

Jesus: Our Great High Priest Forever
Hebrews 2:5-10
(Week 4)
“The Pioneer of Salvation”

Introduction

Many churches throughout this world are dying. This is a tragic reality of this modern age. The question that we should be asking ourselves is, why? The foundation of The Church is, and forever shall be, The Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 16:18**; **Luke 20:17-18**). Unfortunately, many so-called “pastors” today have forgotten this fact. They have substituted the teaching of “morality” for the teaching of Christ. Don’t get me wrong, I am in absolute agreement that those who call themselves “Christian” should live good moral lives and abstain from sin. However, if that is all that we teach and neglect that it is only through Jesus and His power that we actually can live a life apart from sinfulness, then, my friends, we have missed the point of preaching entirely! Apart from Christ it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to just go out there and “be good”, for *The Bible* has plainly told us that “There is no one who is good, not even one.” (**Romans 3:10-11**). We MUST preach Jesus, if we are to have any hope to be a thriving and holy church. Sadly in many churches, Sunday after Sunday goes by with hardly even the mention of His Holy Name. Is it any wonder then, that many churches are falling apart? You cannot build a “house” without a foundation (**Matthew 7:24-27**).

The Book of Hebrews was written to remind us that Jesus should be everything to the believer. He is greater than all of the prophets and messengers of God. He is greater than all the priests who came before Him, and He is even greater than the angels of Heaven. He is the only way to God, and if we want to be saved, then we must remain completely anchored in Him. *The Book of Hebrews* is about Jesus, and Him alone. It isn’t a message of self-improving humanistic moralism, but rather, it is a message of everlasting hope and restoration found in a person, and His name is... Jesus, The Only Begotten Son of God. He humbled Himself and became a man, even lower than the angels, and being found as a man, He paid the penalty for our sin once and for all and returned to His former glory to be seated at the right hand of God The Father (**Hebrews 1:3-4**). The writer of *Hebrews* wanted his readers to fully comprehend not only who Jesus is, but to be able to fully grasp all that He has done for us. Jesus, in order to provide a “perfect” salvation for mankind, needed to humble Himself and become one of us. He came and made His dwelling among men and suffered as we suffer, then died in order that we would never have to experience what *The Bible* calls “The Second Death”, which is total separation from God in a place of everlasting fire and judgement called Hell (**Revelation 21:8**). But, what many Christians do NOT understand is that Jesus has saved us for so much more!

You see, when Jesus took our place on Calvary’s cross, it was not only to save us “from” something, but it was also to prepare the way to restore us “to something”. We have a destiny that has always been God The Father’s plan for us, but sadly, that destiny was lost to us after the first man, Adam, sinned in the garden of Eden. When sin came into the world, not only did Adam lose his innocence, but He lost his God-given privileges as well. Jesus became a man, and lived a life without sin. He suffered and died and rose again, so that those privileges will one day be fully restored! So you see, Jesus’ atoning death accomplished much more than just saving us from Hell and allowing us to spend an eternity with God in the presence of the angels in Heaven. It also restored for us our “destiny”. He came to be our “pioneer” of salvation, to lead us back to the land of our “paradise lost”. Only by following Him will we ever be able to find our way back to what God always intended for us. God’s desire for Adam was that he have “dominion” over the earth, but Adam lost that incredible privilege, and in so doing, lost it for all of us as well. Jesus came to restore all that Adam had lost for us. The story of Mankind in the scriptures is a story of Privileges Revealed, Privileges Rescinded, and Privileges Restored. The writer of *Hebrews* wants us to understand that it is Jesus who gave us those privileges, and Jesus who got them back for us, when they were lost after the fall of man. Jesus is our “Pioneer of Salvation”, who has forever blazed the trail back to our “Paradise Lost”!

Privileges Revealed (vs. 5-8)

"It is not to angels that He has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking." **Hebrews 2:5**

Have you ever wondered what exactly you were made to do? You might answer, "We were made in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26**) for the express purpose of bringing glory to God", and you would be correct. But, that is not exactly what I am talking about. What I mean is, what were we originally intended to "do" that we would glorify God with our existence. The writer of *Hebrews* actually poses this question with a direct quote from Septuagint translation of **Psalms 8**:

"But there is a place where someone has testified: 'What is mankind that You are mindful of them, a son of man that You care for him? You have made them a little lower than the angels; You crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of Your hands; You put everything under their feet.'" **Psalms 8:4-6**

Now first off, understand that the writer of *Hebrews* knew EXACTLY who said this, it was King David. And every Jewish reader would have known as well. The reason that He says, "There is a place where SOMEONE has testified" is the same reason that he doesn't sign his own name to this Book. The writer of *Hebrews* wants his every reader to understand that it is God, and God alone, who inspires the scriptures. Therefore, whoever actually wrote them down is irrelevant. Their message is from God.

