

## The Author of Salvation

### Hebrews 2:10-18

## Psalm 121

Psalm 121 is part of a group of psalms known as psalms of ascent.

These are psalms that people would sing on their way up to worship the LORD at the temple in Jerusalem.

The Terrain around Jerusalem is quite hilly and to get to the Temple you literally have climb hills to get there.

This particular Psalm is using the idea of hills as an illustration for trials in life.

We still use that kind of language today. If I say that “life is an uphill battle” I’m saying things are challenging.

So the picture is that on his way to the LORD as he is looking at the challenges ahead he is asking, “Where does my help come from!”

The very question implies the need for help. Looking at the road ahead he is thinking, “I’m going to need help if I’m going to make it.”

Where is that going to come from? The LORD.

[That is so true and you and me! We need help in this life and where we need to be looking is to the LORD Jesus. In our text this morning Hebrews 2:10-18, Jesus is called “The Author of Salvation”, the one who has lead the way up the hill making a way for us to follow Him into the presence of God. The focus of these few verses is upon the importance of Christ’s humanity to His task. These verses show us at least four important lessons about Jesus’ humanity. Number one is this...]

### **Point #1 – Jesus’ humanity is necessary for Him to be our Saviour (Verse 10).**

We rightly call Jesus LORD because His divinity demands it, and while His divine nature is also essential to our salvation we would not be saved if it were not for His humanity.

Verse ten tells us a bit about God’s work of salvation (verse 10).

I love the word ‘many’ at the beginning of this verse.

In glory there is going to be a chorus of voices that should we be standing in a place where we could look over the crowd, we would not be able to count them.

God is doing this because according to the middle of the verse God is the One, “for whom and through whom everything exists.”

You and I have been made to enjoy the goodness and greatness of God forever and that is the reason why He is “bringing many sons to glory.”

It tells here how the LORD does this.

It happens by making “the author of their (sons to glory) salvation perfect through suffering.”

The word “author” means to be a founder or pioneer. That is to say that Jesus established the way to be saved.

He did this, it says, by being made “perfect through suffering.”

Now we need to be careful to understand that phrase correctly.

When we think of making something perfect it may sound to us like fixing a mistake or taking something deficient and repairing it.

The sense of the Greek word here is different, it means perfection in the sense of completion.

That is so true of Jesus humanity. He was absolutely perfect throughout His life in the sense that He was completely obedient to God in everything that He did.

At the same time His saving work required many years of Him living out that faithfulness.

Salvation is far from complete when Jesus is born in Bethlehem, Jesus lives a life of thirty years, growing, learning, and obeying right up to the point of death.

That is why Jesus can say upon the cross those powerful words, “It is finished” which in Greek is a very similar word to what is used here in Hebrews 2.

[You might think of Jesus’ life like building an arch. To make an arch from stones you stack two columns of stones gradually angling them towards each other until they meet each other at the top of the arch. An arch is an excellent shape for building but its strength and usefulness depends on its completion.]

It is like that with the person of Jesus. Everything He does throughout His life is important to the perfection of His person.

Suffering is necessary to the completion of Jesus’ work of salvation.

That makes His humanity absolutely necessary to His work of salvation.

God cannot suffer and die in our place, only a perfect man could do that and that man’s name is Jesus.

[Jesus’ humanity is necessary for Him to be our saviour. His humanity makes Him more than our saviour though. Verses 11-13 give us another glorious result of the humanity of our LORD. Here is the second lesson for us this morning...]

**Point #2 – On account of Jesus’ humanity believers belong to Him as family (Verses 11-13).**

While it is very common in the bible for believers to see themselves as ‘servants’ of the LORD, our relationship to Christ goes beyond an impersonal business type of relationship which is why the scriptures also call us brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.

*This is plainly stated here in verse 11.*

The first part of that verse is vitally important to the second.

The “one”, that is to say there is only one and that is Christ, “who makes men holy” and “those who are made holy”, that is the “many sons” being brought to glory, are of the same family.

