

**Jesus: Our Great High Priest Forever**  
(week 5)  
**Hebrews 2:9-18**  
**Now We “See” Him**

**“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels,  
now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death,  
so that by the grace of God, He might taste death for everyone.”**  
**Hebrews 2:9**

**Introduction**

The entire *Bible* has been written so mankind may “see” Jesus. In *The Old Testament*, His coming was foretold by the prophets. In addition to those prophecies, many “types and shadows” are woven into *The Old Testament* narratives that were designed to point us to Christ when He came. *The Old Testament* was given so that mankind could “look forward” to Jesus. *The New Testament* now gives us the eyewitness testimonies of His coming. We are told of His life and deeds, as He lived here upon this earth as a Man. We are told of His atoning death and resurrection, and His eminent return to claim His chosen bride, The Church. Much information has been shared of Him, leaving us no excuse for our unbelief. WE MUST look to what we have been given and “see” Jesus for Who He truly is. If we fail to “see”, then no hope remains for our salvation.

Jesus was so much more than a prophet, and so much more than a “good man”. He, as the writer of *Hebrews* so eloquently says, is “much better” than all of those. He is God, Who came in the flesh to do what we could not do; defeat death and set mankind free from sin. He is one of a kind. He is The God/Man and the “Pioneer of our Salvation” (**Hebrews 2:10**). He blazed a trail for us to follow Him to glory, as it were. But what good is it to blaze a trail, if none desire to follow? Just because Jesus has given us a pathway, does not mean that we are automatically saved, just by simply believing in “the path”. In order to obtain salvation, we must do more than just “believe” that there is a way! No. In order to be saved, we must choose to TAKE the path and follow our Pioneer! To believe in Christ is to truly “see” Him for Who He is, and then follow. The person who claims to believe in Jesus, but continues to live as they always have, has not truly SEEN Him! The book of *Hebrews* was written for those who truly wish to “see” Jesus and then have enough faith to DO something about it; to follow Him with their whole hearts and be led to glory. What is keeping you from following Him this morning? Maybe it is time that we take a closer “look”, so we may truly “see Him” today.

In the **second chapter of Hebrews verses 9-18**, we are given three distinct “views” of Christ, in order that we may see Him for who He is. He is **Our Sacrificial Substitute (vs. 9-10)**, **Our Sanctifying Sibling (vs. 11-16)** and **Our Sympathetic Spokesman (vs. 17-18)**. We are not only going to examine these three aspects of His character today, but we are also going to look at *The Old Testament* “types and shadows” that point to these, His marvelous attributes, as well. God has given us ample information so that we may “see” Jesus as He truly is. So let us begin our lesson with a close look at **“the pioneer and protector of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2)**. He is Our Great High Priest Forever, and we pray together this morning, that The Holy Spirit will “open our eyes” so that we can “see” Jesus!

**Our Sacrificial Substitute (vs. 9-10)**

**“...because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God  
He might taste death for everyone.”** **Hebrews 9(b)**

This is the heartbeat of the gospel story: Jesus died in my place. **“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)**, **“but while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)**. I wonder just how many times this wonderful truth has been proclaimed over the last two thousand years? No matter how many times, it can still never be said enough, that Jesus came to die for sinners and to suffer

in their stead. The concept is all too familiar to us “church folk”, but it was very hard to grasp by the first century Jews, who were left to wonder just how and why God would lower Himself to do such a thing for sinful men. In spite of all their relentless wonderings, the fact remains that He did! And quite frankly, the thought of a substitutionary sacrifice should never have been such a stumbling block for the Jews. After all, were they not the children of Abraham? The precedent of one sacrifice taking the place of another can be traced all the way back to the **22nd Chapter of Genesis**. It is a story that is all too familiar with The Jews; the story of Abraham and Isaac upon Mount Moriah.

Allow me to refresh your memory with a wonderful **Old Testament** “typology” of Christ. Abraham had waited many long years for his son, that God had promised him. In fact, when young Isaac finally came along, Father Abraham was one hundred years old! Then God asked him to do the unthinkable:

**“...Take your son, your ONLY SON, whom you love —Isaac—  
and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there  
as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”**

**Genesis 22:2**

Did you catch “your only son” part? Already my friends, you ought to be “seeing” Jesus. But wait, there is more! Abraham loved God with all his heart, and God loved Abraham. God never had any intentions of having Isaac killed upon that altar. This was meant to be a test of Abraham’s devotion and obedience. God had a substitute waiting on the top of Moriah. The name “*Moriah*” in Hebrew means, “*the place you will see God*”.

Abraham climbed that mountain the next morning after laying the wood for the altar upon his son’s back (do I even need to say anything here?). Isaac turned and asked his father about the sacrifice, for he could not help but notice that they hadn’t brought a goat or a ram along. Abraham replied that **“God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice” (Genesis 22:8)**. I still get tears in my eyes when I read that verse. When they reached the summit, Abraham bound his son and laid him upon the altar, believing in his heart that God would raise him from the dead (**Hebrews 11:19**). What many people fail to understand here is that Isaac would have had to believe that too, for Abraham was almost 120 at the time, which would have made Isaac a young man. He could of easily overpowered his old dad and refused to take any part, but he was willing to lay down his life, if that’s what God had required of him. That’s another picture of Christ, if you are wondering.

