

## **Our Savior See's Us**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

#### **Introduction**

The chapter begins with a warning (vv.1-4); don't drift from the message of the Gospel; the message of truth; understand the message and obey the message of truth (v.2). The author then writes of the ministry of the Lord Jesus; his sovereign ministry as Creator of all people, Christ's care for all people; how Adam was placed in charge of God's creation; and how Jesus in his ministry of submission allowed Himself to be made a little lower than the angels for the purpose of dying so that man's rebellion and restoration could be made possible. The writer speaks of Christ's sanctifying ministry (vv.11-13); that is God's power to make the Saint holy; but now will include Christ's ministry of subduing the power of Satan who once held the power of death (vv.14-15). Jesus having once suffered is now able to help those who suffer; demonstrating that Jesus has ultimate sympathy (vv.16-18).

Remember the theme of Hebrews; Jesus is better; better in His person; better in His message; better than the angels. Don't drift from the Word of God; don't doubt the Word of God (chapter 3:1-4:13); don't grow apathetic and indifferent to the gospel and the Word of God (5:11-6:20).

The writer of the book of Hebrews knows that some people will wonder; "how can Jesus be better than the angels if he had a physical, temporal body? The writer's response—Jesus has been given a body; a human body to accomplish His plan of sacrifice, salvation and redemption. Jesus the last Adam (vv. 5-13); and the ministry of Jesus defeats the devil (vv.14-16). The author argues that Christ also was given a body so that Jesus might be our sympathetic priest.

The writer of Hebrews knows people fear death. "Death and the fear of death were the consequences of Adam's sin (Gen. 2:17; p.310)" (Wiersbe's Outlines of the New Testament; p. 680).

In our last study the writer wrote; "but we see Jesus" (v.9). Now we also understand that Jesus sees us. He knows our circumstances. He sympathizes with our condition.

Someone once described sympathy as your pain in my heart. The poet Alexander Pope wrote;

Teach me to feel another's woe,  
To hide the fault I see;  
That mercy I to others show,  
That mercy show to me.

We know Jesus sees us. But what does He see? And how does He feel? Judgment? Condemnation? Loathing? Or something a little more tame—disappointment? When we discover that Jesus loves us and wants to exercise mercy; that sympathy and compassion and patience marks our Savior's heart—our hearts are filled with hope.

Jesus provides (1) emancipation from the power of Satan. (2) Liberation from the fear of death. (3) Expiation (forgiveness, cleansing, washing) from sin. (4) Aid in temptation!

#### **The Lord Jesus: Our Great Deliverer (vv.14-16)**

*Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV) 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

## **Our Savior See's Us**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

We are human. “. . .have partaken of flesh and blood” Jesus has “likewise shared in the same” that is became human. We share a common human nature.

Those who think the humanity of Jesus is a source of shame are asked to think again. The fact that Jesus could become human means the ultimate destruction of Satan. Jesus is not ashamed to identify with the hurt, the lost, the miserable, the unworthy, the helpless, the hopeless, the soiled sinner. Jesus will die for sinners; endure the Cross, despise the shame.

The author argues the superiority of Jesus. Does the fact that Jesus becomes human and remains human diminish His superior office, Word, ministry and claims? The author argues—no this is what makes Jesus our deliverer possible. Jesus does this by doing five things;

1. Jesus voluntarily takes on human flesh; willingly becomes a human being (v.14a).
2. Jesus voluntarily agrees to die for us (v.14b) “that through death”.
3. Jesus destroys the power of Satan over sin and death (14c).
4. Jesus delivers men and women from the fear of death (v.15).
5. Jesus has delivered us from the bondage of the flesh (v.16).

Satan still retains power; he can oppose God and the purposes of God; but Satan has received a death blow; a mortal wound at the Cross. “His time is short and his doom is sure. He is a defeated foe” (MacDonald p. 2163).

In what way does Satan have the power of death? Some suggest in the sense of demanding death. It was through Satan that sin found entry into our universe; and God's holiness rightly insisted that the soul that sins shall surely die.

Can Satan inflict death on a believer without the permission of God? The book Job suggests the answer is no (Job 2:6). Even in the New Testament Jesus tells Peter that Satan has asked for him, to sift him like wheat. But Jesus warned his disciples not to fear the person who could destroy the body, but rather fear God who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Matt.10:28).

