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Various aspects of the Sufferings of Christ

Hebrews 2:9, 10, 18

1

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone (Heb. 2:9).

In Hebrews 1 and 2, many glories of the Lord Jesus are brought before us. In chapter 1, we behold Him as the Son of God. In chapter 2, we behold Him as Son of Man. And why would the Son of God become Man? Numerous reasons are brought before us in chapter 2, but three times it is mentioned that it was in order that He might suffer. Amazing thought!

In verse 9, He who was infinitely higher than angels – as God, the Son and Creator and Sustainer and Heir of all things, etc. – was made a little lower than angels in becoming Man on account of the suffering of death. Here His atoning sufferings are clearly brought before us. By one man, Adam, sin entered into the world, and death by sin (Rom. 5:12). The first man introduced sin and death into this world. In God's order, there would be a Man – who is yet God – who could effectively deal with both, to God's glory. But none of Adam's race could do so. They all had sinned and come short of the glory of God and had earned death as the wages of their sin (3:23; 6:23).

A sinless, holy man was required. And none could be found. And so, the blessed Son of God Himself became Man, the Second Man – for all others were only a repetition of the failed first man – and the Last Adam – for there will never need to be another. In Hebrews 2:5-8, we are told that as Man all things will be made subject to Him. He will reign in the world to come. But first it was necessary that He must endure the sufferings of death, and “taste death for every thing” (jnd). How wonderful to look back and see that the work is done, and now behold Him crowned with glory and honor!

2

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:10).

In yesterday’s meditation, we saw that He who is the Son of God has become Man. Numerous reasons are given to us in Hebrews 2 for why He would become Man, but three times it is mentioned that it was so He might suffer.

Previously, we considered in verse 9 His atoning sufferings. Here, in verse 10, a different type of suffering is brought before us. The Lord Jesus is referred to as the Captain, or Leader of our salvation. There appears to be an allusion to the leadership of Moses and then Joshua who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. Today, we have a Leader who is greater than Moses (Heb. 3) and greater than Joshua (Heb. 4). The Lord Jesus, our great Leader, is bringing many sons to glory! Yet, until that day comes when we reach the glory, He is leading us through the wilderness. Is the wilderness journey an easy journey? Was it an easy journey for the children of Israel? No, for them there were many difficulties along the way, and for us, too, our lives in this world are often beset by difficulties and sufferings of many kinds.

How wonderful that we have a Leader who is fully acquainted with all the difficulties of the way. He was made perfect through sufferings. The word *perfect* here has the thought of being qualified to take up a certain office or position. The Lord Jesus Himself has suffered in this world in order to be a suitable Leader for us through this world. Be encouraged! Whatever sufferings you may be experiencing, we have a Leader who is able to lead you through them and on to glory because He Himself has once suffered here.

For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted (Heb. 2:18).

In our previous meditations we have considered the amazing thought that the Son of God has become Man in order to suffer. We first considered His suffering death (Heb. 2:9), and secondly, His being made perfect through sufferings to be the Leader of our salvation, bringing many sons to glory (v. 10).

In verse 18 of chapter 2, we may meditate upon another type of suffering that He endured. In verse 17, we are told it was necessary for Him in all things to be made like His brethren – apart from sin (4:15). What grace on His part, that He might experience life in this world as you and I know it that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest for us now in the presence of God. No one may seem to understand what you are going through, but He does, and is interceding for you even now.

The world *tempted* in verse 18 might be translated “tested,” and includes the thought both of temptation as a suggestion enticing us into sin, as well as of a trial or testing that we may endure. It brings before us the perfection of the Lord Jesus. When He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, the very suggestion to go outside His Father’s will caused Him suffering. Unlike Him, we have a sinful nature that responds to suggestions to go outside God’s will. But our blessed Lord, who suffered being tempted, is able to help us in the hour of temptation and cause us to triumph in His strength and by using the Word of God.

We may also consider the Lord Jesus in all the trials He endured in the way. He experienced these trials to glorify God in them, and also so that He would be able to help us in the hour of our trial.

In verse 10, He has suffered in order to be our Leader. In verse 18, He has suffered in order that He may come to our side to help us through our sufferings. All praise to His name!

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