

## *Pilgrims in Christ: Jesus, the Pioneering Pilgrim*

Hebrews 2:10 “For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder [ archēgos - “pioneer” ] of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

John Muether: “As pilgrims, however, we do not merely recapitulate the story of Israel. We find our identity in union with our Lord and Savior the Bible's ultimate pilgrim. Jesus created the world, John tells us, but that very world would despise Him. He would be tested in the wilderness, suffer rejection by His people, and wander this earth without a place to lay down His head. As a pilgrim, Jesus set His face upon Jerusalem so we may set our face upon Zion. To be a pilgrim is to embrace, in imitation of Christ and His pilgrimage, the life of the cross.” (Essay, *Why Evangelicals Don't Read Pilgrim's Progress (And Why They Should)*)

### **Jesus is the Pioneering Pilgrim.**

Hebrews 2:10 “*For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder [ archēgos - “pioneer” ] of their salvation perfect through suffering.*”

Hebrews 12:1-2 “*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder [ archēgos - “pioneer” ] and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

### **Why is Jesus the Pioneering Pilgrim?**

Question: What makes Jesus the “trailblazer” and not Abraham, for example?  
Answer: Because He is the first man to journey to glory (Heb 2)

Hebrews 2:5-9 “Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.<sup>6</sup> It has been testified somewhere, ‘What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?’<sup>7</sup> You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,<sup>8</sup> putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.<sup>9</sup> But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.<sup>10</sup> 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.”

### **How our Pioneering Pilgrim aids and comforts those following.**

Question: What did Jesus do to rise to such a high place of honor?  
Answer: He obeyed all the commands of God on man, he did the will of God.

Hebrews 1:9 “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

### **Conclusion**

BUNYAN'S prelude to “The Heavenly Footman”: “*Arise man, be slothful no longer; set foot, and heart, and all into the way of God, and run, the crown is at the end of the race; there also standeth the loving forerunner, even Jesus, who hath prepared heavenly provision to make thy soul welcome, and he will give it thee with a willinger heart than ever thou canst desire it of him.*”