

So that we see our passage for today in context, I want to remind you that the author has just showed us that Psalm 8 showed the honor and glory bestowed to man. Yet, the only man who lived up to the fullness of the description was Jesus. Verse 9 tells us that Jesus was made a little lower than the angels for a time. He took on a human body and entered His own creation. Because He bore our sins and suffered death for us, He was crowned with glory and honor. He was exalted again to the right hand of God from which He came (Hebrews 1:3). He tasted death for us, which is to say He experienced death on our behalf.

With that in mind, we continue with verse 10. *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.* Hebrews 2:10 The suffering referred to is the crucifixion. Verse 9 makes that clear. The first thing we should note is that this fitting action is done by God. God did something with Jesus in the process of bringing many sons to glory. Of course this includes women as well. Psalm 8 uses the term "man" to refer to mankind, but in keeping with the masculine there, the translators use "sons" here, but it could also be translated "children." These many sons and daughters of God are brought to glory through what was done to Jesus. The glory that God originally crowned us with, man lost through submitting to Satan's temptation. We only really see that glory expressed in Jesus who is restoring it to us again through this fitting, or appropriate, act of God (Psalm 8:5).

Now the translation gets a little trickier because there are multiple translations for the words "founder" and "perfect." **Founder has been translated as author, hero, pioneer, captain, and trailblazer.** He is all these things in regards to our salvation, to bringing us as sons and daughters to glory. You'll recall that I told you there are many nautical illustrations in this book. If we stick with that idea, we can use the illustration of a ship that has run aground on a reef. The book of Acts describes a similar situation (Acts 17:41). The waves are beating on the back of the boat and tearing it apart. The reef may have sharp coral. Many aboard may not be able to survive the surf, or even know how to swim. The most able bodied man must find a route and take a rope ashore and fasten it to a rock or tree so that others can cling to it for safety. He is the trailblazer, the hero who risks all to save others.

The ship of mankind crashed into a reef when man rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24). Our ship has been being beaten apart ever since. None of us has the ability to make it to shore. Many have tried. Many have drowned. We need a hero. We need *El Gabor*, the mighty God of Isaiah 9:6. The Son that was given to us in Isaiah's prophetic passage is Jesus. Here is the mystery of the Trinity. Hebrews 1:2 says it was through Jesus the universe was made. This verse it telling us that God is the one through whom all things came. Is the author contradicting himself? No! He understands they are separate persons and yet one in nature. God made all things through Jesus.

**Commented [PW1]: Hebrews 2:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> 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.

**Commented [PW2]: Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Commented [PW3]: Psalm 8:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

**Commented [PW4]: Acts 27:41 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

**Commented [PW5]: Genesis 3:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Commented [PW6]: Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Commented [PW7]: Hebrews 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

The hero swims through the waves and coral and securely fixes the rope making a way to save all aboard. Jesus' heroic rescue effort came through the cross of suffering, where He took upon Himself the sins of mankind and through death, He blazed a trail for us to heaven. The rope He secured is available by believing He is Lord, believing what He accomplished, and knowing He has been raised from death and is alive forevermore (Romans 10:9-10). The disciples watched Him go under in a wave of death, and indeed He did die. But God raised Him up, and He climbed out the ocean of death and onto the shore of eternity as a resurrected hero who secured our salvation.

In the use of the word "perfected," the author does not intend to tell us something was added or subtracted from Jesus' moral character, for he has already told us that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of His nature (Hebrews 1:2). The word "perfect" can also be translated accomplish, fulfill, complete, mature, or finish. It is a form of the last words of Jesus on the cross, "It is finished." John 19:30 So we must ask ourselves, if Jesus was always sinless and always did the will of the Father, how are we to translate "made perfect through suffering"? One idea from the Amplified Bible is that He was made our perfect High Priest as He can understand the suffering we experience. That is true, but it is not the present subject. It will be the case at the end of the chapter. The author is talking about bringing us to glory. Could it be that a better translation is that we are brought to glory through the completed sufferings of Jesus? Or we could say we are brought to glory through the sufferings Jesus accomplished.

Kent Hughes translates it that Jesus is made *the perfect pioneer of salvation*.<sup>11</sup> In other words, there was no other way (Matthew 26:39). Jesus became a man. He took our sins upon Himself and died the death our sins deserved. He suffered the full punishment we all deserve. His suffering - as a man - made Him our perfect hero. He completed His mission. He secured the rope. He accomplished what we could not do so that He might restore many to the glory God intended for mankind.

