

HE BECAME ONE OF US TO DELIVER US

Hebrews 2:10-18

When we studied the book of Revelation, we encountered an incredible scene in the heavenly throne room (Rev. 4). In the right hand of God the Father is the seven-sealed scroll containing the Title Deed of Mankind's Inheritance waiting to be opened (Rev. 5:1-3). The Apostle John bursts into tears because no one in all the universe is found worthy to open it (Rev. 5:4). No angel, no human, not even the Father nor the Spirit are worthy!

The only person in all the universe worthy to open the scroll is Jesus (Rev. 5:5-14).

Hebrews 2:10-18 explains how it is that only Jesus is worthy. It is because He is the only person in all the universe qualified to accomplish God's purposes and promises for mankind.

The Incarnation Qualified Jesus to Accomplish the Father's Plan (Heb. 2:10)

God the Father is the One for whom and by whom all things exist. His program is to bring "many sons to glory", that is, to restore many sons to their former glory and authority which was lost in the fall (Heb. 2:6-8a; Psalm 8; Gen. 1:26-28;).

To accomplish this the Father sent the Son into the world to become the *founder* of our salvation Commentator Julius Scott, Jr., explains:

*"Given its full range of meaning, the word designates an individual who opened the way into a new area for others to follow, founded the city in which they dwelt, gave his name to the community, fought its battles and secured the victory, and then remained as the leader-ruler-hero of his people."*¹

If Jesus is all that, then why was it "fitting" for the Father to make Jesus "perfect through suffering"?

The term *perfect* refers not to sin but *to complete, (to) make perfect by reaching the intended goal.*² Through His incarnation and the things He suffered, Jesus became completely and uniquely qualified to accomplish the Father's plan to lead many sons to glory.

Only the Son Incarnate Could Make Us Family (Heb. 2:11-13)

The text literally reads that Jesus and believers are "all of one". The Preacher's point is that through faith in Christ we are united with Christ and with all other believers in Christ. Thus, in Christ, we are "all of one"; we are all of Christ, we are His family – He calls us His brothers.

The verse the Preacher quotes is from the deliverance portion of Psalm 22. Just as David was delivered from his sufferings, so Jesus was delivered from His suffering of death by means of the resurrection. Now exalted at the right hand of the Father, Jesus declares praise to the Father in the midst of His spiritual family – His brothers and sisters who have been saved by His suffering of death (Heb. 2:9).

Isaiah 7-9 was written in a time of great distress for the kingdom of Judah. The city of Jerusalem was under siege and though God assured King Ahaz He would deliver them, Ahaz did not trust God. The prophet Isaiah, however, chose to trust God for deliverance and declared it in Isaiah 8:17-18.

The Preacher applies these verses to Jesus. Just as Isaiah trusted God to deliver him from death so Jesus trusted God to deliver Him out of death (Luke 23:46).

Next, the Preacher applies Isaiah 8:18: *And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."*

*Just as Isaiah could include his sons among those who were "with him" in trusting God, so our Lord Jesus could include His spiritual children among those who, with Him, trust in God even in the midst of trials and tribulations.*³

¹ Quoted in Bob Deffinbaugh's study, 6. *The Necessity of the Incarnation: Why the Son Drew Near to Man – Part II (Hebrews 2:10-18)* posted on bible.org.

² Zodhiates, Spiros. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000.

By becoming a man Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of Messiah and made us His family.

Only the Son Incarnate Could Destroy the Devil and Deliver Us From the Fear of Death (Heb. 2:14-15)

Because we are flesh and blood, Jesus had to take to Himself flesh and blood in order to deliver us from death. The sin debt of mankind can only be paid by a man; thus the incarnation of Jesus was necessary for Him to pay our sin debt and fulfill God the Father's plan to bring us to glory (cf. Colossians 2:13-15).

When you trust in the blood sacrifice of Jesus for the payment of your sin debt and His resurrection for your life, you are delivered from death and the Devil. All your sins past, present and future are paid in full. You are declared righteous by God and reconciled to him. The Devil has no case against you. He can never separate you from God. He can harass you and neutralize your service for God, but He can never separate you from God.

Only the Son Incarnate Could Extend the Blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant to Gentiles (Heb. 2:16)

The Preacher was writing to messianic Jews; descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant were their inheritance by blood and by divine oath (Gen. 17:4-7). The good news for Gentiles is that when we place our faith in Jesus we become "offspring" of Abraham, the man of faith (Rom. 4:9-14). As Abraham's spiritual offspring we receive the spiritual blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Only the Son Incarnate Could Serve as a Merciful and Faithful High Priest and Make Propitiation for the Sins of the People (Heb. 2:17-18)

Jesus is the only person in all reality qualified to serve as our High Priest. Because of what He suffered He can be a merciful High Priest empathizing helping us in our temptations. He remained obedient to the Father through suffering and temptation qualifying Him to be a faithful High Priest.

CONCLUSION

Hopefully it is now clear why the only person in all the universe worthy to open the seven-seal scroll is Jesus (Rev. 5:5-14). He alone is qualified to accomplish God's purpose to bring many sons to glory.

We have much for which to praise God and the Lord Jesus. Through His incarnation

- we will be restored to glory, honor and authority;
- we have become part of Jesus' family;
- we are no longer slaves to the fear of death;
- we are partakers of the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant;
- we have a merciful and faithful High Priest.

If you have not yet trusted in Jesus for forgiveness of your sins, you do not have any of these things. You should be afraid of death because as the Preacher will make clear: *...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment* (Heb. 9:27).

That judgment is called The Great White Throne Judgment clearly described in Revelation 20:11-15. You will be judged by your deeds. If one instance of disobedience to God appears in your record, you will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire.

Jesus became a man to suffer all that He suffered in order to deliver you from the Lake of Fire. Acknowledge you have sinned against God and deserve the Lake of Fire, then accept by faith the gift of Jesus' death for you on the cross and His resurrection. You will be forgiven all your sin. You will be indwelt by the Spirit of God. You will become part of Jesus' family.

³ Ibid. Deffingbaugh

Why wait? Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ today!