

Hebrews 2:10-18 – “The Captain of Our Salvation”

Summary Statement:

This passage highlights how Jesus, through His humanity, fulfills the divine plan of salvation and teaches us about God’s purpose in suffering.

Coming out of vs. 9, we see that Jesus was ***made a little lower than the angels***. Now that can seem kind of strange, almost blasphemous. First of all, if Jesus is eternal, He was never made. He’s not created. So this is not about Jesus being created – He’s the Creator of all. So how can He be lower than His creation (angels)? He was made lower in that Jesus took on humanity for a very distinct purpose.

- Again, this whole letter is being written to a group of Jews who were beginning to wonder if Jesus really was the answer. Was He really worth giving up all that they knew in Judaism; being forsaken by their families and friends? Was He better than their prophets, and better than angels? These first couple of chapters are setting out to show how He is indeed better than these.
- But if He was just a man, how could He be better than supernatural angels? If he was made lower than them, how could He be better?
The remainder of this chapter answers this question for us.

Outline:

1. Jesus’ Saving Ministry – 2:10-13
2. Jesus’ Subduing Ministry – 2:14-16
3. Jesus’ Sympathizing Ministry – 2:17-18

1. Jesus’ Saving Ministry – 2:10-13

2:10 - *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

In God’s redemptive plan for His people, He saw that it was fitting – that it was a necessary thing to do – to allow Jesus to suffer. Sin brings suffering. Sin brings death. And in order for His creation to be redeemed and atoned for, a fitting sacrifice had to be made on our behalf. That’s what Jesus did. He became like us, identified with us, entered into human life so that He could take our place in death.

Now notice what we read at the beginning, a little side note is given about God, that He is not only the Creator of all things, but that all things are made **for Him**.

- In other words, God made us for Him.
- This is repeated in Colossians 1:16 and is speaking of Jesus as Creator: **Colossians 1:16**, *"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."*
- So we're created for Him, to live a life that glorifies Him. That's our purpose. Remember, God doesn't exist for us, we exist for God. And whatever we may encounter in life is an opportunity for us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to God. If that's our purpose in life, then fulfilling that is what will bring us the most joy and satisfaction. So every challenge, difficulty, or trial is an opportunity to glorify God which is to our good.

So, in God making Jesus a little lower than the angels, it was simply to cause Him to become like us. But in becoming like us, He has become the **captain** of our **salvation**. The Greek word for **captain** is *archegos* [ar·khay·gos] which means pioneer or leader. The person who goes first to open the way. Jesus is the one not just opening the way, He is leading us to glory. He's not just the one leading us, He is the way! He doesn't point us to salvation, He is salvation.

- And because God sent us His only begotten Son, and for all that put their trust in Him, God is able to now bring **many sons to glory**. He's provided the way for us to be in relationship with Him for all eternity where we will be in glory with Him. Hallelujah!

Now this was freely given to us, but it came at a great cost nonetheless.

For this to be accomplished, Jesus had to be **made perfect through sufferings**.

- Now again, this can seem like a bit of a contradiction. Wasn't Jesus always perfect? Was there a time He needed to grow in perfection?
- It's important to look at what this word **perfect** really means.
- It's the Greek word *teleioō* [tel·i·o·o]. It means to complete or to finish. To carry through to the end goal proposed.
- I think of a receiver in the NFL. The quarterback throws him the ball, he may make a perfect catch but he doesn't just stand there and celebrate the catch. The goal is to get it in the endzone.

Jesus came to this world as one of us, but it wasn't just by His good life that we are shown an example to follow. It's that He did the work in paying our debit for

sin, He took death's blow so that we could live. He was made perfect (He reached the end goal) through His sufferings.

And in doing so has brought us into a new relationship with Him...

2:11 - *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

Look at what is being said: Jesus is the One who sanctifies, and we are the ones being sanctified. And we ***are all of one!*** How can that be? We're so far from Christ in morality and being, but relationally we've become family – children of God. We have the same Heavenly Father. We've not only been created, but we've been redeemed through Christ. We are joint heirs with Him of the glories awaiting us in heaven.