In **Psalms 8**, David is actually pondering why God would even consider man of any value whatsoever. After all, He is less than the angels, and yet, God has intended for His to have a great honor. And just what is that honor? To have dominion over the earth, this is what he means when he says, "You crowned them (mankind) with glory and honor and put EVERYTHING under their feet." (**Psalms 8:6**). You see, when God created Adam, His intent was that mankind would have dominion over all the earth and everything in it :

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image (the trinity), in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'" **Genesis 1:26**

God created Adam with the full intent of letting him "rule the world", as is were. It was the destiny of mankind, even though he was flesh and blood, to have dominion over the earth. Not the angelic host mind you, but lowly MAN was given this awesome privilege! Why Adam even got to NAME the creatures of the world (**Genesis 2:20**). You don't get to "name" things unless you have been given authority over them! If you don't believe me, just stroll down to the maternity ward of your local hospital and try to "name" someone else's kid! Why, they'd put you in a padded room and give you a nice jacket without sleeves! You only get to name things that you have been given stewardship over. Go out and try to change the name of the street that you live on without the proper civil authority and see how far you get. Adam named the creatures, because God placed them under his authority. It was an awesome privilege! Just imagine what it would be like to have all the creatures of earth answer to you personally. Now I am a deer hunter, so at this moment I am trying to imagine exactly what my "trophy room" would look like! But I digress!

Now if this was God's intended destiny for man, then why is it that we do not currently possess this kind of privilege anymore? Because Adam lost it for us, that's why. Just because we were created to have this authority, doesn't mean that we could never lose it. God created man with some incredible privileges. Privileges that were carelessly discarded, and for what? A tempting piece of fruit! Isn't it amazing what a person will throw away to get something that they really don't need? Now we can laugh and make fun of old Adam all we like, for his ridiculous bargain with the devil, but what about all the

marriages and families destroyed because of alcoholism, drugs, and pornography? Just got a little more serious in here didn't it? You see, there is no small number of people who will throw away the awesome blessings and privileges that they have been afforded, in order to have something that will ultimately destroy them! Its called a sin nature, and its killing the whole world, just like it eventually killed Adam. How we desperately need a Deliverer to save us from this disease called SIN!

Privileges Rescinded (Vs 8b)

The writer of *Hebrews*, in the last part of **verse 8**, sheds light upon an absolute truth. If man is supposed to have dominion, then why doesn't he now have it? Answer: because of sin. You see the earth was created and specifically designed to work WITH man. But now, it works against us instead. Think about that for a moment. Have you ever worked really hard for something and instead of getting it, ended up being disappointed? You have, if you've lived on this planet very long. I'm going to let you in on a very deep secret here, are you ready? Life... is hard. We do not have to look around very long to find tragedy after tragedy. I spend a lot more time than I would like in nursing homes, funeral homes, and hospitals. Part of the human condition is having to look at things you wish you'd never seen through your tears. Tragedy is EVERYWHERE. Or as Job, "a poster child" of suffering once said:

"Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble." **Job 14:1**

You'll never see that on a bumper sticker huh? That just doesn't go well with our "eat, drink, and be merry" philosophy does it? And you want to know who most people want to blame? GOD. I'll be honest with you, I am really starting to tire of all the people saying things like, "Well how could a God of love let this happen?". Why don't we ever fall to our knees and ask forgiveness for the curse on this earth that we have brought upon ourselves by our own disobedience? God didn't cause Adam to sin, and He doesn't tempt us to either (**James 1:13**). No, we can pretty much handle that all by ourselves. Life on earth is hard because the sins of mankind brought a curse upon it (**Genesis 3:17**). We build only to have storms and floods destroy. We plant, only to have the locust eat the crops. The planet that was designed to work WITH us, now works AGAINST us, and why? Because of sin. We have lost the privilege of "dominion" over the earth, and would you like to know who has it now? The devil and his demonic hosts that's who:

"Finally, be strong in The LORD and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is NOT against flesh and blood, but against RULERS and AUTHORITIES, against the POWERS of this dark world and against the SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL in the heavenly realms." **Ephesians 6:11-12** (emphasis mine)

