

# CHRIST SECURES THE TRIUMPHANT VICTORY FOR MAN HEBREWS 02: 14–18

## *Introduction*

Man is a defeated being. He has lost the glory, honour and dominion that God gave him at creation. He has lost his Garden of Eden, his perfect world and his control over it. Man has fallen from his exalted position in the original creation. And not only is man now enslaved by a corruptible world, man is held in bondage...

- to death and to the fear of death (v. 15).
  - to the sufferings of this world, the sufferings of all kinds of trials and temptations such as disease, accidents, age, war, murder, abuse, adultery, greed, selfishness, neglect, insensitivity, loneliness and emptiness. *Within himself* man is a defeated being. He is defeated and doomed to suffer all kinds of trials and temptations throughout his life, and then he is doomed to the ultimate fate of all men: death.
- I. Christ became man's great Deliverer (vv. 14-16).
  - II. Christ became man's great High Priest (vv. 17-18).

## **I. *Hebrews 02: 14–16 Jesus Christ, Man's Great Deliverer***

Jesus Christ became man's great Deliverer. How? By doing five things.

1. Jesus Christ delivered man by *willingly becoming a man*: Christ "shared in" human flesh; He "shared in their humanity:" the very same "flesh and blood" that human beings have. But there is a significant difference between a newborn baby who became flesh and blood at birth and Christ who "*shared in*" the same. Christ willingly "*shared in their humanity*," whereas a child had no say-so in the matter. Everyone of us has been born by an act of some other man and woman; not one of us had anything whatsoever to do with the matter. But Jesus Christ chose — He deliberately determined and purposed — to *share in their humanity*. He voluntarily took part of human nature — of a nature that was not a natural part of His being. This is seen in the Greek words used to describe what He did.

=> "Children have [*koinonia*] flesh and blood." The word means to share, to be partners of a *common human nature*.

=> The word used of Christ is entirely different: Christ *shared in* (*metecho*) human nature. The word means *to hold with*. The idea is that Christ *took hold* of human nature and held human nature with man. He added human nature to His divine nature. His human nature was an addition to His divine nature. As God the Son, Jesus Christ had absolutely no part of flesh and blood, but as the Son of Man, He took hold of man's

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nature. The point is this: Jesus Christ became man, and as Man He took part of flesh and blood, willingly and voluntarily. Jesus Christ loves us so much that He would pay the ultimate price to deliver us. He would humble Himself to such a degree that He would leave heaven above in order to come to earth and live as a Man. (See Heb. 2:17-18.)

***Isa 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

***Isa 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

***Luke 1:31** “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”*

***John 1:14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

***Rom 8:3** For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.*

***Phil 2:7** But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

***1 Tim 3:16** Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

2. Jesus Christ delivered us by dying for us. We die, and there is no escaping the fact. Death is all around us — the death of acquaintances, friends, neighbours, relatives and family. We die, never to return to one another in this world. Only a *perfect being* does not die. Picture a perfect person — he would be completely perfect, perfect through and through; therefore, he would never die. He would live forever. He would be perfect in morality, justice and goodness — perfect in body, mind and spirit — therefore, he would never die. But as human beings, we are different. We are imperfect, sometimes immoral, unjust and bad; and because we are imperfect, we die. We die because we are short of what we should be; short of morality, righteousness, justice and goodness.

The point to see is this: we die because of sin, because we are short of perfection. Death is the result of sin. If we are going to ever become perfect and live forever, sin and death have to be taken care of and removed. If sin and death can be removed, then we can live forever. This is what Jesus Christ has done for us: He died for us. He took our sin and imperfection upon Himself and suffered death for us. How could He do

this? He was perfect. When He was upon earth, He lived a sinless life, a perfect and righteous life. Therefore, He became the Ideal and Perfect Man, the Ideal Pattern for every person. As the Ideal Man He covered and blanketed all men. Whatever He did counted for all men. This is what is meant when the Bible says that Christ died for all men — for the whole world. If a person believes — really trusts that Jesus Christ has died for him — then God identifies the person with Christ. God counts, reckons, considers and accepts the person...

- as being righteous in Christ.
- as having already died in Christ.
- as being already resurrected to eternal life in Christ.

