

Jesus is Better

Hebrews 2:9-17

Grace Fellowship Church / Eric Northrup / Dec. 2, 2018

I. The Incarnation is Central to the Gospel

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

The Incarnation in Hebrews 2:

V. 9 - Made lower than the angels

V. 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."

V. 11-13 - Jesus is our brother and we are God's children

V. 14-16 - Partook of the same things

V. 17 - "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."

Man's Destiny is Determined Not by Man's Success or Efforts But by God's Intervention Into Our Lives!

"To save those who were 'flesh and blood,' Christ Himself had to become flesh and blood. To save the race of Adam, Jesus became the Last Adam. In the incarnation, the eternal Son of God assumed a human nature. He was made of the same flesh we are made of and shared in our same experiences, yet He remained without sin. Though He was the Creator of all, He became hungry. He grew tired. He ate, drank, slept, ached, and 'shared in these' things that all humanity knows and experiences."

-"Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Hebrews" by R. Albert Mohler Jr.

II. The Three Biggest Enemies in This World That we See From Scripture are: Our Sin, The Devil, and Death Itself

A. Enemy #1: Sin

God Paid the Just Punishment That You Deserved

Hebrews 2:17 "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.**"

The author uses "High Priest" 18 times in the book of Hebrews

Hebrews 5:1 "For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins."

Hebrews 5:5 "So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a High Priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

Hebrews 7:26 "For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens."

Hebrews 7:27 "He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself."

B. Enemy #2: The Devil

God Binds Satan and his Grip on You

Hebrews 2:14 “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”

Who is the Devil and What Does Scripture Say About Him?

1. He Is An Accuser (Rev. 12:10)
2. He Is An Adversary (1 Peter 5:8)
3. He Blinds Minds of Unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:4)
4. He Is A Murderer (John 8:44)
5. He Is A Liar (John 8:44)
6. He Is A Thief (John 10:10)

We Have a Great God Who Restrains Our Enemy!

Mark 3:27 "No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house."

Revelation 1:17-18 “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.’”

C. Enemy #3: Death

God Shatters Your Fear of Death Through Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Hebrews 2:15 “...and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Why Do People Fear Death?

1. Fear of Pain
2. Fear of Separation From Loved Ones
3. Fear of the Unknown
4. Fear of Non-Being
5. Fear of Everlasting Punishment

-“*Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*” by R. Kent Hughes

As Christians, we should have no fear in death.

No one but Jesus has ever said:

John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the **resurrection** and the **life**. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. **Do you believe this?**”

III. Without Christ, You Have Nothing

- A. You are Still Enslaved In Your Sin. There is a Record Against You That a Million Lifetimes of Good Works Can't Undo.
- B. You are Under the Rule and Authority of the Devil. He is Your Master and Your Ruler. He continues to Blind You and Harass You.
- C. You Should Fear Death, For There is No Hope for the Afterlife Apart From Christ.