the angels. It is subjected to man. This kind of blows my mind... When John wrote the book of Revelation, twice he shared that he tried to bow and worship an angel because the angels were so majestic. The angels told him not to because they are servants of God. So who has authority? Jesus...

Vs. 6-8a ~ The one with the authority is Jesus. The author of Hebrews quoted from Psalm 8, a Psalm of David... "What is man that You are mindful of him?" It seemed at the time that David was talking about mankind... starting with Adam. And he was in some sense. Man was given authority over this earth... but this is talking about "the world to come." This is talking about the authority of Jesus.

Jesus emptied Himself of His glory and majesty and was made "a little lower than the angels," but Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead, and God crowned Him with glory and honor.

Now He is ruler over everything.

This is so cool! Man is made in the likeness of God, given authority over this earth to serve and care for it. And our lives are meant to point to Jesus who has authority not only in this life, but in the life to come... where He will serve and care for the new world. The earth is in subjection under our feet. The whole universe and everything that has life and breath, including man, is in subjection under His feet. He has control over ALL things.

Vs. 8b-9 ~ But wait... does it SEEM like everything is under subjection to Jesus? It doesn't. We see so much brokenness in this world... so much injustice. So... can I have faith that Jesus really is in control? What do I anchor my hope in? The gospel. Instead of looking at this broken world, I need to keep my eyes on Jesus. Jesus emptied Himself and came to this earth, lowering Himself so much that He didn't even have the glory of the angels displayed while He was here. But He died and rose again. He suffered death so that it would have no sting in my life. When the cares of this life are so evident to me that they threaten to take my hope, I need to turn to Jesus and the message of the gospel.

Vs. 10-13 ~ It was fitting to the Father that He would make Jesus "perfect" through suffering. Wasn't He already perfect? He's God. All things were created through Him and for Him. He was without sin. What does this mean? The Greek word for "perfect" means "to accomplish, to bring to an end." Jesus accomplished my salvation and brought to an end the power of death through the suffering He endured for me so that I would never taste eternal death. Jesus tasted the wrath of God and the crushing weight of death so that I wouldn't have to. Jesus took the crushing weight of sin which dominates man and made death a servant that only ushers me into the presence of God.

Jesus consecrated Himself to the Lord through death so that He could sanctify all those who are sanctified in Him through salvation. Jesus is the source of sanctification for all who call on Him as Lord. And not only does He sanctify us, He makes us FAMILY. Talk about blessing in the midst of the curse!

But wait. Why was it "fitting" for the Father to make Jesus, the author of our salvation, perfect (complete) through suffering? I think this is saying something like this ~ The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit had a conversation before the foundations of the world that said, "This is our creation. We're making man in Our image. They're gonna mess it up. Somebody has to step in for them, because they won't be able to fix it on their own. We love them too much to leave them without hope. But in order for us to save them, it will take a blood sacrifice. Not even the angels qualify to be that sacrifice." Then Jesus said, "Here I AM, Father. Send Me." And the Father so loved the world that He sent His only Son, Jesus, into the world to be the payment for our sin. The only way to complete the payment was through His own suffering.

This deeply impacts my understanding of His love. The reason He doesn't hold a grudge against me for the sacrifice He had to make is because He knew before the foundation of the world that He would have to make that sacrifice. And He was good with it. How huge must someone's

love be to make the decision to sacrifice Himself before He even created us??? Knowing full well what it would cost Him to create me, He still spoke life into me. He's family. He sees me as family.

It says He was made perfect through suffering "in bringing many sons to glory." Many sons. Family. Jesus gave Himself to sanctify me... to make me family. And He is not ashamed to call me His own family. The author quotes the prophecy of Jesus's crucifixion from Psalm 22 to drive home his point... that we are family. Then he quotes several prophecies from Isaiah to continue the point that we're family. Jesus trusted the Father to accomplish His work in bringing many sons to glory. He spoke from prophecies hundreds of years earlier that salvation would come and make us, not just free from sin, but family of God. That is such a selfless, sacrificial purpose!

Vs. 14-18 ~ Therefore since the children of God share in flesh and blood, Jesus shared in flesh and blood. He was even killed on a cross... for a purpose. To destroy the enemy... the one who had the power to use death to destroy. So Jesus shared in death in order to take away the devil's power over us. The devil may have thought he had won. He was wrong. Jesus shared in our flesh and blood even to the point that He suffered death so that He could free us from the slavery sin had us under because of our own choice to rebel against God! If that isn't love, I don't know what is. Jesus didn't do this for the angels. He did this for "the offspring of Abraham."

Why does it say, "the offspring of Abraham" rather than just saying "all men"? Galatians 3 tells me that those who are counted as the offspring of Abraham are those who put their faith in Jesus. "Know then that it is those of FAITH who are the sons of Abraham." That's what He wants from me. Not payment. Not earning my way to His forgiveness. Not groveling. He wants my faith... believing that He chose to die for me, that He covered my debt through His death and resurrection, and that He made me family. That's why he HAD to become like me... so that He could also become my merciful and faithful high priest. He made "propitiation" for the sins of people, meaning that He made the payment for my sin that satisfied the wrath of God that I deserved. It was always His plan because it was always how much He loved me.

I would think He would resent me for having to suffer so much for me. But He doesn't! Not only did He do it willingly, but He understands how weak I am and how drawn to sin I am because of the curse of sin, and so He helps me in my weakness. He provides the way of escape so that I can endure whatever temptation comes (1 Corinthians 10:13).

What should be my response to this other than constant gratitude? Hebrews 3:6 tells me... Hold fast my confidence and boast in my hope. Jesus is my confidence. Jesus is my hope. Hold fast to Him. When the world's brokenness washes on my shore, hold fast to Jesus. When I'm tempted to run to other things to escape the suffering, hold fast to Jesus. When I can't see His plan, trust His heart. He is the one who set me free, who paid my debt, who made me family. Hold fast to Jesus. Why would I go anywhere else???