

God's Purpose and Plan *Hebrews 2:10*

INTRO:

The first time I really looked at **Hebrews 2:10** was in a discussion with a cultist, someone who denied the deity of Jesus Christ. ***“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 [author] captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*** (Hebrews 2:10). My verbal adversary pointed to this verse without mentioning the context and said, *“If Jesus is God and already perfect, why did the Father have to make Him perfect through suffering?”* This question is the focus of our study today.

Does this verse indicate that somehow Jesus is not divine? What does it mean when it says it pleased God to make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering? The answers to these questions are found in the context of the statement itself.

I. Remember What the Writer has Already Told Us (1:2-3)

II. We Must Not Forget What the Son Accomplished (2:9)

III. Then We Need to Understand the Point of this Verse (2:10)

I. Remember What the Writer has already Told Us (1:2-3)

A. Before we panic about any verse anywhere in Scripture, we must remember what the writer said before he wrote the verse. Our writer opened his book with intense scrutiny of the person of our Savior the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

B. The writer began his book writing about God's revelation to humankind. He told us God the Father had in many places and in many ways to the Fathers through the prophets has in these last days spoken in His Son. The Lord Jesus is the culmination of the revelation of who God was and is because He is God in the Flesh.

C. To ensure we get the point, the writer then piles statement upon statement about who our Savior is. ***“[The Son of God] He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*** (Hebrews 1:2-3).

1. The Son is the heir of all things. He is also the One through Whom all things came into existence. He is Creator and Heir.

2. He is also the brightness of His glory. Glory is what makes God, God. The Lord Jesus showed that glory and still does today. **(John 1:14)**

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The Lord Jesus was God incarnate. The writer took great pains to underline this truth for us. We need to understand who Jesus was and is so we can appreciate what He did.

Since the writer took such pains in **chapter one** to underline that Jesus is God, he surely would not have changed his mind in **chapter two**.

II. We Must Not Forget What the Son Accomplished (2:9)

A. To understand **Hebrews 2:10**, we first must keep in mind that (what) the writer took great pains to teach us in the beginning of this letter. Second, we must not forget what the Son of God did for us.

1. Jesus ***“became much greater than the angels”*** (**Hebrews 1:4**) because for a short time He was a little lower than the angels. In the incarnation, when God became flesh and dwelt among us, the Lord Jesus Christ became a man.

2. The Son became a little lower than the angels in order that He might accomplish the Father’s purpose in His unfolding plan of redemption. (**Hebrews 2:9**)

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

B. The Son of God became man so He might die and pay the price of our redemption. The wages of sin is death and so Jesus tasted death for all kinds of people. He died in our place and took the penalty of our sin, that God might be righteous and still declare us righteous who are sinful people. God did it this way because there was no other way to save us from our sin and the wrath it deserves.

III. Then We Need to Understand the Point of this Verse (2:10)

A. We come to **Hebrews 2:10** reminded of what the writer worked hard to communicate to us in the beginning of His letter. This Jesus was and is the Son of the Living God. God in human flesh, who willingly became, for a little while lower than the angels in order to suffer the penalty of death for our sins. No matter what it may appear about **verse 10** if it were ripped out of its context, it cannot ever mean that Jesus was and is less than God.

B. **Hebrews 2:10** does mean something. The writer of the book of **Hebrews** and the Holy Spirit put it here for an important purpose. What did the writer actually say in **verse 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.”

1. The first clue to what the writer said is the first word of the sentence, ***“For.”*** This verse is a reason or an explanation of **verse 9**.

2. The essence of the sentence is ***“It was fitting for Him . . . in bringing many sons to glory, to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*** He was in the process of bringing many sons to glory. That is saving us from sin and its judgment. It was right for God the Father to make Jesus, the author, beginner and leader of their salvation perfect through suffering.

C. There are two vital words in this verse. The first is translated ***“captain”*** in the NKJV. The word means ***“originator”*** or ***“leader.”*** Context determines the meaning. I prefer to understand it in the sense of **Hebrews 12:2**. We are to run the race ***“fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”*** All that is involved in our salvation was begun and finished by the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. The second key is the word ***“perfect.”*** The word means ***“to complete”*** or ***“make whole.”*** The writer did not state God had to make the Son holy through the things that He suffered. He was already holy. The point is that Jesus completed all that He needed to be to become our Savior and our High Priest.

What do we do with this?

We must never interpret any verse in a vacuum. The reason it is there is because of its context.

We must recognize this salvation that is so free to us, was not free at all to our Savior. We are saved only because Jesus went through the suffering and shame of the cross for us. There was no other way and so our God did what was necessary so He could save us.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

After all He’s done for us, what are we willing to do for Him?