- **Romans 8:17**, *"and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."*

Now I'm sure there's a lot of things you may feel shame to be associated with.

- Being a Canucks fan may be something you don't really want to boast in these days.
- Wives, when you're out for dinner with your husband and he lets out a big belch in the restaurant, you're looking for that napkin to drape over your face. You're giving those facial expressions that he's not really with you.
- There are times you may feel some shame of your associations.
- But Jesus is not ashamed to be connected to us and to call us ***brethren!*** How amazing!? We're family.

And He's not ashamed because we're not yet what we're going to be. We're a work in progress right now. Jesus is perfected, but we are being perfected. We're being ***sanctified***.

- This is the Greek word *hagiazō* [hag·ee·ad·zo]. It means to be set apart; to be holy. Jesus has set us apart now as children of God where we are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29).
- This is a work He is involved in. He doesn't just save us and leave us. He is involved in our growth. Sometimes that growth and perfection comes through suffering. We should never question God and His goodness when less than desirable things happen in our lives. They're all processes that God uses to perfect us and bring us to glory.

- **1 Peter 5:10**, *"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."*

So the author quotes from 3 Old Testament passages to show the plan and intent of Jesus to identify with us...

2:12-13 - saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." ¹³ And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

He first quotes from Psalm 22:22. This is a famous Messianic Psalm that begins with *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?..."*, the very cry Jesus made from the cross.

The author of Hebrews is quoting this to show that the heart of God has always been to have Jesus come as one of us, suffer through the cross, but accomplish a great victory through it. And Jesus is sharing that victory with His brethren. He's rejoicing and singing praise to God for the great work that's been accomplished, and He's sharing in this with His brethren – you and I.

Verse 13a is a quote from Isaiah 8:17 which shows that because Jesus came in the flesh, He had to depend on the Father. He had to live by faith and trust in the Lord, much like us. Our fellowship with God is dependent upon our daily trust in Him.

Verse 13b is a quote from Isaiah 8:18. This reveals that Jesus is the One that the Father has entrusted His spiritual children to. Jesus is the One that saves, redeems, and brings these children of God to glory. Nobody else has done that or is able to do that. It's found in Jesus alone. And this has been prophesied and foretold in the Scriptures.

2. Jesus' Subduing Ministry – 2:14-16

2:14-15 - *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

This is a theological watershed here in this verse. Pointing to us as the children that Jesus has identified with, children of human flesh and blood, we read that Jesus came in similar fashion. He ***shared in the same***. He took on flesh and

blood; He took on a human body. And He did so to accomplish an incredible work for us.

By dying in our place, He ***destroyed him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.***

- Now that poses a bit of a problem, because doesn't Jesus hold the keys to Hades and death already (Rev 1:18)? If so, how does the devil have the power of death?
- We know that the devil does not have any say over who lives or dies. He has no power to take a life. Everything the devil does is only afforded to him by God (Job 1:12).
- So one way to look at this is to see that sin brings death. The devil knows that the natural repercussions of a life lived in sin, separate from God, will result in death. So Satan's objective is to tempt people to walk in sin and demand the rightful penalty be administered to such people. He's the accuser of the brethren, trying to demand a guilty verdict on all.
- But through Christ's death, the devil and his attempts of accusing believers, is ***destroyed***. This means to render powerless. Satan may come against a child of God and try to accuse them of guilt, but God says they're covered under the blood of Jesus. Jesus died in their place and rose again to bring victory over death! Praise the Lord!
- There is no longer a ***fear of death*** for the believer. We too can walk in victory and the assurance of eternal life through faith in Jesus. Life is good. And life will really begin after death – no need to fear.

2:16 - *For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.*

Jesus never came on a mission to help angels. He has never taken on the nature of an angel to become like them so as to give aid to them. This has only been done for us. Jesus came to rescue all who are the seed of Abraham. The seed of Abraham is all those who believe by faith and put their trust in Christ.

- The original readers of this letter were both physical and spiritual descendants of Abraham. And they should see the special privilege they had that the Son of God came to them as one of them to bring aid for them.
- We are recipients of this same blessing.

