

1 THE SUFFERING KING – PART ONE

C. Stephen David | Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship | August 28, 2022

Ironic epigram: The task of the preacher is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. This is what the author has been doing in his letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews 2:1-4 afflicting the comfortable by warning and exhortation. Hebrews 2:5-18 is comforting the afflicted.

Scripture: Hebrews 2:5-18

- ❖ **Hebrews 2:** ⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

Hebrews 1:14, Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Hebrews 2:5—Angels are ministering spirits; they are not the rulers. There is neither the current world nor the world to come for them to rule.

What is the world to come?

- ❖ **Hebrews 1:14,** those who are to inherit salvation? The new heavens and the new earth, which is our eternal home, heaven.
- ❖ **2 Peter 3:12-13,** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise **we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth** in which righteousness dwells.

To whom has God subjected the world to come?

- ❖ **Hebrews 2:** ⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.
- ❖ **Hebrews 1:** ² whom he [Christ] appointed the heir of all things.

The theological concept of “already but not yet”:

- ❖ **Hebrews 2:8,** Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. **At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.**
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 15:27-28,** For “**God has put all things in subjection under his feet.**” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. **When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him** who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Christ is the King (work accomplished), but His kingdom is yet to be fully established: John 18:36, Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world.”

Good News in the world to come: 2 Timothy 2:11-12, The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; **if we endure, we will also reign with him [in the coming world, when Christ establishes His kingdom].**

The condition of the present world: Romans 8:18-24, For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and **obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **For in this hope we were saved.**

Encouragement: Rest in the already; Hope in the not yet. Fight against the anxieties and temptations of earthly life.

Jonathan Edwards’ (1703-1758) 18th Resolution (condensed): To live, at all times...with the clearest understanding of the gospel and awareness of the World that is to come. **9th Resolution:** To think much, on all occasions, of my dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death”

If Christ is supreme and the heir of all things (first chapter) and if the coming world is subjected to Him (second chapter), then why did He become a human and die as a human? This appears He is lower than the angels.

1. In His humanity, Christ became a little while lower than the angels

In movies, this is how the plot looks: Peace, Conflict, Restoration, Climax. Similarly, **this is the biblical view of the world:** Creation, Fall, Redemption, Glorification.

The Grandeur of Man:

❖ **Psalm 8:3-4,** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? [A TINY CREATURE IN LIGHT OF THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE]

Observe: David wondered by just looking at the moon and stars, perhaps viewed from the top of his roof. We have much to wonder about at the modern discovery of the vastness of the universe.

Facts about the universe:

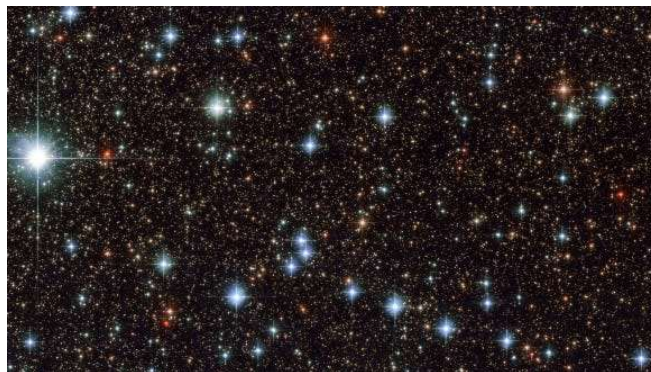
- The average distance between the earth and the Moon is 3,84,400 km.



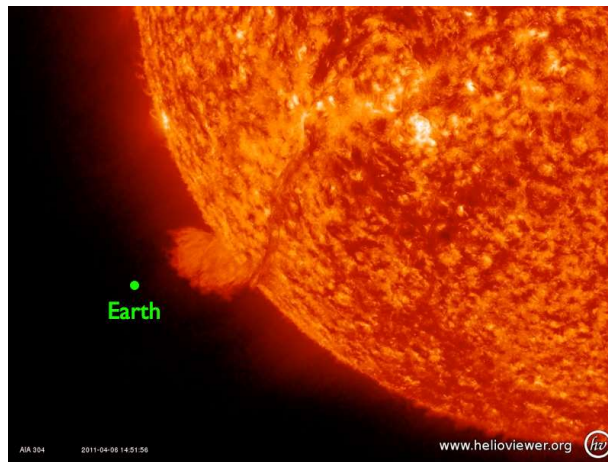
- Earth has one moon, and there are more than 200 moons in our solar system.



- There are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on Earth.



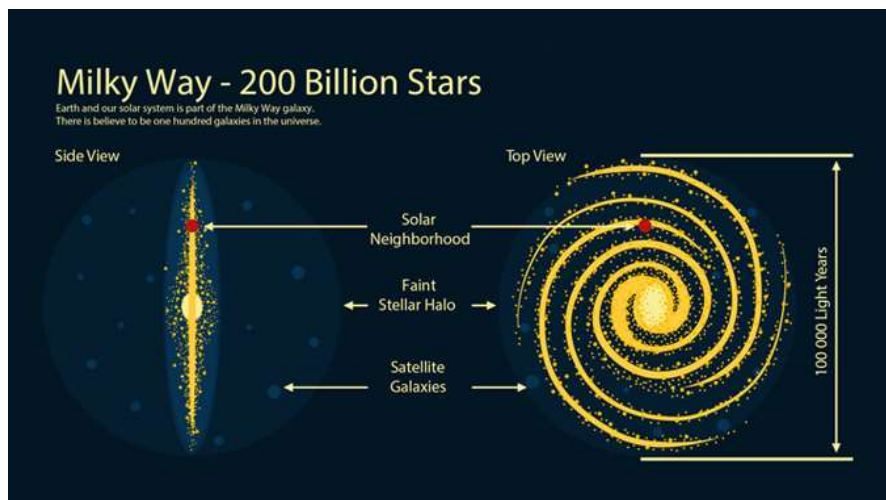
- About one million Earths could fit inside the sun. Earth revolves around the sun in 365 days, 5 hours, 59 minutes and 16 seconds.