*15and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

In His humanity Jesus triumphs over Satan's power and human weakness. We are liberated from fear. Before the Cross men lived in constant fear of dying.

Woody Allen said, “I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying.”

In ancient times the fear of death fills the literature. Catullus; “When once our brief light sets, there is one perpetual night through which we must sleep.” Aschylus refused to entertain the notion of a resurrection; “Once a man dies there is no resurrection.”

## **Our Savior See's Us**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

Charles Kingsley offers Biblical hope; "It is not darkness you are going to, for God is Light. It is not lonely, for Christ is with you. It is not unknown country, for Christ is there."

But for some—even Christians—the fear remains. Francis Bacon said, "Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark."

The Bible does not sugar coat death or deny death but describes the inevitable destruction of death in the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is why Paul writes; "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor.15:55). Paul writes, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor.15:26).

Paul rightly wrote, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Tim.6:7).

Paul in what some Bible teachers consider his final words (2 Timothy) writes; ". . .it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (1:10-11).

What was once murky, dark, hidden has become light!

The Lord has placed within human beings a survival mechanism. We are hard wired to live.

What are the aspects of death that can potentially cause fear? Human beings are afraid of the unknown. We are afraid to lose control. What does death 'feel' like? In life we can sometimes manipulate our surroundings or the people in our environment. But what about death? Jesus told Peter that as a young man he could put on his clothes, take off his clothes, walk or not walk where he wants; but as an older man someone else would cloth him, someone else would take him to a place not of his choosing (John 21:18). Before Peter received this warning he denied Jesus out of fear; when he received the warning he asked Jesus how John was going to die. In effect Jesus said, that's none of your business. When Jesus ascended into Heaven Peter preached the message of the Gospel (Acts 5:17-42).

We might fear for those we leave behind. We might fear the act of dying itself. Some people believe they can't die or won't die because they have too much to live for.

How does Jesus help release us from some of those fears surrounding death? We love our family; but Jesus loves them more! In First John we are told (2:15-17); "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever." Stay in the Word, believe what it says about this world and the next world.

## **Our Savior See's Us** **Hebrews 2:14-18**

*16For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.*

Let's look at our pile of blessings. Emancipation from the power of Satan. Liberation from the fear of death. And now an expiation of sin! The expression "but He does give aid to" translates the Greek work *epilambano* (to lay hold to take hold).

Jesus does not have an angelic nature (sorry JW'S). The seed of Abraham most likely means the spiritual seed of Abraham (both Jew and Gentile).

Jesus does not save Angels from their sin; but rather human beings from their sin. God becomes a man to pay man's debt!

### **The Lord Jesus: Our Great High Priest (vv.17-18)**

*Hebrews 2:17–18 (NKJV) 17Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

Since Jesus saves humans from their sins; it was necessary that Jesus be human in every respect (save sin).

What does this mean? Jesus was human in every way. Human thoughts, feelings, desires, emotions affections.

The major function of the High Priest was to offer a propitiation for sins. To make propitiation means to make satisfaction. The Greek term is *hilasmos*—"to render favor, to satisfy, to appease."

In order to understand even the concept of 'to make satisfaction' we must understand the nature of man's sin and its injury. How could the Holy Sovereign Righteous God maintain both His Holiness and exercise mercy and grace towards sinful human beings? The problem is gloriously resolved in the death of Jesus.

1 John 2:2; "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world". "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

To accomplish this satisfaction Jesus does what could never be done in the Old Testament and could never have been accomplished by any Jewish High Priest. He will be the Sacrifice. Jesus our willing, sinless, sacrifice. Why do we need a sacrifice? Because of God's wrath. What is God's wrath? It is that powerful—stern—reaction of the Divine nature to both evil and sin (in human beings).

## **Our Savior See's Us**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

The Psalmist anticipated this; “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other” (Psalm 85:10).

Jesus is merciful, faithful, sympathetic. Merciful towards us; faithful towards God.

*18For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

What does Jesus provide? Help for the tempted.

Let's review: Jesus provides (1) emancipation from the power of Satan. (2) Liberation from the fear of death. (3) Expiation (forgiveness, cleansing, washing) from sin. (4) Aid in temptation!