Just as Abraham drew back his knife, an angel of the Lord stopped him to inform him that this had only been a test of his faith (**Genesis 22:11-12**). Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. This ram was sacrificed in Isaac’s place (**Genesis 22:13**). You see, God had indeed provided a lamb to die for Isaac. Now I “**could**” stop right there, and quite frankly it should be enough, but let me tell you the rest of the story! You see, the thickets upon Mount Moriah are briar thickets, so what Abraham looked up to “see” was a powerful Ram with thorns wrapped around its head. It had as it were a “crown of thorns” upon its mighty brow. Mount Moriah, “the place where you will see God”, was the exact same mountain that King David later purchased to build God’s Temple. Year after year, sacrifices were made upon that mountain to atone for the sins of Israel. Some thousand years after David, a young Jewish Rabbi walked up that very same mountain carrying a cross and was executed for the sins of the whole world. His name is JESUS, and HE was the sacrificial substitute, who died in our place. Mount Moriah is truly “the place where we would SEE God.”

*Can you see Jesus a little clearer now?*

### **Our Sanctifying Sibling (vs. 11-13)**

Jesus’ death upon the cross did a marvelous thing for all who would believe in Him. Not only did it provide a means for our forgiveness, but it also provided means for our “adoption” as well. It would be absolutely impossible for us, as sinners, to stand in the presence of A Holy God, unless God Himself provided the means for us to do so. Jesus IS that means. He is our way. When He died upon the cross, He presented us to God The Father as “perfected” through Him. This means that although we are sinners Jesus is able to declare us as pure. By doing this, He has made a way for us to be **“Sons and Daughters of God” (vs.10)**. By His holiness, we have been made holy (**vs. 11**), and therefore, we can cry out to God “Abba”! (The word means “daddy”) Father! (**Romans 8:15**). When we were lost in our

sins, we were shameful and unpresentable to God, but thanks to the blood of Christ, Jesus is no longer ashamed to call us His "Brothers". Now THAT is some good news right there! If you believe in shouting, now would be a good time. Jesus has cleansed you, so that God could ADOPT you. When you surrendered your life to Christ, you became a Son (or daughter, as the case may be) of GOD!

This was the very purpose of the cross. It is why Jesus was willing to die. The writer of *Hebrews* goes back to a verse from **Psalm 22** to completely illustrate this reality for us:

**"I will declare Your name to My brothers:  
in the presence of the congregation, I will sing Your praises."**  
**Hebrews 2:12 / Psalm 22:22**

Now **Psalm 22** is a "Messianic" *Psalm*. Which simply means that it was written about the Messiah. While the four gospels give us the account of Jesus' death upon the cross, **Psalm 22** gives us Jesus' perspective FROM the cross. It tells of His being forsaken by His Father (**vs 1**); of how He was despised and mocked (**vs.7-8**); His terrible thirst (**vs. 15**); and His mutilated hands and feet (**vs. 16**). It tells of his nakedness and exposure to shame, as the soldiers cast lots for his clothing (**vs.17-18**). You see, *Psalm 22* not only gives us a birds-eye view of the cross from Jesus' perspective, but it also tells of His purpose for going through with it. The reason: So that He could proclaim the Father's grace to His brethren (**vs. 22-31**). Jesus was willing to die, so that He could present us spotless before the throne of God (**Jude vs. 24-25**)!

And now for another *Old Testament* "type" of this truth. Do you remember the story of Joseph? How he was despised and rejected by his brothers, who threw him into a hole in the ground, and later sold him to the pagans? This same Joseph, who was rejected by his own, was celebrated by the Gentiles and subsequently rose to second in command over all of Egypt, for God was with him (**Genesis 41:41-43**). When the famine came, Joseph's brothers were forced to go to Egypt to buy provisions to keep themselves from starvation (**Genesis 42**). When Joseph was reunited with his brothers after he had suffered so much at their hands, he not only forgave them, but presented them to pharaoh as his brethren (**Genesis 47:2**). Now shepherds were considered detestable in the land of Egypt, they were the lowest of the low. But, because of Joseph, his brothers were allowed to stand in the presence of the king! Why? Because they were Joseph's brothers. Joseph's great reputation had "qualified them" to stand before the Pharaoh's throne. In much the same way, Jesus' great reputation has qualified US, as His brethren, and He has sanctified us (made us holy), so that we can stand before the throne of God! He IS our Sanctifying Sibling!