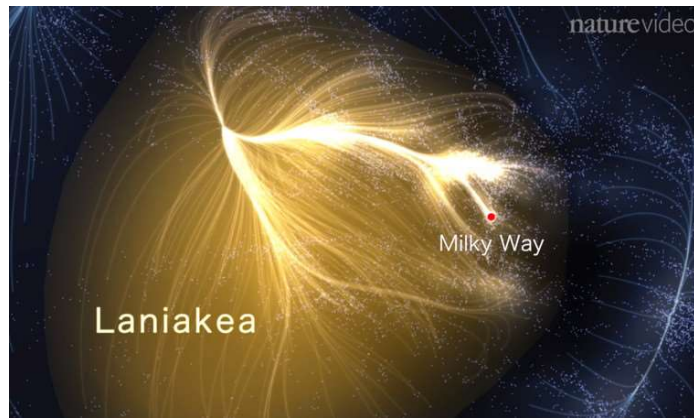
- Almost 5 billion suns could fit inside a sphere the size of UY Scuti. It would take earth about 10,000 years to revolve around the sun.



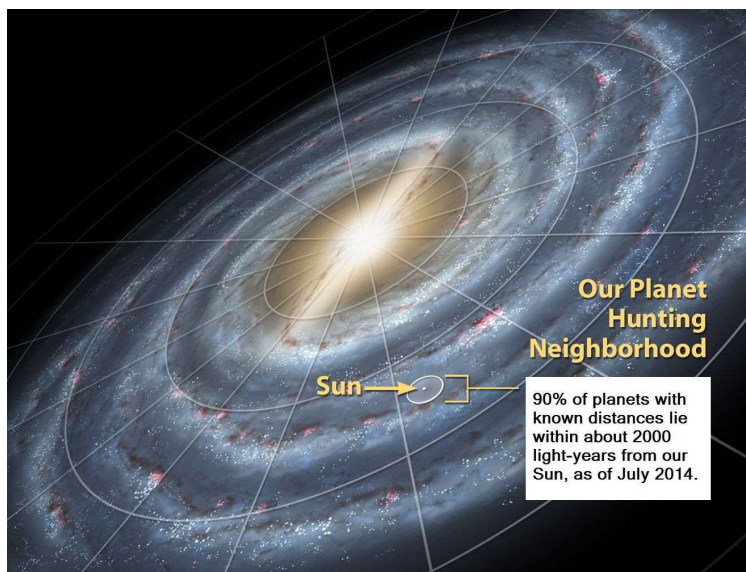
- Milky Way Galaxy, a large spiral system consisting of several hundred billion stars, one of which is the Sun.



- For all its vastness, the Milky Way is just one of billions of galaxies in the universe.



- 90% of planets with known distances lie within about 2000 light years from our sun.
 - With 400 billion Milky Way stars, there are about 1-to-10 trillion orbiting planets.
 - One light-year is about 6 trillion miles (9 trillion km).



❖ **Psalm 8:3-4**, When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? [A MINUSCULE CREATURE IN LIGHT OF THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE]

Two things to note:

- ▶ Considering the vastness of the universe, the earth is the only planet in our solar system known to have life. [Sufficient heat, light, water, oxygen, energy, gravity to support life]
- ▶ Considering the vastness of the universe, there is nothing greater than the creation of man.

- ❖ **Psalm 8:5-8**, Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor [MAGNIFICENT GOD-LIKE BEING]. **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands**; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- ❖ **Psalm 115:16**, The heavens are the LORD'S heavens, but **the earth he has given to the children of man**.
- ❖ **Genesis 1:27-28**, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
 - ▶ Man is a **thinking** being
 - ▶ Man is an **emotional** being
 - ▶ Man is a **communicative** and **relational** being
 - ▶ Man is a **volitional** being
 - ▶ Man is a **moral** being
 - ▶ All these characteristics are to have **dominion** over the earth, representing the Creator God.
 - ▶ **Man is greater** than UY Scuti, sun, stars, planets, and all creatures because he is made in God’s image to rule. Even angels seem not to have this dominion.

Psalm 139:14, I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Saint Augustine: Men go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motions of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wondering.

Man has lost this dominion to Satan due to sin:

- ❖ **2 Corinthians 4:4**, **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelievers...
- ❖ **Matthew 4:8-9**, Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”
- ❖ **1 John 5:19**, We know that we are from God, and **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one**.

Note: Christ is the only one who can restore the dominion to man under His kingship. **But how does this happen?** Christ's humanity and death

The author uses this passage to point out the humanity of Christ, through which He became for a while a little lower than the angels: [God, Angels, Man]

❖ **Hebrews 2:6-7**, It has been testified somewhere (Psalm 8:4-6), "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him **for a little while** lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." **First Adam lost; the last Adam regained.**

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the present condition of the world? What is the world to come? How is this hope encouraging to you?
2. How did Christ become a little while lower than the angels?
3. In what sense is man a minuscule creature and a splendid being?
4. How and to whom did man lose his dominion, and how is this dominion going to be restored to man?
5. In what way has this message been an encouragement to your heart?