



The Humanity of Jesus

(Hebrews 2:9-18)

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⁹ 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.

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 of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

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

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

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

Hebrews 2:9-18

- 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.
- ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ 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.
- ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Writer's Overview of What's to Come (Hebrews 2:9)

- ⁹ 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**.
- ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be held on to for advantage, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8).
- Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109 A.D.): *Cur Deus Homo* (Latin) “Why the God-Man?” or “Why did God need to become a man and die for humanity?”
- (The “What,” “How,” and “Why?”)

I. Jesus: A Leader Who Leads by Example (Hebrews 2:10-13)

- 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 of their salvation **perfect through suffering**.
- **The suffering servant:**
- But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 and with his wounds we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)

I. Jesus: A Leader Who Leads by Example (Hebrews 2:10-13)

- ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed **to call them brothers**, ¹² saying,
- “I will tell of your name **to my brothers**;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”
- ¹³ And again,
- “I will put my trust in him.”

The Four Feathers (2002)



II. Jesus: A Human Being Able to Die (Hebrews 2:14-15)

- 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.
- I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)
- ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (Romans 16:20)
- ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

III. Jesus: A High Priest from and for the People (Hebrews 2:16-17)

- ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham**.
- ¹⁷ 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**.
- ¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15)

IV. Jesus: An Empathetic Friend (Hebrews 2:18)

- ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.**
- ¹³ “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” (John 11:35)

Reflections and Applications: The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)

- **Jesus as Fully God and Fully Man (A Mystery!)**
- “We all with one voice teach the confession of one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: the same perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, the same truly God and truly man, of a rational soul and a body; of one essence with the Father as regards his divinity, and the same of one essence with us as regards his humanity; like us in all respects except for sin; begotten before the ages from the Father as regards his divinity, and in the last days, for us and for our salvation, the same born of Mary, the virgin God-bearer, as regards his humanity.”

Reflections and Applications: The Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)

- **Jesus as Fully God and Fully Man (A Mystery!)**
- “He is one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, acknowledged in two natures which undergo no confusion, no change, no division, no separation. At no point was the difference between the natures taken away through the union, but rather the property of both natures is preserved and comes together into a single person and a single subsistent being. He is not parted or divided into two persons, but is one and the same only-begotten Son, God, Word, Lord Jesus Christ, just as the prophets taught from the beginning about Him, and as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself instructed us, and as the creed of the fathers [i.e., the Nicene Creed] handed it down to us.”



Let Us Pray