God accepts the person as being acceptable to Him; therefore, the person never has to die. He is delivered from sin and death through Jesus Christ. But remember, it is only through Jesus Christ. We must always remember this, and we must remember why God accepts us: because we believe — really believe and trust in His Son. God will do anything for the person who honours His Son by believing in Him. If a person honours Christ so much that he surrenders and commits his life to Christ, God will deliver that person from death.

**John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

**John 3:36** *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

**Rom 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Rom 10:9-10** *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

**1 Pet 2:24** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

**1 Pet 3:18** *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

3. Jesus Christ destroys the power of the devil over sin and death. As noted in the previous point, man dies because of sin. The devil was the *first sinner*, and he is the one who tempts a man to sin. The devil has the power to tempt and entice men to sin; therefore, he has the power to lead men down the road to death.

Why does the devil do this? Because he is out to hurt and cut the heart of God, and he does this by leading men away from God. He knows that God's heart bleeds over every man who turns away from Him. Therefore, Satan does all he can to entice men to turn away from worshipping and serving God, away from living with and for God. The devil works to get men to...

- curse and reject God
- ignore and neglect God
- rebel and deny God

This is what sin is: doing one's own thing — simply rebelling against God and His control and say-so in one's life. Sin is living like one wants to live, living selfishly instead of living for God and being thankful to God. Sin is rebelling against God and His Word and going against God. When a person does this, he is naturally not living for God nor with God. It is because of this that men die and have to face separation and judgment from God. And note: this is clearly understandable:

=> If a person follows the devil and has nothing to do with God in this life, how can he have anything to do with God in the next life?

=> If a person does not know God in this world, how can he expect to know God in the next world?

=> If a person chooses to live without God in this world, then he is bound to live without God in the next world.

Very simply, the devil has chosen to go his own way and to have nothing to do with God. And he is like so many people in this world: he is out to entice and to get as many people as he can to satisfy his lusts. He desires and lusts, and he wants his desires and lusts fulfilled. Therefore, he seeks people who will join him in his lusts and desires. He has the same power all men have, the power to mislead and to use people for his own purposes. As an angelic being, he just has more power than earthly men have.

The point is this: Jesus Christ has broken the power of the devil over death. He did this by taking man's sins, guilt and judgment upon Himself and by dying for man. Man is now delivered from both sin and death by Jesus Christ. If a person believes that Jesus Christ died for him — if a person really trusts Jesus Christ — God counts that person as having already died in Jesus Christ. Because the person honours God's Son by believing and committing his life to Christ, God promises to deliver the man from death. God promises to transfer the person into heaven quicker than the blink of an eye. The power of Satan over death is thereby broken and destroyed.

=> Satan no longer has the power to enslave man in sin and evil unless a man rejects Jesus Christ and continues to follow the way of Satan and sin.

=> Satan no longer has the power to hold man in death unless a man rejects Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ alone has broken and destroyed the power of Satan over sin and death. The word “destroy” (*katargazomai*) means to bring to nothing, to make inoperative. Satan’s power over sin and death functions and operates within man, and what a power it is — the awesome power to separate men from God for eternity. But Jesus Christ has broken that power. He has made the power of Satan ineffective and inoperative. Man no longer has to be enslaved by sin and its guilt nor by death. He is delivered from death because Jesus Christ has broken Satan’s power over death.

**John 12:31-32** *“Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”*

**John 14:30-31** *“I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”*

**Col 1:13-14** *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Col 2:15** *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**1 John 3:8** *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.*

4. Jesus Christ has delivered men from the fear of death. Men dread and fear death. Despite suicides and the denial of some, the fear and dread of death are still a fact. Death is so feared that most men simply will not think about it; they push the thoughts of death out of their minds. Men dread and fear...
- wondering about the unknown of death.
  - wondering what lies beyond death.
  - wondering if there is a life hereafter.
  - not wanting to leave this world and life and the pleasures of it.
  - not wanting to leave loved ones.
  - not wanting to leave their possessions.