Embedded in those words are two vital realities.

One is that Jesus shares fully in our human nature.

I have a brother, do any of you have a brother or sister?

Inherent in saying that I have a brother or sister is the reality that we share the same physical nature.

The only way that Jesus can call us “brothers”/sisters in any true sense is if he shares in our nature.

*There is another important reality here as well.*

It is the fact that Jesus has the ability to make people “holy”. To be holy is to be ‘set apart’ as belonging to the LORD.

Whenever we see something in the Bible set apart as holy we see that person or object go through a process of purification or cleansing.

Why? What is all that about? It is a way of acknowledging God’s purity and perfection. Things that are set apart as belonging to God must be made pure and perfect as He is pure and perfect.

That is what Jesus does for us. That is the great exchange of the cross. By faith Jesus takes upon Himself our moral filth and places upon us His perfections making us holy.

So, He is “not ashamed to call them brothers.”

[I marvel at that statement. Many families have a person or two in them that the rest of the family is embarrassed by. Maybe they’ve done something terrible or maybe they are just weird, but they are the one that people would deny knowing if they could. When I think of myself in light of God’s glory, I’m that person in the family, but because of trusting in Christ, He is not ashamed to call me brother. Wow!]

*Like a good brother He shows us the way of worship (Verse 12-13).*

He shows us Who God is to a greater degree than anyone else and He sets an example of delighting in the praise of the LORD.

He sets an example of faith. Jesus, in His humanity, trusts the LORD completely.

Every time He prays in the gospels He does so with complete faith, not an ounce of doubt! That amazes me.

The last statement in verse 13 mixes familial ties somewhat when it speaks of Jesus talking about us as children.

In all that Jesus shares with us He is like a brother, but we must also remember that it is because of all the things that Jesus shares with us that He is able to give us spiritual life and in that sense He is like a father as well.

All of this is on account of Jesus' perfect and genuine humanity.

[I find this to be incredibly amazing and humbly. I know full well that I am not worthy to be called brother by Jesus, but on account of His sharing in our nature and on account of Him placing His righteousness on me, He is not ashamed to call be brother. Here is another glorious truth for us concerning the human nature of our LORD...]

**Point #3 – Through His humanity Jesus has destroyed the power of death for believers (Verses 14-15).**

Our mortality is the great equalizer among human beings. No matter who you are rich, poor, famous, unknown, powerful, or weak everyone dies. There is only One Man who can do anything for you in the face of death.

*I believe this is an incredibly poignant lesson for us in the days in which we live.*

While I certainly believe the Bible calls us to be wise and not reckless with our lives, it is also true that we should not be paralyzed the fear of dying.

Listen to what it says here in **verses 14-15**.

It is Jesus' humanity which makes His death possible and it is his dying that destroys the power of the devil.

*The power of Christ's death is a different kind of power than what we would normally perceive as power.*

When we think of someone destroying an enemy, we generally think winning a physical fight or battle.

If the battle between Christ and the devil were simply a matter of power, Jesus could simply speak a word and take Him out of existence.

Never think that the devil is similar in power to God, Satan's power is nothing before almighty God.

Christ will destroy the devil with physical power at the end of this present creation, but if He had done it that way 2000 years ago then we would have been lost.

Taking the devil out of existence would not have solved our problem of sin.

*It is true the our problem of rebelling against God entered the world through the temptation of the Devil, and it is true that he is still at work tempting us, it is true that he delights in our*

destruction and death, but if he were simply taken out of the world that would not solve our problem.

The infinite power of God to physically destroy all who oppose Him could do us no good against the power of devil, because we would still be “in slavery” to the “fear of death.”

It is the perfect humanity of Jesus through which the devil’s power over us is taken away.

[Imagine being in God’s courtroom and the devil is the prosecuting attorney. Think of all the evidence that he has to present against us. It is true that he is a liar but he wouldn’t have to lie to accuse us of enormous wrongdoing. Guilty, condemned to eternal punishment should be the verdict, but the perfect humanity of Jesus robs him of his argument.]

