

Question:

Does the Bible contradict itself in Psalm 8:4-5 and Hebrews 2:6-7? Psalm 8 says humans were made “a little lower than God,” but Hebrews says “a little lower than the angels.” Which is correct?

Answer:

At first glance, this seems confusing, but the Bible does not contradict itself.

Let's read the verses:

Psalm 8:4-5

“What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than God, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

Hebrews 2:6-7

“What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

The key to understanding the difference lies in the original Hebrew word “Elohim” translated as “God” in Psalm 8:5. While Elohim usually refers to the one true God (YHWH), it can also mean divine beings or heavenly beings, such as angels, depending on the context (cf. Psalm 82:1).

Hebrews, written in Greek, reflects this broader understanding by translating it as “angels.” This shows the writer’s intention to emphasize humanity’s position just below the angelic realm in the spiritual hierarchy.

This passage highlights the special status of humanity in God’s creation: made a little lower than divine beings but crowned with glory and honor (cf. *Genesis 1:26-27*). It points to the dignity and responsibility humans carry, being appointed over God’s works (Hebrews 2:7).

This understanding is consistent with other Bible uses of names and titles:

- Israel can mean the individual Jacob (Genesis 35:10) or the nation of Israel (Exodus 5:2).
- Judah can refer to one person or to a tribe/kingdom.

Therefore, Hebrews is not contradicting Psalm 8 but clarifying that the “God” in Psalm 8:5 refers to the divine council or heavenly beings, including angels.

May God bless you.

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