And above all, men dread the sense which every man has within him — the sense of coming judgment and the sense that all wrongs will be made right. Think for a moment: one minute beyond life — having been dead for just one minute — where is the dead person? What has happened to him? Where has he gone? What has happened to him...

- ten minutes after death?
- thirty minutes after death?
- one hour after death?

Where is the dead person? What is he doing? The teaching of Scripture is that death must be feared. No matter what men say — psychologists, therapists, physicians, philosophers, preachers — no matter what anyone says, death and judgment are to be feared.

=> Scripture says that death and judgment are terrible for the sinner: it is better to face the most evil person on earth than to face God after death. An earthly man — no matter how evil he is — can only take our life from us. He cannot destroy our soul. But this is not true with death and God. God can destroy both body and soul.

**Mat 10:28** *“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

=> Scripture says that death and judgment are terrible for the sinner: it is better to have never been born than to be born and enter death as a sinner and have to face the judgment to come.

**Mat 26:24** *“The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”*

=> Scripture says that death and judgment are terrible for the sinner: it would be better to enter life being blind and without hands and feet than to die and have to face judgment.

**Mat 18:7-9** *“Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”*

=> Scripture says that death and judgment are terrible for the sinner: it would be better to escape death and the coming judgment than to possess all the wealth in the world.

**Mat 16:26-27** *“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

**Mark 8:36-38** *“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”*

=> Scripture says that death and judgment are terrible for the sinner: the pain experienced is greater than all the pain ever experienced in the world. That is, if you took all the physical pain ever experienced in the world and packaged it into one box, that pain would be nothing in comparison to the pain of a sinner dying and having to face judgment. How could this be? Because death and judgment for the sinner are eternal: they never end.

**Mat 3:10** *“The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

**Mat 7:19** *“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

**Mat 8:12** *“But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

**Mat 13:42** *“They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

**Mat 18:8** *“If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.”*

**Mat 22:13** *“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”*

**Mat 24:51** *“He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

**Mat 25:30** *“And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

**Mat 25:41** *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

**Mark 9:43, 45** *“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.”*

**Luke 3:9** *“The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

**Luke 13:28** *“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.”*

**John 15:6** *“If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”*

But this is the point of the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has delivered us from the fear of death. There is no need to fear death, for we never have to die. When we come to that moment of passing from this life into the next, God will transport us into His presence quicker than the blink of an eye. We never have to taste death; we never have to experience death. If we believe — really trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour — He will deliver us from death. There is no death and no condemnation for the believer — nothing to fear — not if we really believe and trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has delivered man from death and condemnation — delivered all who will really believe and commit their lives to Him.

**Isa 25:8** *He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.*

**1 Cor 15:26** *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

**1 Cor 15:54** *When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

**2 Tim 1:10** *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

**Rev 21:4** *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

**2 Tim 4:18** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Heb 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**Psa 23:3** *He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.*

5. Jesus Christ has delivered us from the bondage of the flesh (sinful nature). The words “he helps” (epilambanetai) mean to take; to lay hold of; to take by the hand. This tells us a most wonderful truth: Jesus Christ did not only take hold of man’s nature, He took hold of man’s hand. He took us by the hand and delivered us. The picture is that of love and tender care, of His delivering us out of the bondages of the flesh (sinful nature) and of human nature. Note: it is not angels that He took by the hand, but the



seed of Abraham, that is, the spiritual seed of Abraham, those who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

**Phil 3:3** *For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.*

**Col 2:11** *In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ.*

**Col 3:11** *Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*

**1 Pet 5:7** *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

**Psa 18:35** *You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.*

**Isa 41:10** *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

**Isa 46:4** *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will earn you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

## **II. Hebrews 02:17–18 Jesus Christ, Great High Priest**

Jesus Christ became man's great High Priest. This was the very reason He was made like man, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest. Jesus Christ was constrained and moved to be a man in order to sympathize and feel for man. He wanted to go through all the trials and temptations of man, to experience all of life as man experiences it. Why? Why would anyone, especially the Son of God who existed in the glory of perfection, want to go through all the pain and suffering of life? There were four reasons.