Why do you think ol' Satan ever tempted man in the first place? Because he got himself thrown out of heaven after he tried his power grab up there (**Revelation 12:9**). So he went for the next best place, earth. He used his bag of tricks on Adam and Eve in order to get them to do something stupid, and thereby, have their privileges to rule earth rescinded. As soon as the deed was done, Satan took over. Now, the devil is running the earth, and we do not have the power to get it back from him. Why? Because he's an angel that's why, and they are stronger than us. The devil is now called the "Prince of This World", but he better enjoy that title while it lasts, because he holds no power over Jesus (**John 14:30**). Thank God for the "Pioneer of our Salvation", Who has come to lead us back to Paradise Lost! He alone is The God who can "restore what the locust have eaten" (**Joel 2:25**).

Privileges Restored (vs 9-10)

"But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor, because He suffered death, so that by the grace of

God He might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the PIONEER of their salvation perfect through suffering."

Hebrews 2:9-10

Have you ever really stopped to think about just Who Jesus was. I mean, we've heard all the preaching: He is God, The Son of God, The Lamb come to take away the sins of the whole world, The King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. We have all heard so many of His wonderful titles and attributes. We worship him as Lord and Savior, and He is our all in all. But, have you ever thought about Who Jesus, "The Son of Man" was? *The Bible* calls Him "The Last Adam" and "The Second Man" (**1 Corinthians 15:46-47**). The "first Adam" was made of dust and was the first of his kind. Jesus the "second Adam" was of Heaven and was also the first (and last mind you) of His kind as well. The "first man" was earthly, and the "second" was spiritual. The first Adam left us a legacy of death, but the "second Adam" gives us life! To be consistent with the theme of *Hebrews*, the second Adam is far BETTER! When Jesus came to earth as a man, He not only lived and suffered as one of us, but He proved that He had the dominion over the earth that the first Adam had lost. Let's look back to **Genesis 1:26** once more and see how God intended for the "first Adam" to have dominion over the fish, birds, livestock, and wild animals. Then look at Jesus the "Second Adam". He demonstrated His power over the fish (**Matthew 17:24-27**; **Luke 5:1-11**), the fowl (**Luke 22:34**), over the livestock (**Mark 11:1-7**), and the wild beasts (**Mark 1:12-13**). You see, He came as a man to be the "Pioneer" that would lead us back to the dominion that we were supposed to have. He not only came to save us from our sin, but He came to RESTORE our lost privileges!

One day, when He returns, there is going to be a "new heaven" and a "new earth" (**Hebrews 1:10-12**), and Jesus, our Pioneer of Salvation, will grant to us dominion over this new creation once again. And this time, we will live in a glorified body that will live forever, and we shall reign WITH Him! The angels will minister to and serve us, as we co-reign with Christ! Just think about that for a moment. Jesus, The Author and Finisher of our faith, the Pioneer of our salvation, will restore the privileges of dominion that were once lost to us because of sin. How can He do this? By taking the consequence of our sins upon Himself! There is no longer any penalty for sin to be paid. All that we must do to have our privileges restored to us in the world that is to come, is to place our faith and trust in Jesus, and Him alone, for our salvation.

I LOVE what the writer of *Hebrews* says in **verse 10**, ...it was 'fitting' that Jesus, the Pioneer of our salvation, was made 'perfect' through what He suffered. That doesn't mean, my friends, that He was less than perfect to start with. It simply means that He "perfected" our salvation by suffering in our stead. As we have already discovered, this world, in its current condition, is a place of tremendous suffering. This is why it was "fitting" for us to be saved from our suffering by Christ, who suffered FOR us! He came and lived as a poor man, in a family struggling to make ends meet. He experienced throughout His entire life what it was like for man to live under the curse brought upon the world by Adam's sin. But He, unlike the "first Adam", did not succumb to the temptations of the devil (**Matthew 4:1-11**). The "second Adam" did what the "first Adam" could not do; He resisted the power of Satan, and by doing so, He became our champion. He was the pioneer (the first of His kind) to blaze a trail to glory for us! He was willing to become nothing, so that we could become SOMETHING! And what was that? The Sons and Daughters of God (**vs. 10**).

Just when you think that you know all there is to know about Jesus... There's so much more! And THAT is why He is "The Pioneer of our salvation". He is leading the way for us back to "Paradise Lost". He has restored our privileges once and for all! Have you decided to follow Jesus? Don't settle for the struggle of this cursed world. Trust in Him and have your full privileges restored!

And ALL of God's people said... TRUTH!!