Now how does He give aid? We see that clearly in the last 2 verses...

3. Jesus' Sympathizing Ministry – 2:17-18

2:17-18 - *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

Now again, let me reiterate, it would have been very tempting for these Jews to dismiss Jesus as a worthy person to follow. If He's just a man, why leave all these glorious things they have that are connected to God and the rich history of supernatural occurrences – prophets, angels, etc. This is where the author really drives home the reason why Jesus is better.

He's not just a man, He is fully God and He decided to come as a man to rescue us and save us.

- They say never judge a man until you've walked a mile in his shoes. That way if you still don't think too highly of him, you're a mile away from him and you now have his shoes!
Well, Jesus has walked in our shoes. And He knows what it's like to live how we live, and to deal with the things we deal with.
- He's become our ***merciful and faithful High Priest*** because He knows what it's like to live in this world and suffer.
- The word priest means bridge builder. He brings God to the people and brings the people to God.

He's been tempted and has suffered through the difficulty of resisting in the flesh. We'll see later in Hebrews 4:15 that though He was tempted He never sinned, in fact it says He was without sin. Being tempted is not sin, but giving in to that temptation is indeed sin. But Jesus never caved.

- Even in the garden when He asked if there be any other way to accomplish salvation other than the cross and torment He would endure, He said, *'nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will'* (Matt 26:39).

And because He has had to endure suffering and temptation, He is able to relate to our struggles. He comes to us in mercy and with understanding. He's not rubbing your nose in your mess saying, *'How could you!? Don't do that again or else!'* He comes in grace to help you and strengthen you and understands the struggles of the flesh. It's not to excuse or justify sin, but it's to help us know we

have One to turn to who gets it, but also shows us that we can overcome. He's made us overcomers.

He's made **propitiation for the sins of the people**. "Expiation refers to the washing away of sin. It cancels the debt of sin and closely relates to the forgiveness of sins. Propitiation refers to the satisfaction of God's justice. At the cross, God poured out his wrath against sinners on Jesus, thereby satisfying God's demand for the just punishment of sin. Thus, God's wrath was satisfied and his righteousness was vindicated. Paul describes the atoning sacrifice of Christ with the same language in another important passage on the meaning of the cross in Romans 3:21–26." ¹

- Propitiation allows God to be just and the justifier of those who put their faith in Jesus.

This is what Jesus has accomplished for us! We are no longer under condemnation, we have been forgiven and set free in the Lord. Though we still wrestle with this flesh, we have a Savior, a captain of our salvation, who has gone before us to lead us on to glory! Let us come to Him in confidence and faith.

"Christ was made like us "in all things." Our fate—suffering and death—became His fate, just as His fate—resurrection and glory—will become ours." ²

What an incredible Savior we have! He came down to where we are so He could bring us to where He is. He entered into our suffering, conquered our greatest enemy, paid the price for our sin, and now stands ready to help us in our struggles. So don't look to yourself as the source of your salvation, your strength, or your hope. Look to Jesus – the Pioneer of your salvation, the Victor over death, and your merciful and faithful High Priest. He has gone before you, He stands with you, and He will bring you home to glory.

Points to Ponder:

1. Jesus paid the ultimate price to bring you to glory.
Jesus, the Creator of all things, humbled Himself and suffered so that He could bring us into God's family. Never take lightly the price He paid to make you His own.

¹ Mohler, R. A., Jr. (2017). *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews* (p. 38). Holman Reference.

² Swindoll, C. R. (2017). *Hebrews* (p. 42). Tyndale House Publishers.

2. Jesus has defeated death and provided our victory.

Death no longer has the final word for those who belong to Christ. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can face the future – even death itself – with the assurance of eternal life. What a Savior!

3. Jesus understands your struggles.

Jesus knows what it is to suffer and deal with temptation, yet He remained without sin. He does not overlook our sin, but He invites us to find mercy and help in Him. When you feel weak, tempted, or are struggling, run **to** Jesus rather than **from** Jesus.