

JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST (vv. 14-18)

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

1. Why was it important for Jesus to share in our humanity?
2. What did Jesus accomplish by his death?
3. The writer of Hebrews specifically mentions the fear of death. What do you think he has in mind? How does our fear of death enslave us? What are some fears that enslave us? How does Christ free us from the fears that enslave us?
4. What was the role of the high priest in the Old Testament? How does Jesus fulfill that role for us? What kind of high priest is Jesus?
5. How does Christ's suffering enable him to help those who are being tempted? How does Jesus help us when we are tempted?



Hebrews 2:5-18 offers three compelling portraits of Christ. He is our representative, our older brother, and our high priest. Each of these portraits is painted on the broader canvas of Christ's suffering. He became our representative, older brother, and high priest through suffering. Several passages capture the theme.

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone (v.9).

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered (v. 10).

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (v. 18).

The writer of Hebrew's larger point is Jesus became like us in every way to redeem us in every way.

JESUS, OUR REPRESENTATIVE (vv. 5-9)

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸ and put everything under their feet."

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do

see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

We dealt with this passage in greater detail in our previous study. In Psalm 8, David reflects on the glory of humanity in creation. “You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet.” The writer of Hebrews quickly adds while we have not lived up to God’s creative ideal, Jesus has. “We see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” Jesus is our representative in both life and death.

1. How did Jesus represent us in life?
2. How did he represent us in death?

JESUS, OUR OLDER BROTHER (vv. 10-13)

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

1. It is hard for us to think of Christ as someone who has “made... perfect through what he suffered. The word might better be translated, “perfectly suited.” How does Christ suffering making him perfectly suited to be our representative? ...our older brother? ...our savior? ...our example? ...our high priest?
2. How does Christ bring many sons and daughters to glory?
3. What has Christ done to make us holy? Why is it important that we are made holy? How does Christ continue to make us holy?
4. Can you think of any reason why Christ might be ashamed to call us “brothers and sisters?” Why is it significant that he is not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters?

5. The writer of Hebrews uses a string of Old Testament quotations to emphasize the deep family relationship we have with Christ and each other.

The first quotation is from Psalm 22. David cries out to God because he is suffering unjustly at the hands of his critics. You’ll recognize the opening line, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Jesus adopts the words of the Psalmist to express his anguish from the cross. There are some uncanny parallels between the manner in which David describes his afflictions and the afflictions Christ endured on the cross.

“All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ‘He trusts in the LORD,’ they say, ‘let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him (vv. 7-8).’”

“...they pierce my hands and my feet. (v. 16)”

“They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment (vv. 17-18).”

Our quote comes from the second half of the Psalm, where David anticipates his ultimate vindication and proclaims, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” Jesus of course is the only truly righteous sufferer. As one who was ultimately vindicated by God, he declares God’s name to this brothers and sisters.

How does God vindicate Jesus’ suffering?

What is Jesus’ declaration to his brothers and sisters?

5. The next two quotations are from Isaiah 8. Isaiah is the one who cries out “I will put my trust in him.” Israel is drifting further and further away from God. Rather than trusting God, she places her confidence in political alliances, which will utterly fail her “The children God has given me.” refers to Isaiah’s children. In Isaiah’s mind, only a handful remain faithful to God, among them his wife and their two children. In speaking of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah would later say “Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring... (ISAIAH 53:10). While Christ was cut off from the land of living without any natural descendants, he would in the end bring many sons and daughters to glory.

Why is it encouraging to see Christ as our “older brother?”

How should being members of his family impact the way we think about other members of his family?