

Hebrews 2:9-13

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**Hebrews 2:9-13** *But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*

*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.*

*For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Your name to My brethren.; in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise." And again, "I will put My trust in Him." And again, "Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me."*

*In this passage we dive into deep and rich waters of Christian truth. The depth of thought takes on such profound meaning as to necessitate slow and careful pondering and processing. In the metaphor of the author used later in his letter (5:13-14), we here receive "solid food" for the soul, and not just milk.*

*At this point, I remind you that we are "Oaks Bible Church" – committed to the careful exposition and study of God's Holy Word, which is the guidebook for our lives (Psalms 119:105) and nourishment for our spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2). I urge you to bring to these messages your personal copy of God's Word, that you might not just listen to my words, but see with your own eyes God's word to you unfold in its profound wisdom.*

**THE THRESHOLD**

First, let us examine the "threshold" of this glorious passage: "But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely Jesus."

*In Chapter One of Hebrews we saw the preeminent Christ as Son, God and Lord – far above the glory of the created angels. And both exalted Christ and angels are now unseen to us – yet to be revealed to our sight when we someday see them in heaven. In Chapter Two of Hebrews, to this point, we have seen the glory of man revealed – and that we who are "crowned with glory and honor" will someday "see all things subjected to him." These are unseen things.*

*But now in 2:9 we examine something we can see – Jesus who was made a man. No, we can't see him with physical sight, but since His incarnation is in our past, we can see and examine Him with historical eyes. The emphasis, then, in 2:9 is on the "do." We DO see this earthly Jesus made as man and as temporarily lower than the angels. We cannot yet see clearly the preeminent Christ or the heavenly angels or the ruling man, but we CAN, in the historical sense, see the human Jesus and examine what his humanity means for each of us.*

A few more observations on the "threshold" phrase:

1. Jesus was "made" a man. He who was the uncreated, ever-existing One from eternity past was "created" or "made" by God the Father as a man. In one simple word of "made" we have the astounding, electrifying, stupefying miracle of the incarnation – God becoming man.
2. Jesus was temporarily made "lower than the angels" – borrowing from David's Psalm 8 where he describes man as made only "a little lower than the angels" (elohim). The emphasis here is on "for a little while" – for Jesus was far above angels previously, and is now again in His gloried, resurrected state.
3. Though Jesus was made a man to be lower than the angels for a little while, this is not to say that Jesus was made to be a man for just a little while. Once Jesus was "made" by God the Father to be a man, he would stay a man forever – the everlasting God-man. Remember that in Revelation, Jesus is called the "Lamb of God" with scars, signifying his humanness.

## THE PRIMARY THOUGHT

Having past the “threshold” let us journey on to the primary thought of the passage. In other words, *let us examine the “forest” before we examine the “trees.”*

I believe the heart of today’s passage is that Jesus is the “captain of our salvation” – *and so it is* have I have titled this message “Captain of Salvation.” Now having said *this, I recognize that* this word “captain” is found in only some translations: namely, those who derive from the *early King James Version. The New American Standard Bible, which I favor using, and its derivatives*, use the phrase “author of their salvation.” And the popular and excellent New International Version uses the translation of “pioneer of their salvation.” *All three translations are good, and each captures an aspect of the whole.* The Greek word used is “archegos.” It can mean “founder” or “originator”, thus the NASV translation of “author.” It can mean “innovator” or “trailblazer”, thus the NIV translation of “pioneer.” But at its simplest, the word means “head” or “chief”, or in our way of thinking, “C.E.O.”, thus “captain.”

*But know that this rich Greek work implies a trailblazing, originator and man in charge of our salvation – of which Jesus is all. Without His authoring the idea and necessity of salvation we would not be saved. Without His blazing the trail of tasting death for us all, we would not be saved. And without His moment by moment leadership through the troubled waters of life as our Captain, we would not be saved.*

## JESUS’ 3-FOLD LEADERSHIP

Continuing to examine the “forest” before the “trees”, let us *now observe the three primary thoughts concerning Jesus’ leadership in our salvation:*

- 1. HE TASTED DEATH SO WE WOULD NOT** (vs. 9)
- 2. HE WAS QUALIFIED AS LEADER THROUGH SUFFERINGS** (v. 10)
- 3. HE CLEANSED US TO BE CO-LEADERS** (vs. 11-13)

### Re: Death (v. 9)

“Death” has at least two *distinct and different meanings for believers: physical death and spiritual death* (also called in Revelation the “second death”). In the garden of Eden, God’s sentence for disobedience was “death” for Adam and Eve and all their descendents. Of which of the two meanings was the curse? If you said “both” – *you are right! Since that time every human has experienced physical death. But also since that time every human has been separated from God – the definition of spiritual death – because of both original sin being passed on to each successor of Adam and Eve as well as because of each person’s individual rebellion.*