<sup>11</sup> *For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers*, Hebrews 2:11 If we are sons, then we are brothers of the Son. John 1:12 tells us that if we receive Jesus and believe on His name (the salvation of God), God gives us the right to be sons of God. If we are sons, and Jesus is the Son of God, then we are Jesus' brothers. Take that in. How are you representing your family? We know who we are in our thought life. We know how we often fail to do what we know we should. We know we could and should be more seriously focused on the Word and God's will for our lives. Yet, the perfect Son of God who is the radiance of God's glory, before whom every knee will bow is not ashamed to call us brothers. We see that in the quote from Psalm 22:22 as well as Romans 8:29. After the resurrection, both Matthew 28:10 and John 20:17 tell us that Jesus referred to the disciples as brothers. Why then? It's because the Captain of their salvation had sanctified them through His atoning death on the cross and He was raised for their justification. Then they were fully children of God, with their elder brother Jesus.

**Commented [PW8]: Romans 10:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Commented [PW9]: Hughes, Kent, Hebrews Vol 1, pg 65**

**Commented [PW10]: Matthew 26:39 (ESV)**

<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

**Commented [PW11]: John 1:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

**Commented [PW12]: Psalm 22:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

**Commented [PW13]: Romans 8:29 (ESV)**

<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**Commented [PW14]: Matthew 28:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**Commented [PW15]: John 20:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Some of you may be ashamed of your brother or sister, or perhaps you are proud of him or her. What do you think of Jesus calling you His brother? It breaks me. That much love, that much grace and mercy should overwhelm us. My brother is Jesus! Your brother is Jesus! He is not ashamed to call you His brother or sister for God has sanctified you and is in the process of bringing you to glory (1 John 3:2). Are you cooperating? One commentator asks if Jesus says that with a sense of reluctance, but he answers, "On the contrary, He calls them brothers with all his heart, with the fervor of love, with the eloquence of earnest conviction."<sup>11</sup>

**Commented [PW16]: 1 John 3:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

**Commented [PW17]:** A.B. Bruce, *Epistle to the Hebrews*, p. 16

For these Hebrew believers in Jesus who were facing persecution, this must have hit them hard. If they were considering hiding their faith in Jesus to avoid the tide of persecution, they may have been somewhat ashamed of serving a crucified Lord (1 Corinthians 1:23). But Jesus still rejoiced to call them brothers. When we are tempted to not say anything about our faith in Jesus, when others in our presence slander Christians or mock our faith, remember, Jesus is not ashamed to consider you family. Are you willing to be identified with Him (Mark 8:38)?

**Commented [PW18]: 1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

**Commented [PW19]: Mark 8:38 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

We are of the same source! We both descended from Adam, but by Jesus perfect accomplishment on the cross we are sanctified, set apart for God's purposes, if we will receive it (Romans 6:23). His source and our source is the Father. Jesus did nothing on His own. He always looked to the Father (John 5:30).

**Commented [PW20]: Romans 6:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Commented [PW21]: John 5:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>12</sup> saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." Hebrews 2:12-13 Was it too big a stretch of your faith to believe that Jesus calls us brothers? The author gives His proof texts to verify His claim, Psalm 22:22 and Isaiah 8:18. Psalm 22 is a messianic psalm that tells of the crucifixion a thousand years before it came to pass. The early church understood the speaker in Psalm 22 to be Jesus. He reveals the heart of the Father to the church. He leads us in worshiping the Father, singing along with us in our worship songs! If we could always picture that, how wholehearted would our singing be?

Isaiah 8:18 is one of the many passages with a double meaning. Isaiah was speaking of His sons, but the passage is also about the stone that causes men to stumble, referring to a crucified Messiah (Isaiah 8:13-15; 1 Peter 2:8). This was surely one of the many passages that Jesus explained to His disciples after the resurrection (Luke 24:44).

**Commented [PW22]: Isaiah 8:13-15 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

<sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."

<sup>14</sup> 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,<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15 The author is still explaining what was accomplished by Jesus' suffering. While the Jewish and Roman cultures thought it was ridiculous to worship a crucified Messiah, the author is reminding them of all that is gained by the crucifixion. He has told them that by it we are being brought to glory and made sons and daughters of God. It is by the crucifixion we are sanctified. We have a new source, Almighty God. Now the author tells them that since we experience life in

**Commented [PW23]: 1 Peter 2:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

**Commented [PW24]: Luke 24:44 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

this fallen world in flesh and blood bodies, Jesus partook of the same things. He was cold, hungry, tempted, betrayed, rejected, and suffered. **He became a man to restore what man lost in the Garden.** As a man, a sinless man, He took back dominion over the created world. He took the keys of death and hell. While the devil still influences this world, his days are numbered (Revelation 20:10). He no longer has a right to the souls who place their trust in Jesus.

Believer and non-believer alike have a fear of the pain of death and the separation from those they love. But the believer is liberated from fear of giving an account of himself to God, for we know our sins are covered by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Though many would deny it, most people fear a final judgment or at the very least the end of their existence. Every deathbed I have visited clung to some kind of faith. There are accounts of those who have declared in life that there is nothing after death, and yet those who were with them when they died tell another story. The contrast of the death of the believer and that of a non-believer is usually evident. Quite often, elderly believers long to leave this world and be with their heavenly Father (Philippians 1:23). They know many of their loved ones are there. They know their reward awaits them (Luke 6:35). They long to see Jesus face to face. They are certainly liberated from the slavery of the fear of death.

