

# 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 (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 why that is.

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

Hebrews 2:10 (ESV)

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

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 believers to the glory and honor of authority over creation as God originally intended (Heb. 2:6-8a; Psalm 8; Gen. 1:26-28).

The Father sent the Son into the world to become the *founder* of our salvation. The word *founder* is translated in a variety of ways. The NASB & NIV translate it *author*, the NET Bible as *pioneer*, the KJV & NKJV as *captain*. It's rich meaning cannot be conveyed by one word. 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."*<sup>1</sup>

Jesus is all that. As the perfect God-Man, He opened the way for fallen men to be purified of sin, to be reconciled to God and to be restored to their former glory and honor. He fought our battles. He won the victory. He is building a city in which we will dwell with Him forever. He will never leave or forsake us. He is our leader-ruler-hero.

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.*<sup>2</sup> To bring "...many sons to glory..." requires 1) a man, born of woman, but not descended from Adam; 2) a legitimate heir to David's throne; 3) a man willing to suffer death for everyone; 4) a High Priest. God sent Jesus to be that man. Jesus meets all requirements necessary to be the One through whom the Father brings "...many sons to glory...". This is what is meant by "make... perfect through suffering".

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

Verses 11-18 make clear that the Father's plan can not be accomplished apart from the incarnation of the Son.

### **Only the Son Incarnate Can Make Us His Family (Heb. 2:11-13)**

**Hebrews 2:11-13 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

The One “who sanctifies” is Jesus and “those who are sanctified” are Christians. The text literally reads that Jesus and believers are “all of one”. The Preacher's point is that through faith we are united with Christ and with all 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.

To reinforce this point, the Preacher quotes from Psalm 22. Psalm 22 was written by King David about his sufferings and God's deliverance. It is clear that through David's experience and words the Holy Spirit was revealing the suffering and deliverance of Messiah. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, the opening words of Psalm 22, were cried out from the cross when the Father turned away from the Son.

Hebrews 2:12 quotes Psalm 22:12; a celebration of God's deliverance from death. The Preacher applies it to Jesus who was delivered out of death by the resurrection. Now exalted, surrounded by the saints, Jesus declares the praises of the Father to His spiritual family – His brothers and sisters saved by His suffering of death (Heb. 2:9). Only Jesus can make us family.

The Preacher next cites from Isaiah 8:17-18. Isaiah 8 is flanked by two well known prophecies concerning the Messiah. Isaiah 7 contains the famous prophecy that the virgin will be with child. Isaiah 9 reveals the government and divine attributes which the Messiah will possess.

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. In Isaiah 8:17-18 Isaiah declared:

**Isaiah 8:17-18 (ESV)**

**17** I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. **18** Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

The Preacher applies these verses to Jesus.

<sup>13</sup>And again,

**“I will put my trust in him.”**

Just as Isaiah trusted God to deliver him so Jesus trusted God to deliver Him. What did Jesus call out from the cross?

**Luke 23:46 (ESV)**

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

Jesus put His trust in God to deliver Him from death.

Next, the Preacher applies Isaiah 8:18:

**And again,**

**“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”**

As Isaiah declared his faith in God, he put his arms around his children who with him in faith. Similarly, the Preacher envisions Jesus doing the same with us. Bob Deffinbaugh explains this best:

*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.<sup>3</sup>*

Only the Son incarnate, Jesus, died and risen again, can make us His family.

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

**Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV)**

**14** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

After Adam and Eve fell to Satan’s temptation God promised that a deliverer would come from Eve who will bruise (mortally wound) the Serpent’s head. Therefore, according to the promise, the one who destroys the devil must be a man.

We are flesh and blood; the just penalty for our sin is both physical death and spiritual death. The only way to destroy death is to pay mankind’s penalty of death in full. This requires a sinless man to pay mankind’s penalty. God provided the only One qualified to die and through death destroy the devil.

The Apostle Paul expressed it this way:

**Colossians 2:13–15 (ESV)**

**13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him (Jesus), having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Jesus).

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Deffinbaugh

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.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus delivers us from the fear of death. Though we do not look forward to the experience of physical death, we do not fear death. Physical death is no longer the gateway to eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. Physical death is now graduation to eternal life with God. Physical death is a release from these dying bodies to receive our resurrection bodies. The Apostle Paul wrote:

**1 Corinthians 15:53–57 (ESV)**

<sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

<sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Only by becoming fully human was it possible for Jesus to fulfill the Father’s plan to defeat the Devil and deliver us from the fear of death.

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

**Hebrews 2:16 (ESV)**

**16** For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

The Preacher was writing to messianic Jews; descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant, the Land, the Seed and the Blessing, are their inheritance by blood and divine oath (Genesis 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 (Romans 4:9-12). Just as Abraham was declared righteous by God on the basis of faith, so also, we Gentiles are declared righteous by God on the basis of our faith in Jesus Christ. When we trust in Christ we become partakers of the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant God made with Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-40; Ezekiel 36:22-38; Hebrews 8).

Only Jesus, the incarnate Son and descendant of Abraham can extend to us Gentiles the blessings of Abraham.

Finally, only Jesus is qualified to become a merciful and faithful High Priest without which none of the preceding things could have been accomplished.

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

Hebrews 2:17-18 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

I believe this is the summit towards which the Preacher has been climbing since the opening verse of this section.

Hebrews 2:10 (ESV)

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Why was it “fitting” for God the Father to make Jesus perfect through suffering? Jesus had to become a man and suffer all that He suffered in order to accomplish God’s purposes and promises for man; to restore us to glory and honor; to make us His family, to deliver us from the fear of death; to defeat Satan; to extend to us the blessings of Abraham. In order for all these things to be accomplished it requires a High Priest to present the once for all blood sacrifice that pays for the sins of mankind.

Jesus is the only person qualified to serve as our High Priest.

Because He suffered He is qualified to be a *merciful* High Priest.

Because He endured He is qualified to be a *faithful* High Priest.

Only the incarnate Son is qualified to be our High Priest to make purification for our sins.

## CONCLUSION

Hopefully it is now clear why the only person in all the universe worthy to open the 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:

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup>...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

That judgment is called The Great White Throne Judgment and it is 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 which is the just punishment for our sins. 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.

Why wait? Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ today!