*So according to the author of Hebrews, which “death” did Jesus taste for everyone? You might be tempted to say “physical death” – but whether Jesus died or no, each since, and before, has experienced physical death. (I believe that includes Enoch and Elijah, but that’s a discussion for another time). But the amazing truth is that Jesus experienced spiritual death – separation from God – for everyone, so that those who accept that sacrifice as being in their place, might not experience eternal separation from God.* Jesus’ spiritual death of separation can be seen most clearly in the “why have you forsaken me” on the cross, and in his “descending into the lower parts of the earth” in Ephesians 4:9. Praise God that through my *faith in the death of Christ for me, I am saved from the spiritual death of both being forsaken by God and of being separated from God’s heaven.*

### Re: Sufferings (v. 10)

We read in most all of our translations that Jesus was made “perfect” as the *author of our salvation “through sufferings.”* Clearly, Jesus was morally perfect as God in the flesh. The word translated “perfect” better means “qualified” to be the captain of our salvation. In other words, it was *His human sufferings, identifying with us in our human struggles, that made Jesus the perfect Savior.*

God needed to be “satisfied” or “propitiated” in Jesus bearing the sins of the world, and we needed *One in whom we could identify in our sufferings and temptations – and Jesus became just that. Notice the plural: sufferings, meaning not only his death. But He identifies with us in His earthly poverty, loneliness, youthful rejection by His own siblings, racial hatred, difficulty with spiritual authorities, exhaustion, persecution, physical abuse and on and on.*

### **Re: Cleansing (sanctifying) (vs. 11-13)**

*The phenomenal thought introduced here, is that Jesus by His perfection of person and perfect sacrifice for mankind, cleanses all to righteous perfection who believe in Him and His sacrifice. Both He and we have the same Heavenly Father, thus Jesus calls us brothers – amazing! The Hebrew author quotes two of many Old Testament passages that speak of the Messiah having many brothers, and the Father having many children. –*

*So, having now examined the “threshold” of the passage and the 3 key thoughts of the passage, let us now delve into some of the wonderful additional truths of the passage, time permitting. Or, we might say, having examined the forest, let us now examine some of the trees. The following is delicious spiritual “gravy” – but don’t allow the glorious details to cloud the critical 3 primary truths we have already discovered.*

### **THREE “DELICIOUS” DETAILS**

#### **1. “suffering of death crowned with glory and honor”**

This “death” is referring to Jesus’ *physical death* – the death that tasted “spiritual death” for everyone (the later “death” in the verse). This is the “deeper magic” referred to by C.S. Lewis in his classic book “The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe.” – “that when a willing victim *who had committed* no treachery was killed in a traitor’s stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backwards.” The sentence of spiritual death could be undone! “Crowned with glory and honor” borrows from the Psalm 8 description of man. But *this time it refers to the God-man’s death*. Yes, Jesus was ultimately crowned with glory and honor, but even his earthy sacrifice was an action that brought Him glory and honor.

#### **2. “by the grace of God”**

*Grace is receiving something that is totally underserved and unexpected. When it is something received from God, it is always “amazing grace.” When it is the grace of having the sentence of eternal separation from God removed by Jesus’ tasting that separation in our stead – it is “above and beyond all that we could ask or think” amazing grace!*

#### **3. “for it was fitting for Him”**

The “Him” here is referring to God the Father, not Jesus, for it goes on to speak of this “Him” as the one who “perfects the author of their salvation through sufferings.” The wonderful *thought is that this was “becoming to God,”* or it perfectly fits His person. Since it was God who created all things perfect for Himself, is “was fitting for Him” to not allow his glorious creation of man to go unperfected. *God, true to His own perfection, perfected the sacrifice of Jesus to perfect His creation of man. God will not be defeated! Remember this when you, his precious creation, feel as though you are defeated. God is your defender!*

### **CLOSING CHALLENGES**

- √ JESUS IS CAPTAIN (author & pioneer) OF OUR FAITH  
*Are you allowing Him to be your daily Captain?*
- √ JESUS TASTED DEATH SO WE WOULD NOT  
*Have you appropriated His sacrifice for you?*

- √ JESUS WAS QUALIFIED AS LEADER THROUGH SUFFERINGS  
*Are you allowing your sufferings to mature you in your faith?*
- √ JESUS CLEANSED US TO BE CO-LEADERS  
*Are you training for leadership in your service for Him?*