

## Hebrews Session 2

### Cycle 2: Hebrews 2:5-3:2

The logic of the argument

Jesus is higher than the angels and exalted but it was God's plan that He should be made low so that He may come for us (Abraham's offspring) and be exalted again together with them

- Jesus had to suffer so that as the Founder of salvation He is perfect
- Man lost this position & thus needs help in order to be restored to that. And in order for Jesus to do that, He had to come to humanity's position and lead them back to its glorious position.

The use of Psalm 8

*In breakouts: Read Psalm 8 itself. What is it about? Why does the writer include it in Hebrews here? What is he doing with this Psalm?*

Read Psalm 8 on its terms. What does it seem to naturally refer to? Man's position in God's creation; calling of man & his role in God's creation (GEN 1:26 - 28)

So how can the author of Hebrews apply it to Jesus?

- 1) Psalm 8 is how things should be. God over man over creation. Perfection.
- 2) But is that how things are now? No. Man is not properly ruling over creation.
- 3) Ah but look at Jesus. He is the one who fits this Psalm. He is the one who solves the puzzle. He is the second Adam, made lower than the angels, ruling over the winds and the waves and disease and all creation.



Jesus as the 'Founder'/'Pioneer'/'Author'/'*mhasisi*' of our salvation in 2:10

He is at the forefront, going where no-one has gone before, doing what has never been done before, blazing a trail for others to follow, going through suffering to glory, through the heavens to the most holy place ahead of us.

Made 'Perfection'

*What does the writer mean by saying that Jesus is made 'perfect'?*

- *vocational qualification*
- *or moral qualification*

*Given what we have learned about Jesus already in Hebrews, what can it not mean?*

Moral... character... position

Possible misunderstanding

- Jesus wasn't that perfect; He was imperfect, flawed

Peterson's proposal

- Vocational concept; prepared and enabled to do His high-priesthood job perfectly (v17-18)
- Be a genuine fully human high-priest plus being the sacrifice Himself – sacrifice must be blameless, faultless, tested, righteous.<sup>1</sup>
- The God of glory purposes and uses suffering for the sake of His glory

The use of Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8

Psalm 22

- Afflicted person crying out to be saved--- Jesus quote this on the cross
- Vs. 22 looks beyond affliction to the joy of telling of God's name to MY BROTHERS- He had to be like us to call us brothers

Isaiah 8

- Isaiah 8:11-18 – God speaking about God; the LORD who trusts in the LORD; the LORD who has a human family

What does the truth of Heb. 2:11 mean for you personally? That Jesus is not ashamed to call you his brother/sister? That your God and Saviour has become like you for you?

The necessity of the incarnation

*In Pairs: From vv.14-18, list at least four reasons why Jesus needed to become human? Why did Jesus come low in humanity, suffering and death?*

- Destroy power of the devil. How? Zech. 3
- Free people from slavery to fear of death. Why are Christians in our context afraid of death?
- High priest; offer propitiation
- High priest who can help those being tested
- Fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham

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<sup>1</sup> Why could Jesus not just arrive on earth on Good Friday morning? He had to be proven and tested; he had to weave a robe of righteousness that he would give to us.

Read Hebrews 3:1-2

- *How are we to respond?*
- *How practically could we use the teaching of this chapter to help someone who was a) fearing death; b) fearing demons; suffering? How could we point them to Christ?*