1. Jesus Christ became the great High Priest so that He could be merciful to man. Man needs mercy. Mercy is his only hope of ever living with God. Unless God loves man so much that He will just pour out His mercy upon him, man is lost and doomed forever. Jesus Christ was made like man so that He could be a merciful High Priest.
2. Jesus Christ became the High Priest so that He could be faithful to God. God loves man, loves him with an eternal love; therefore, he willed that Christ come to earth and deliver man from sin, death and judgment to come. And Christ was faithful. He came to earth so that He might be a faithful High Priest to God *for man*.
3. Jesus Christ became the High Priest so that He could make atonement or propitiation for the sins of the people. The words "atonement" or "propitiation" (*hilaskomai*) means to sacrifice or to make a covering, satisfaction, payment or appeasement for sin.

It was, of course, the task of the High Priest to offer up the animal sacrifice for the sins of the people. This is the picture being painted of Christ. But note one distinct difference: Jesus Christ Himself is the atonement for man's sin. It was not His teachings, power, example or life that made Christ the atonement. It was His blood: His sacrifice. His death, His sufferings, His cross that caused God to accept Jesus as the atonement or propitiation. It is the blood of Christ that God accepts as...

- the *sacrifice* for our sins.
- the *covering* for our sins.
- the *satisfaction* for our sins.
- the *payment* for the penalty of our sins.
- The *appeasement* of His wrath against sin.

When Christ died for man...

- the righteousness of God was satisfied.
- the perfection of God was satisfied.
- the justice of God was satisfied.

Jesus Christ became the *atonement*, the *propitiation* — the covering and satisfaction for the sins of man. He became the High Priest in order to make atonement and propitiation for our sins.

**Heb 2:17** *For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement [propitiation] for the sins of the people.*

**1 John 2:1-2** *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**1 John 4:10** *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

**Luke 18:13** *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”*

4. Jesus Christ became the High Priest so that He could help man when he faces the trials and temptations of life. The word “help” (*boetheo*) means to aid, relieve, assist; to be so eager to help that one runs to the cry of a person. What a picture of Jesus Christ! He has heard our cry in all of our suffering and pain, trial and temptation; and He has run to help and deliver us. Just think! He has been made like us in order to feel with us and deliver us. He has become the perfect High Priest. He needed to do this in order to

experience every situation, condition and trial of man. He experienced the most humiliating experiences imaginable. He experienced...

- being born to an unwed mother (Mt. 1:18-19).
- being born in a stable, the worst of conditions (Lk. 2:7).
- being born to poor parents (Lk. 2:24).
- having his life threatened as a baby (Mt. 2:13f).
- being the cause of unimaginable sorrow (Mt. 2:16f).
- having to be moved and shifted about as a baby (Mt. 2:13f).
- being reared in a despicable place, Nazareth (Lk. 2:39).
- having His father die during His youth (Mt. 13:53-58).
- having to support His mother, brothers and sisters (Mt. 13:53-58).
- having no home, not even a place to lay His head (Mt.8:20; Lk.9:58).
- being hated and opposed by religionists (Mk. 14:1-2).
- being charged with insanity (Mk. 3:21).
- being charged with demon possession (Mk. 3:22).
- being opposed by His own family (Mk. 3:31-32).
- being rejected, hated and opposed by listeners (Mt. 13:53-58; Lk. 4:28-29).
- being betrayed by a close friend (Mk. 14:10-11, 18).
- being left alone, rejected and forsaken by all of His friends (Mk. 14:50).
- being tried before the high court of the land on the charge of treason (Jn. 18:33).
- being executed by crucifixion, the worst possible death (Jn. 19:16f).

And Jesus Christ suffered so much more, but the point to note is this: in each of these experiences His suffering reached the depth of humiliation. Christ stooped to the lowest point of human experience in every condition in order to become the *Perfect Sympathizer* (Saviour). This is the reason He can now identify with and feel for any person's circumstances. No person ever comes close to the depth of suffering and humiliation He bore. Jesus Christ can help — feel for, care for and look after every person — no matter their condition, trial or temptation.

**John 14:1, 18** *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

**John 14:21** *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

**Heb 2:16-18** *For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

**Heb 4:14-16** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

**Psa 103:13** *As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.*

**Isa 63:9** *In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ■*