

Fruit of the Incarnation 2020-11-01

Hebrews 2:14-18

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, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore 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.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Chapter 1: Jesus is fully God, Chapter 2: He also fully human yet without sin.

- He became what He was not without ceasing to be who He was.
 - 1 person with 2 natures, divine/human, neither diminished.
- Jesus' incarnation was necessary to destroy devil's power of death and help us when we are tempted.

Satan gained power of death through Adam & Eve's sin. Genesis 2:16, 3:4-6

- Not power kill at will but all spiritually dead, sin incur God's righteous wrath.
 - Not angry outburst but hatred to all evil, arising out of His holiness that results in just, eternal separation/punishment from Him in hell.

What God's holy justice required; His love/mercy provided. Genesis 3:15, Romans 5:8-9

- Jesus fulfilled scripture: joyfully humbled self by taking on humanity and bearing penalty for Christians' sins to bring them back to God.
 - Old Testament priesthood/sacrificial system foreshadowed how Jesus do this. Hebrews 2:17, 10:10, 14

Jews knew not approach God directly cause of their sin so came to Him through priest

- High Priest spiritual representation of people, offered sacrifices to God for person/nation sins.
 - Sacrifices reveal need for substitute pay penalty for sin so right with God

Jesus Christ became our High Priest and offered ONCE the only perfect sacrifice (Himself) that would forever take away wrath of God toward "seed of Abraham".

- Propitiation: Jesus dying in our place and removing God's righteous anger.
 - Jesus takes our punishment for us and God's justice satisfied.
 - Hughes "Our hell he made his, that his heaven might be ours."

Devil's power of death destroyed for Christians in Christ's death. Hebrews 2:14-15, Colossians 2:14-15

- Jesus death/resurrection was "death of death" for all who trust in Him.
 - Death doorway to heaven so Christians not need fear death any longer.

- R.C. Sproul: "It's not death I'm afraid of, it's dying."
 - Jesus gave back to sons of Adam what was lost when Adam sinned, fellowship with God without fear of judgment. Hebrews 2:9-10, Genesis 3:8-10
- Jesus' incarnation was necessary to destroy devil's power of death and help us when we are tempted. Hebrews 2:14a, 17:a, 18, 4:15
- Jesus Christ = 100% human: normal human needs, emotions, limitations, temptations
 - Jesus experienced suffering/temptations we can't comprehend yet responded with perfect obedience to Father.
 - That righteousness is imputed to Christians as if we lived without sin.

Jesus' humanity assures us of his understanding and mercy when we fall to temptation. His deity assures us of his strength to resist tempt and do God's will.

- Because Jesus endured every kind of temptation to ultimate degree without failure He knows how help us when tempted....where we fall, Jesus overcame.
 - Cry out to Him for His strength when you're tempted and He'll empower you to overcome the temptation and do God's will.....TUESDAY!!!