Jesus knows what it means to suffer. Jesus also knows what it means to be tried, tested, tempted.

In what way was Jesus tempted or tested?

The temptations of Jesus are recorded in Matthew 4:1-11. The first temptation related to His person. The second to His work. The third to Christ's trust in God.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus will demonstrate His power to confront and defeat Satan with the Word of God. Briefly Matthew 4:1-11 describes three temptations or tests. In the first Satan appeals to the body or the desires of the flesh; Jesus is hungry and Satan suggests that Jesus turn stones into bread. The temptation is not hunger; but rather—why would God allow Jesus to go hungry. Satan wants us to think that God is cheating us; is unfair or unkind; that he doesn't really love us; if he really loved us he would take care of us. For Jesus to use His divine powers apart from the will of God would be defeat. Jesus did what pleased the Father (John 8:29). Jesus meets the temptation by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The Lord will test us in the ordinary activities of life. Jesus lived under the authority of the Word of God and so we also are invited to live under the authority of the Word of God.

The second temptation (vv.5-7) was meant to prove the faithfulness of God. Satan suggests that since Jesus believed in the Word of God; then why not prove one of God's promises? Satan then quotes—or rather misquotes—Psalm 91:11-12; “If you really believe in God's care, then throw yourself off the temple and let angels catch you!” Once again Jesus answers from the book of Deuteronomy 6:16; Satan left out one important part of the passage; “in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11). God keeps His promises when we keep His ways! Jesus says we should live by every Word of God—but Satan adds to the that Word or subtracts from the Word.

Satan is an expert at foolishly twisting the Scripture—bending—distorting—denying the Bible.

## **Our Savior See's Us**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

Wiersbe: “He can twist the Bible and give carnal Christians biblical reasons to support their foolish actions. Beware of taking promises out of their context, or claiming promises when you have not met the conditions. To do something without the Bible’s authority is to sin, “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom. 14:23). This is to tempt God—to ‘dare Him’ to intervene and rescue us when we are in trouble. Deliberate disobedience is an invitation for chastening” (see Wiersbe’s Outlines of the New Testament; p.22).

In the third temptation (vv.8-10); Satan offers Jesus a short cut or easy way to wear the Crown as King. Satan seems to possess a certain amount of authority over this world and the kingdoms of this world. Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of this world without a crown of thorns or the cross of calvary. Satan was tempting Jesus to avoid the Cross; to simply bow down and worship Satan. Once again Jesus defeats Satan by the Word of God. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13; we shall serve God only. But whatever we worship—is our god—If a person lives for pleasure, or self, or money, or sports, you will obey what you love and what you long for. If we worship God, and live for God, and obey God—we cannot worship or obey or live for those other things.

My Grandma was right. She said, “Temptations are like bums. Treat one nice and he’ll return with his friends.”

In a poll taken by Leadership magazine five hundred pastors were asked, “What is your greatest temptation?” The number one temptation was illicit sex, and the second was the temptation to quit the ministry.”

One day—I suspect soon—Satan will hand over the kingdoms of this world—to the Antichrist (Rev. 13); but Jesus will come and take these kingdoms—by force (Rev. 19). Jesus will return and set up His own Kingdom for a thousand years.

### **Conclusion**

To the writer of Hebrews Jesus is our Victor and Satan a defeated foe. We can rightly look to Jesus for help, strength and encouragement.

William Newell:

“Satan has no power, no rights over you. None! He may hinder you; he may oppose you—he did and does oppose all testimony in Christ’s Name. But God has reckoned to you the full value of Christ’s whole work; and neither guilt, nor bondage, nor fear belongs to you at all! You are in Christ, and are as Christ in God’s reckoning! “The sting of death is sin,” but Christ bore the sin, and put it away. “The power of sin is the law,” but those in Christ died unto the law that they might live unto God (Gal.2:19). And you are in a Risen Christ, Who is all in all to you: “Righteousness, sanctification, and redemption”! If therefore, you are not as free from the devil’s bondage of fear as Christ is, it is either from ignorance of Christ’s work, or lack of reliance thereon!” (see Newell’s Commentary on Hebrews; p.65).

**Our Savior See's Us**  
**Hebrews 2:14-18**