

But we see Jesus, who as a descendant of Adam through His mother Mary, was made a little lower than the angels **FOR THE SUFFERING OF DEATH**. Why? So He could taste death for every man. Taste it but not be conquered and bound by it for He is risen!!!

For every man? Yes, every man is eligible for this free "life insurance." Yet we note in the very next sentence the Supreme, Sovereign God is bringing **many** sons to glory. Many sons in addition to the One. And, many sons in contrast to all mankind. It is still each man's choice and responsibility to receive the offer. But those that do come are sanctified (set apart and holy) as the One who suffered and died for their salvation was sanctified (set apart and holy) to fulfilled the will of the Father. Set apart to die for those whom He now unashamedly freely calls His brethren. Not brethren by natural birth (Joseph and Mary's family), or native tribe (Judah, Jew) or nation (Israelite) but by His death for each soul, you and me. James and Jude, His natural step-brethren, indeed did become believers after His resurrection, but not by virtue of their human relationship to His mother. Many Jews have received Him as Savior and Lord but not by virtue of their nationality or religion. They, and Gentile believers today, are indeed His brethren. We gratefully accept His owning us as His brethren. And He views us as brethren one of another. But we would be presumptuous call Him "brother Jesus" as some have (ignorantly?) dared to do. It's Lord Jesus!

The writer cites scriptures well known to the Hebrews to support his revolutionary statements to them. Clearly the epistle to the Hebrews embodies thinking and interpretations of the Old Testament scriptures that were revolutionary to the Jews of the day and still are today. Whether authored by Paul or not, the epistle to the Hebrews may be thought of as a record of Paul's reasoning from their scriptures that confounded the Jews in synagogue after synagogue, town after town in the provinces of the Roman Empire he visited.

But we see Jesus! We see Jesus **crowned** with glory and honor. Adam was never crowned. And through his disobedience He promptly lost the authority he had been given by his Creator. Many of his descendants have crowned themselves and demanded glory and honor from their subjects. Nimrod was the first named, Genesis 10:8-12. Apparently a ruthless hunter, he defied his Creator's declared intent that mankind disperse worldwide and repopulate the earth. God had to step in to enforce His decree by confounding the common language into many. The rebels were thwarted in their plans to make a name for themselves and unite all under it. Men have been trying to build empires ever since, but the babble factor stands unconquered. The continuing news of wars and rumors of wars and the dis-unified United Nations is witness to that. When will the babble end? The earth will unite in worship

and exalt one Man, still with many languages at the close of the Tribulation/opening of the Millennium, Revelation 7:9. Will mankind have one language during the thousand year reign of Christ over the earth? Will we in heaven? On the other hand scripture assures us the powers that be are ordained by God, Romans 13:1-7. All who find themselves in power He has put in power, sometimes even the basest of men, Daniel 4:17. Nothing is out of control.

The descendants of the first man emerged as the fallen race, **subject to death**, inhabiting the earth to this day. We learn in verse 15 they (we) are subject to bondage through fear of death. The shadow of death is always hovering over us. The fear of it in our innate consciousness and subconscious profoundly influences our lives. Ecclesiastes eloquently speaks to this. Our future outlook, plans and everyday conduct are conceived and carried out in the valley of the shadow of death, Psalm 23:4. And all of mankind lives in mortal fear of that unseen horror that silently awaits them, sooner or later. Those that have retained some conscience feel their jeopardy after death.

Hebrews 10:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

The devil that deceived Adam and his descendants now controls them through their fear of death. Man has inherited babble, enmity, and mortality and therein futility, and emptiness. **But Jesus**, having come and having partaken in the same substance of which we are made, has by dying and rising again, annulled (rendered powerless) the devil's power of death. He cannot exercise that power without God's permission. For the believer death has been swallowed up in victory, 1Corinthians 15:51-58. Sin has no more dominion over us, Romans 6:14.

Crowned with glory and honor.

Men crowned this One with thorns, a product of the fallen earth. Now in heaven He is crowned with glory and honor, soon to be seen by His Bride when He returns to meet us in the air. Then He is to be revealed, crowned with glory and honor, exalted above every living creature upon earth, and ultimately throughout the whole created universe.

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

So we have a Man now in glory seated at God's right hand, crowned with glory and honor. A man, the Son of Man, the Eternal Son who was made a Man, a little lower than the angels, the true image of God embodied in a flesh and blood Man. Not a creature! He didn't become a creature.

He is self existent. **He, Is!** He has no beginning or end. Men have carelessly written of His incarnation as

“becoming man the creature.” He did indeed become a man, a meek and lowly man, despised by His own, but He did not become a “creature” as we are. He is man’s Creator. God preserve us from human reasoning regarding His incarnation and manhood.

We read later in Hebrews:

*Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but **a body hast thou prepared me**: {hast...: or, thou hast fitted me}*

*Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which **was made (became)** of the seed of David according to the flesh;*

He was man, humanly speaking, by birth to Mary, a direct descendent from **David** and **Abraham**. He took on Him the seed of Abraham **not the nature of angels** and became a man. He became the descendant of Abraham. Words like “became” and “was made” are carefully used in scripture regarding what we call His Incarnation, His becoming flesh and blood. He became something He wasn’t before when He became a flesh and blood Man. But He remains divine and sinless. He didn’t take upon Him **Adam’s sinful nature**.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (sin apart)

But on the cross it was different story.

1Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree. (Note: “sins”).

2Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; (Note: “sin”).

But there is more. He became a man not only to bear

sins and to conquer death and Satan, but to become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. His experience with sin was only that of suffering when being tried. This holy, righteous, sinless Man **suffered** when presented with opportunities to sin. Not because He was fighting lust but because the very idea of sinning was so totally abhorrent to His holy nature. This suffering differs from His suffering for our sins. How utterly horrible that must have been, given his intrinsic infinite holy nature. But He, having endured it, is able to help them who are tempted. Do we ask for help when being tempted? We each have a new nature like Christ which abhors sin. We each have the indwelling Holy Spirit poised to move us to call to the Lord for help when temptation appears. Hearing us through the intercession of the Spirit, He responds though the Holy Spirit to help us.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

What a wonderful Savior! What a mighty intervention! What a undeserved, uncalled for, unexpected blessing He is. But He is more. More to us. Much more.

By Ron Canner, December 3, 2008