

The Christological Interpretation of Psalm 8:4-6 in Hebrews 2:6-9

Psalm 8 in its original setting is a hymn of praise for God's work in creation in which two major themes are set in contrast to each other. God's majesty and power is contemplated both in greatness of heavens and in the insignificant but remarkable dignity of man. First-century Christians often applied Psalm 8:6b ("You have subjected all things under his feet") to Christ. No other New Testament writer except the author of Hebrews, however, applies the key question "what is man that you remember him etc.?" to Christ. The author's interpretation of Psalm 8 is not primarily concerns with the lofty status of humankind in the created world, but with the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus in relation to the world to come. The paper presents the techniques and strategy of the Christological interpretation of Psalm 8 in continuity with its literal meaning but also using some remarkable changes of tense, subject, voice, and mood of two verbs. This theologically legitimate approach helps the author to demonstrate the role and significance of Jesus' humanity as a necessary condition for Christ's High Priest career for the sake of humankind. The Psalm's quotation thus is not estranged from its original orientation, conversely, reaches in the rhetorical setting of Hebrews ch. 2 its fulfilment.