It is because of the perfect humanity of Jesus that you and I can have full assurance that sin and death have been defeated.

It is knowing and believing that Jesus died for us that gives us calm assurance in the face of death.

It is because of Jesus’ humanity that we can know that when we close our eyes in death we will open them in His glorious presence and live and reign with Him forever.

Because of this the Christian can say along with Scripture, “Where, o death, is your victory? Where, o death, is you sting?”

They are gone.

[Jesus is our Saviour on account of His humanity, because of His humanity we belong to Him as family, it is through what we might perceive as the weakness of His humanity that He wielded the power to destroy the devil’s power over us. Lastly, we see in this text that...]

**Point #4 – Because of His humanity Jesus can consistently and effectively help believers (Verses 16-18).**

Our Lord knows everything that we face in this world and because He has overcome the world He is able to, more than anyone, help us to overcome it as well.

Christ’s taking on of humanity means that what He has done is **for** humanity (Verse 16).

Angels in the service of God have no need of help/redemption because they serve the LORD in perfect obedience.

But we should also consider demons for a moment. The devil and demons are fallen angels.

There is no redemption for them. Their destiny is certain and eternal destruction.

Now that should be a sobering thought to all of us because it clearly shows that God is under no obligation to help creatures in rebellion against Him.

It is perfectly right and just for the LORD simply give out the consequences for sin.

Jesus' humanity does not help angels, it is for people. In particularly "Abraham's descendants."

At first that might sound like you and I are out of luck if we are not Jewish, but being a descendant of Abraham according to the bible is about more than DNA.

It has to do with faith. It is those who believe God that are Abraham's children.

If you can trace your genetic family tree back to Abraham, but reject Jesus you have no part in the promises of God.

God is all about adoption brothers and sisters and that happens by faith.

It is to us who believe that Jesus offers help and we see what kind of help it is in **verses 17**.

Made like His brothers "in order that he might be merciful..."

To show mercy is to refrain from giving someone what they deserve.

We deserve God's eternal wrath, but in Christ we are shown mercy.

Made like His brothers in order that he might be a "faithful high priest".

Jesus acting as our "high priest" means that He stands between us and God in order that we might be right with God.

He is "faithful" in that task, which means He is always at it. He never leaves His post.

When it says at the end of verse 17 that the Lord Jesus makes "atonement for the sins of the people" there is never a time when that stops being true.

Yes the atonement happens once at the cross, but the effect of the cross is being constantly applied to believers moment by moment.

There is more to Jesus' consistent and effective help than the forgiveness of sins (verse 18).

The word 'tempted' here has the sense of 'testing' and has a rather broad meaning referring to temptation to sin as well as things like persecution and trials of faith.

What every trial and temptation has in common is that they are working to draw us away from faithfulness to the LORD.

When it speaks here of Jesus' suffering when He was tempted/tested/going through trial, it probably is talking about His entire time upon the earth with a particular focus on His suffering and death.

The point being that Jesus knows what it is like to have the opposition of the world and the devil against Him in many respects.

It is because of the fact that he has had these experiences that He is able to help us.

He knows what it is like to face what we face, to endure what He asks us to endure, and to stay faithful to the course that God has set for Him.

He has the experience and strength to help us.

[That is why the Lord gives the illustration of a yoke for the Christian life. A yoke is a bar made from wood or metal that joins two animals together for the purpose of accomplishing a task. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Why is the burden light? Because it is easy? No way, because Jesus is carrying the load.]

*You see Jesus does more than just forgive our sin, He helps us overcome our sin.*

He does more than just tell us to endure trials, He has also endured trials and promises to stand with us and strengthen us in our trials.

That is the promise Jesus gave to His disciples just before He ascended into heaven. He said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is our Lord! He is the author of our Salvation. Made like us to save us, not ashamed to call us brother and sister, victorious over the devil, and our consistent and faithful helper.

**Psalm 121.**