

“Why He was made the God/Man”

Hebrews 2:11-18

INTRO:

The last time we were in this passage we explored the writer’s explanation of why Christ had to go through what He experienced in His condescension. In **Hebrews 2:10** he wrote, *“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.”*

We spent some time demonstrating how God did not perfect the character of the holy Son through suffering. Rather, He chose to let the Son, who is the author of our salvation, to become the Savior and High Priest we needed through suffering. The writer goes on to explain in **verses 11-18**. It was fitting for the Father to perfect the Son through suffering because through the His condescension a connection was made between the Savior and those who are being saved. It was fitting because through this connection and His death Christ provided deliverance from eternal death. It was appropriate because through His condescension He became a merciful and faithful High Priest for His people.

I. Our Connection (v. 11-13)

II. His Deliverance (v. 14-16)

III. His Priesthood (v. 17-18)

I. Our Connection (v. 11-13)

A. We discussed last time how the phrase, *“to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings,”* (**Hebrews 2:10**) does not imply that our Lord Jesus was somehow incomplete in His being or His actions. The writer said if Jesus was to be our Savior, some things were necessary. One was that He had to have a human body so that He could die for our sins.

B. This was all necessary so that first, a connection might be made between the Savior and those who are being saved.

1. Before Jesus came and *“was made a little lower than the angels”* our situation was desperate. We were innately sinful and without hope before a holy God. **Job** described our need in **Job 9:33-34**;

“For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.”

2. This is the first reason why it is fitting that the Author of our Salvation was made a little lower than the angels and perfect through sufferings. A connection had to be

made between God and us. A mediator had to come who could *“lay His hand on us both.”* (v.33)

3. Therefore, the writer to the Hebrews says,

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one.” (Hebrews 2:11)

That is to say that we are of the same nature. Jesus, who died, was God of very God, but He became man of very man. He had a dual nature. He was God and He was human. He could lay His hand on us both God and man. The Lord Jesus alone can be our mediator.

4. Paul celebrates this reality in **1 Timothy 2:5**;

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

There is now One who can mediate. He can minister to us and intercede with God on our behalf! He can bridge the gap!

C. How close is our connection? The writer shows us, *“For which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”* He has become our brother. He is fully identified with us, and at the same time He is God.

The writer finds further support for this union we have with Christ in the Old Testament. In **Hebrews 2:12–13** we read,

“saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’ (Psalm 22:22) And again: ‘I will put My trust in Him.’ And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.’ (Isaiah 8;17-18).”

D. The first reason it was fitting for Christ to suffer was because a connection had to be made between the Savior and those who are being saved.

II. His Deliverance (v. 14-16)

A. The second reason Christ had to suffer was because through His connection with believers and His death, He provided deliverance from eternal death.

(Hebrews 2:14-16)

“Therefore, since the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, in order that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.”

B. The purpose for which the Savior shared in flesh and blood with His spiritual children was specifically so through death He might *“render inactive”* him who had the power of death. Can we possibly think of this without remembering the great proclamation of victory over death in **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**?

“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What a victory this is. By destroying the power of death, Jesus rendered inoperative the condemning power of Satan. The devil can no longer do harm to us.

C. **Verse 16** is a very significant verse for this discussion.

“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.”

Remember that the readers were wrestling with why did the Lord Jesus Christ who was far superior to the angels, have to be made for a little while lower than the angels. Jesus did not do this for the angels. He did it for us. Not just Jews but those who are the seed of Abraham by faith!

III. His Priesthood (v. 17-18)

A. So, it was fitting that Jesus suffered, first, because a connection needed to be established between the Savior and those who are being saved. Second, it was fitting because through this connection and His death, He provided deliverance from the power of death. Finally, it is was fitting Jesus suffered because it is only through this suffering that He could become the merciful and faithful High Priest that God required for His people.

B. ***“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. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”***
(Hebrews 2:17-18).

1. To be the mediator we talked about earlier, the Lord Jesus needed to be where we live in order that He can intercede for us and be our High Priest, the One who goes to the Father for us.

2. He was willing to make propitiation for the sins of the people and to be that propitiation Himself. Second, He was willing to suffer being tried as we are so He could aid us in our trials!

What does all of this say to us?

How deep the Savior’s love for us. He was willing to do all of this in order that He might both please and glorify His Father, but also that He might be our Savior, Lord, and Advocate!

*“When Satan temps me to despair
and tells me of my sin within
Upward I look and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
my sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me.”*