

WHY? SUFFERING, HONOR, & GLORY

HEBREWS 2:7-18

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GLORY FOLLOWS SUFFERING.

What Jesus did for us

- Stepped up for us – 2:7-8 *You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*
- Subjected for us – 2:9a *But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels,*
- Suffered for us – 2:9b *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.*
 - Undeserved betrayal – Matthew 26:48-49 *Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him.*
 - Undeserved emotional abuse – Matthew 26:65 *Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.*
 - Undeserved mental abuse – Matthew 26:66 *What is your judgment?” They answered, “He deserves death.”*
 - Undeserved physical abuse – Matthew 26:67-68 *Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,⁶⁸ saying, “Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”*
 - Undeserved silence from God – Matthew 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

Q: How is Jesus’ suffering relevant to my life?

- You can have hope because Jesus didn’t quit – 2:10 *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.*

Q: What does this mean?

A: Jesus did not need moral or spiritual improvement; Jesus did need to complete His work for us to have hope.

τελειῶσαι – to complete an activity, *complete, bring to an end, finish, accomplish*.¹

Romans 10:4 *For Christ is the end (τέλος) of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

- Jesus conquered your greatest fear – 2:14-15 *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, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
- Jesus identifies with you and pays your greatest debt – 2:16-18 *For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Q: What purpose could God have in such a plan?

“God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to allow no evil to exist.”
– Augustine

“O fortunate fault (*felix culpa*), which merited so great a redeemer!” – Thomas Aquinas

“Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” – Apostle Paul, (Romans 5:20).

- We have a deeper view of God than Adam and Eve. Creator + Redeemer

¹William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 996.