*<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.  
<sup>17</sup> 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.* Hebrews 2:16-17 The Apostle Paul explained that the spiritual children of Abraham are those who like Abraham are accounted righteous because of their faith. Abraham believed God. Those since the time of Jesus' death on the cross believe by faith in what He did for them are also children of Abraham, the father of faith (Romans 4:23-25). Jesus died for people who would come to faith, not for angels. That is the great help we needed.

In the incarnation Jesus was made like us in every respect. He grew and matured in body, mind, and emotions just like any human. At the same time He was fully God. We do not know exactly at what point He realized that He was one with the Father, but in the Gospel of John He said that He only does what He sees the Father doing (John 5:19). By experiencing life just as you and I have, He understands all that we go through. I believe He understands discouragement (Luke 22:28). When the crowds abandoned Him, He asked the disciples if they were going to leave Him too (John 6:66-67). If He could sleep in a rocking boat during a storm, He knew what it was to be dead tired (Mark 4:37-39). In every respect He was like us, but He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). That makes Him the perfect High Priest, merciful and faithful (Hebrews 5:2).

In service to God, Jesus makes merciful reconciliation between us sinful people and God. He was faithful to fulfill the will of God in bearing our sins. He is at the right hand of God faithfully interceding for us with the compassion that comes from being like us in

**Commented [PW25]: Revelation 20:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Commented [PW26]: Philippians 1:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

**Commented [PW27]: Luke 6:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

**Commented [PW28]: Romans 4:23-25 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone,  
<sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,  
<sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

**Commented [PW29]: John 5:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

**Commented [PW30]: Luke 22:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials,

**Commented [PW31]: John 6:66-67 (ESV)**

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.  
<sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

**Commented [PW32]: Mark 4:37-39 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.  
<sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"  
<sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

**Commented [PW33]: Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> 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.

**Commented [PW34]: Hebrews 5:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

every respect. Our accuser says we sin and deserved death. Jesus says our debt was paid by Him. The accuser might say that we kept on sinning. Jesus knows perfectly well the difficulties we face, and He declares all our sin debt is paid in full. That shouldn't make us want to sin more, but rather out of love to strive to walk in the Spirit in obedience to God (1 John 1:7).

Under the Jewish law, to which these Christians were thinking of returning, there was no propitiation for willful sin (Deuteronomy 17:12). The High Priest, though he was fully human, was often without mercy. Recall the woman caught in adultery (John 8:5), or Jesus before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:65). It was simply sin and punishment prescribed in the Law. The author is hinting at what they would be giving up and what they would be returning to. Was it really worth it? What they have in Christ is so much more than the price they would pay in being persecuted. Even death was not worth giving up all they had gained in Christ!

*<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.* Hebrews 2:18 Did you notice in this verse that temptation is linked to suffering? Jesus suffered when He was tempted. There is a spiritual battle that takes place. It can be emotionally painful. It sometimes involves physical pain. Jesus knew the cross was going to be excruciatingly painful. There was certainly a temptation to avoid it, but Jesus never gave in. These Christians were considering avoiding suffering too. That was their temptation (Romans 8:17).

The author is telling them and us that whatever temptation we are facing, Jesus has faced it and came through sinless. Who are you going to go to for advice? The believers in Iran are encouraged to always go directly to Jesus and the Word for answers. That is one reason they mature so rapidly. Of course they do it for security reasons and because of the constant threat. They have discovered that by going directly to Jesus the new believers quickly mature. I think we need more of that. I can hold your hand and tell you how the Lord helped me with a temptation, and I'm glad to, but you need to go to the One who never failed. He has better advice than mine. He'll tell you exactly how to face trials in His strength and come out victorious in spite of any suffering. He has gone before us, showing us the way, pioneering a path. He is our Mighty God, our hero, who has secured a way for our sanctification. And He's not ashamed to call us brothers. Tell the person next to you, "My brother is a hero!" He mercifully reconciles us to God. He is restoring us to the glory God intended for man before the fall. Our response should be heartfelt gratitude. It should result in a life wholly dedicated to His glory.

Questions:

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| 1 What is the context?                            | 6 Why did Jesus become a man?                  |
| 2 What is the nautical picture in verse 10?       | 7 What is slavery to the fear of death?        |
| 3 How are we to understand verse 10?              | 8 Why was Jesus made like us in every respect? |
| 4 How do you feel when Jesus calls you "brother"? | 9 Define propitiation.                         |
| 5 Which verses call us brothers?                  | 10 Where can we go for help when tempted?      |

**Commented [PW35]: 1 John 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Commented [PW36]: Deuteronomy 17:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

**Commented [PW37]: John 8:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

**Commented [PW38]: Matthew 26:65 (ESV)**

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

**Commented [PW39]: Romans 8:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.