



Pioneer of our Salvation

Psalm 8 Hebrews 2:5-18

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Hebrews 1:1-4

Last, Great Prophet
Son of God
Heir of all things
Creator of the Universe
Radiance of God's glory
Image of God
Sustainer of all things
Purification for our sins
Sits at God's Right Hand
Superior Name

10 Descriptions of Christ

Hebrews chapter 1 was a grand and majestic chapter that taught us that Jesus is the **Son, God, and Lord** of all; it's focused on **His divinity** with 10 different descriptions of His Person and His Work as the Savior of the world. It also showed us that Jesus, as **Son, God, and Lord**, is far above all the angels in heaven. Hebrews chapter 1 focused on the **divinity** of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In chapter 2, after the Apostasy warning, the focus shifts to **Jesus the Man**. **Jesus' humanity** is emphasized by the terms "**Son of Man**" and "**flesh and blood**".

There is a passage that testifies, "What is **Man**, that you are mindful of Him, or the **Son of Man**, that you care for Him? You made Him for a little while lower than the angels" Hebrews 2:6-7a

Since therefore the children share in **flesh and blood**, He Himself likewise partook of the same things Hebrews 2:14

These verses emphasize the **Human Nature** of Christ. Remember that Jesus, the Son of God, is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. As true God, Jesus is equal with the Father and equal with the Holy Spirit: *in this Trinity none is before or after other; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three Persons are coeternal together, and coequal.*¹

¹ This is a quote from the Athanasian Creed. It is one of the three Creeds of the Holy Christian Church --> along with the Apostles and the Nicene Creed. You can see the Athanasian Creed at www.bookofconcord.org/creeds.php or email me and I will send it to you.

At a certain point in history, the Son of God was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary --> we know this as the Christmas story. Jesus is “*God in flesh (Incarnation)*” – “*God with us (Immanuel)*” -- both terms help us understand the *Human Nature* of Christ. Jesus is both True God and True Man at the same time. He is both the “Son of God” and the “Son of Man”. **Hebrews chapter 2 focuses on the significance of Jesus being a True Man.**

As True Man, Jesus was able to die for the sins of the world. Death is not a part of His divine nature; but rather, suffering and death is according to His *Human Nature*. But Jesus did not die for Himself nor because of any sin He committed.

He died for us, and in our place.

We see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God **He might taste death for everyone.** Hebrews 2:9

This “*tasting death for everyone*” is substitutionary language. Jesus was your substitute on the cross; He took your place and faced the wrath of God for you. He was your Substitute, taking your sin and your guilt upon Himself: He “*tasted death*” for you.

And it is not just you – He has done this for every single person in the world! *By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone!* God loves the entire world -- every man, woman, and child; and God's Will is that everyone repent of their sins and trust in Christ for salvation! Your family and friends are included; your unchurched or unbelieving family and friends hear about Christ and His death from you! *Who better to tell them about Jesus than you? By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone --> including everyone in our lives as well!*

Because Jesus has **already gone through** death, burial and resurrection, He becomes the **Pioneer** who leads us through death and into new life. He is the **trailblazer** who makes the way safe for us!

For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the **Pioneer of their salvation** perfect through suffering.

Hebrews 2:10

The word that's translated as **Pioneer** can mean **Captain** or **Author**. **It's the idea of a leader** --- Jesus has already gone through death and resurrection so He can lead us through it as well. He is the **Captain** of our Salvation journey; He is the **Author** who writes our faith story. He is the **Pioneer** who goes first and then comes back and leads us in the way.

No matter which term do you prefer, the idea is that **the way is safe**, and that the Lord Jesus will lead you through death and into eternal life; and on the Last Day, He will give you the resurrection of the dead. His own death and resurrection proves **ALL OF THIS** to be true!

Jesus, the **Pioneer** and **Captain** and **Author** of our salvation, who **tasted death** for us and all people, also sets us free from the devil and the fear of death.

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, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.** Hebrews 2:14-15

When Jesus **tasted death** for you by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, He also destroyed the power of the devil. **Satan has no power over you whatsoever.** All he can do is tempt you, suggest that

you do evil, lure you into shame and vice. But he has no actual power over you; he cannot make you do anything. There is no such thing as *“the devil made me do it.”*

Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection on the third day has destroyed the devil. **Whenever you are tempted, you have to remember this!** You are not a helpless victim! Christ has defeated him! *The devil and his demons have no power over you whatsoever!*

In addition, you have been *set free from the fear of death*. We do not live our lives in guilt, fear, nor the dread of death. That kind of terror and dread of dying is described as *“lifelong slavery.”* The fear of death can cripple you; it can paralyze your life; it can affect how you live your life. It’s a terrible slavery of fear, dread, and nonstop worry. You have been set free from all that through the death and resurrection of Christ. Death is not the end, Jesus has promised you the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

Although none of us are looking forward to death and dying; we don’t live in dread and fear of it. We live in hope, and peace, and conviction of eternal life because of the Lord Jesus Christ! We live lives of freedom and joy in Christ – holy lives of loving God and serving others!

Jesus, the *Pioneer* and *Captain* and *Author* of our salvation, who *tasted death* for us and all people, has destroyed the power of the devil in our lives; and He has set us free from the dread and fear of dying!

Today may you live **boldly and confidently** in faith; you have nothing whatsoever to fear! Jesus has gone ahead of you and made the way safe for you! Live **boldly and confidently** knowing and

believing that Jesus is the *Pioneer* and *Captain* and *Author* of your salvation . . . Amen!