

Hebrews 2:5-18
(Matthew 4:1-11)
“Son of Man”

Introduction

Why did the Son of God, portrayed in such splendid terms in chapter one, have to lay aside his glory and become the Son of Man? Why could God not simply declare our forgiveness and secure our salvation without such sacrifice, without the incarnation, suffering and crucifixion? The author answers, first from the perspective of human need, and then from the perspective of divine necessity.

Body

1. We first are told, from the perspective of human need, why the Son of God had to become the Son of Man (2:5-9).

- First, we are told of our destiny. Created in God’s image, we were intended for glory, honor and rule over all things (2:5-8a).
- But that destiny does not square with the brokenness and limitation of humanity’s present reality. What we know of glory and honor is fleeting, and whatever rule we may enjoy is severely limited and subject to abuse (2:8b).
- Our only reason for hope is in reflecting on Jesus, the Son of God, who laid aside his glory, honor and supreme power, and became one of us, limited as we are limited. Yet this same Jesus who humbled himself is now exalted in glory and has been given all power and dominion. Here is our hope: a man sits enthroned in glorified human flesh at God’s right hand (2:9).

2. We are then told, from the perspective of divine necessity, why the Son of God had to become the Son of Man (2:10-18).

- God’s perfect Son had to become perfect humanity in order to give himself in our place as perfect sacrifice for sin. It was through his suffering as a man that he was made a perfect human (2:10).
- God’s all-powerful Son had to become human in order to enter death and break its power over humanity from the inside out (2:14-16).
- God’s compassionate Son had to experience what we experience, even the power of temptation, in order to be a merciful and faithful high priest willing to offer himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sin and able to help us resist temptation (2:17-18).

Conclusion

If God's Son had to suffer in order to save, should we not expect that there will be times when we, his brothers and sisters, must suffer as well to be made increasingly like him and to help others out of bondage and into the freedom of God's children? He has secured for us a glorious destiny, and invites us to join him in his mission of seeking and saving those who do not yet know the great good news of salvation, life won from death, freedom from bondage, hope from despair, courage from fear. Though we don't yet see this in its fullness, we see "Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering and death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (2:9).

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