

Sunday, December 7, 2025—Hebrews 2:9-11 The Captain of Salvation

Hebrews 2:9

- **But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**
- Verses 6-8 just quoted Psalm 8:4-6 describing mankind’s intended rule over creation, but then said in verse 8: “we see not yet all things put under him.” Humanity has not achieved that glorious destiny because of sin and death. But now we see Someone who has.
 - Note the editorial comment at the end of Hebrews 2:11.
- **But we see Jesus**—note the contrast between humanity in general in verse 8 and Jesus Christ in verse 9. Where humanity failed, Jesus succeeded as the perfect representative human. He fulfilled what Psalm 8 was foretelling.
- **who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death**—this refers to Jesus’ incarnation—His becoming human. Being “lower than the angels” doesn’t mean lesser in nature, but in status, taking on mortality and weakness.
 - Matthew 1:23
 - Galatians 4:4
 - Philippians 2:7-9
 - Purpose: “for the suffering of death.”
 - This tells us indirectly that angels can’t die. They are immortal beings.
- **crowned with glory and honour**— After His suffering and death came exaltation. His resurrection and ascension are the “crowning.”
 - Philippians 2:9-11
- This fulfills Psalm 8’s picture of the crowned Son of Man.
- **that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man**— “Taste death” means fully experience death. He dies as a substitute, not for His own sins.
 - “For every man” means His death is sufficient and intended for all humanity (not just Israel, not just angels, not just a select few)

- This shows:
 - His death is unearned mercy — “by the grace of God.”
 - His death is universal in provision — “for every man.”
- The Message of the Verse—humanity was meant to rule over God’s creation. Sin made this impossible. Jesus becomes the true man, enters our weakness, and by dying enters into glory. Now He has the authority humans lost—and He shares it with us (Heb. 2:10).

Hebrews 2:10

- **For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**
- Hebrews 2:10 explains why Jesus had to suffer—not because of weakness, but because suffering was fitting for God’s saving plan.
- **For it became him**— means it was fitting, appropriate, worthy of God’s character. God’s plan of salvation is not random—it reflects who God is: holy, loving, and wise.
- So, verse 10 answers the following question, “Why would a perfect God save through suffering?” Because that method perfectly displays His goodness, justice, and mercy.
- **for whom are all things, and by whom are all things**—this describes God as: the purpose of creation (“for whom are all things”) the Creator and sustainer of creation (“by whom are all things”).
 - Hebrews 1:10-12—we have already seen the author of Hebrews talk about this topic in more detail in Chapter 1.
 - Colossians 1:15-19
- Salvation is not just about helping sinners—it fulfills God’s purpose for creation.
- **in bringing many sons unto glory**—this shows God’s goal: not to save only one Son, but to bring many sons (many redeemed people) into glory.
- “Glory” here refers to: restored honor and dominion humanity lost (Psalm 8) and sharing Christ’s rule.
 - Matthew 19:28

- II Timothy 2:12
- Christ doesn't just save sinners from hell; He restores them to reign with Him. To fulfill the original purpose behind the creation of mankind in Genesis 1:26-28.
- **to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings**—the key word in this final clause of verse 10 is the word “captain.” The word translated “captain” (an adjective) occurs 4 times in 4 verses in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. The word means “a chief leader:—author, captain, prince.” i.e., “one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.” ([BLB](#))
 - Acts 3:15—“Prince”
 - Acts 5:31—“Prince”
 - Hebrews 2:10—“Captain” (“Chief; valiant” Noah Webster *American Dictionary*)
 - Hebrews 12:2—“author”
- So, Christ was the leader, pioneer, or trailblazer. It describes Jesus as: the One who goes ahead of us to open the path to glory.
- “Perfect through sufferings” does not mean Jesus was morally imperfect. It means: His suffering completed His mission. He became the fully qualified Savior, because only a suffering Redeemer could:
 - truly represent us
 - die for us
 - sympathize with us (Heb. 2:18; 4:15)

Phrase	Meaning
It became him	Salvation through suffering fits God's character
For whom & by whom	God's purpose governs creation and salvation
Bringing many sons to glory	Salvation is restoration to God's original purpose
Captain of salvation	Jesus leads humanity to glory
Perfect through sufferings	Suffering qualified Him as Redeemer

- God's plan was to restore humanity to glory, so Jesus became their suffering leader who blazed the trail to salvation.

Hebrews 2:11

- **For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,**
- This verse continues the thought of verse 10—that Jesus, through suffering, brings “many sons unto glory.” Verse 11 explains how Jesus is able to treat believers as family.
- **For both he that sanctifieth**—Christ in the context. To sanctify means to set apart as holy for God, especially through His sacrifice (cf. Heb. 10:10, 14). Jesus is the One who purifies, dedicates, and qualifies people to belong to God.
- **they who are sanctified**—believers in the context. They are not sanctifying themselves—they **receive** sanctification through Christ. This means our holiness and acceptance before God are **not earned**, but given.
- **are all of one**—we share a common identity in God’s family. Jesus joined humanity to share our nature (v. 14). Believers share His sanctified status and destiny.
- It does not mean Jesus is a created being; it means the incarnation made Him truly human. He united Himself to us so we could be united to Him. So that Christ becomes one with us so that we can become one with Him.
- **for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren**—because Jesus shares our humanity and gives us His holiness:
 - He is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.
 - He publicly identifies with us.
 - He fully accepts us into His family.
- We often feel ashamed of ourselves—but He is not ashamed of those He has sanctified.
- In essence, because Jesus became human and made us holy, He proudly calls us His brothers and sisters.