*Can you see Him a little clearer now?*

### **Our Sympathetic Spokesman (vs. 14-18)**

And now, we come to it at last... Jesus, our Sympathetic High Priest. He came to live as one of us, to experience what we experience. Whatever you are going through, He has been there. He knows first hand what it is like to see loved ones who are sick and dying. He has been cold, hungry, thirsty and exhausted. He has reached out His hands to help others, only to be despised and rejected. He knows the pain of desertion and loneliness, as well as, the anguish of death. He has been beaten and bullied, and spat upon by the ones that He simply wanted to help. He didn't just watch our struggles from afar, He LIVED them. He is perfect to represent us before the Throne of God, for He knows where we are coming from. He knows all too well, where we live. He came to free us from the devil's icy grip of death (**vs. 14-15**). Where we were powerless to defeat Satan, Jesus came to destroy his power. This doesn't mean that He destroyed the devil, for we can still see him at work around us. It does mean, however, that He has rendered him powerless over us. He has made us His very own brethren, the children of God. Where we were once held captive to sin and death, we have been set free. Jesus is the "big brother", who lives to protect us. Thanks to Jesus, we cry out, **"O death where is your victory, O grave where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).**

When God set up the Levitical Priesthood, men were chosen to be the High Priests, who would represent the children of Israel before the throne of God, to speak on their behalf. I find it interesting that God gave men the Law by way of angels, but He chose men to represent mankind, when they were

unable to live according to its standards. The writer of *Hebrews* tells us exactly why this was. Because only a man would be sympathetic to the weaknesses of other men (*Hebrews 5:1-3*), whereas angels could not! This is why God wanted ordinary men to mediate between Himself and the masses. These men, beginning with Moses' brother Aaron (*Leviticus 8*), knew all too well the struggles of fallen man, and therefore, knew what it was like to "walk in their shoes", as it were. These "priests" were but a faint image of the ultimate High Priest, who would come as a man to speak to God on behalf of all men. He would serve as The Great High Priest, who would make restitution for the sins of men once and for all (*Hebrews 10*).

Jesus, our Sympathetic Spokesman (High Priest), laid down his life as an "atonement" for our sin (*vs. 17*). This is a fulfillment of yet another *Old Testament* "typology"; The Day of Atonement (*Leviticus 16*). The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) was a fall feast day (occurring in the seventh Jewish month called "Tishri") instituted by God Himself in The Law of Moses. Kippur, from the Hebrew *Kaphar* and meaning "covering", was to be the day set aside for the High Priest of Israel to enter The Holy of Holies not once, but three separate times. The first time he would go in to burn incense before The LORD and the last two times to sprinkle blood upon the Ark of The Covenant to "cover" the sins of the people.

The Day of Atonement began early for The High Priest, who would take a special cleansing bath before making the regular daily sacrifices offered every morning. After he made those sacrifices he would return and take a second bath (one of five that he would take upon this day). These baths were ceremonial in nature representing the holiness required to stand in the presence of God. Each time The High Priest would wash his hands and feet, then totally immerse himself in the bath, and then wash his hands and feet again before putting on his robes. He would set aside his normal priestly robe of purple to exchange it for the special white linen robe that he would wear to enter the Holy of Holies. After entering the Holy of Holies with incense, the first sacrifice that he was to make was that of a young bull. The High Priest would place his hands upon the bull's head and confess his sins, as well as, the sins of all the Levitical priesthood. The bull would then be slaughtered as his substitute, and he would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle its blood upon The Ark as a covering for his sin.

After The High Priest emerged from the Tent of Meeting, He would take another bath and change his clothes to make the sacrifice on behalf of the people. Two goats were brought to the High Priest; one was to be slaughtered and the other would be led into the wilderness as "the scapegoat" for sin. The High Priest would take the blood of the goat set aside for the sacrifice into The Holy of Holies and sprinkle its blood on The Ark in the same manner as he had done with the bull earlier. Only this goat was not for his sins, but for the sins of the people. It is important to note that a greater sacrifice was to be offered for the sins of the priests than the sins of the people. This is because the High Priest, the one who was chosen to represent the people before The LORD, was meant to be a picture of Christ Himself, The sinless Son of God. The requirements to be met by The High Priests would therefore be much greater than those of ordinary men.

Each year, this ritual needed to be performed over and over again, for the blood of bulls and goats is not sufficient to forgive the sins of men. But Jesus' blood WAS! He, Our Great and Sympathetic High Priest, was "better" than all the priests who proceeded Him. Why? Because He did not have to make any sacrifices for His own sin. He was the spotless lamb of God, who offered Himself as a sacrifice for ALL sin. He alone is more than qualified to speak on behalf of mankind, for He lived as a man, but never sinned. He died once and for all to pay for ALL sin, and He now sits at the right hand of God the Father to speak on behalf of sinful men! Jesus is The Ultimate High Priest, The Sympathetic Spokesman, for His brethren. He became one of us, so that He could cover our sins once and for all and stand in the presence of God The Father as our very own representative!

*Can you "see" Him now?*

He is our Sacrificial Substitute, Sanctifying Sibling, and Sympathetic Spokesman.

He is LORD.

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