

Hebrews 2:5-18

Stepping in the Gap

“No wonder the creation groans. But God did not intend it to be this way; and it will continue this way only for a little while, in God’s timetable. Someday, in the world to come, when the kingdom comes hospitals will be closed, doctors will be out of business and the ravenous nature of wild animals (and human beings) will be changed. The crops and the trees will no longer be infested. The game of politics will be over and wars will cease. Man—redeemed—man will reign. ‘And they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war’ (Isa. 2:4). A day is coming when, in the wonderful plan of God, the dominion that man lost will be given to him again. God’s redeemed ones, His children, will never again be subject to death. They will be like the angels (Luke 20:36). In the kingdom they will, in fact, reign over the angels.” MacArthur

- I. God’s original intent for mankind was to have him reign in his power over the physical world. He lost that glorious responsibility when Adam and Eve rebelled against him, which caused sin and death to enter the world. God’s solution in restoring mankind to his intended purpose, was to empty himself of all his glory and become a man, so that he could offer himself as a sacrifice for sin to redeem a people unto himself. It shows the extent God was willing to go to defeat Satan and reverse the effects of the fall on a soul.

Heb. 2:5-9

2 Tim. 2:11-12a

Gen. 1:27-27

1 Jn. 4:2

Rev. 5:9-10

“Interposition is that calling of God which causes one to step into the gap [Ezek. 22:27-31]. Willingly placing oneself between the oppressor and his intended victim.

Interposition is demonstrated when someone or some group interposes or positions themselves between an oppressor and the intended victim. This can be done verbally or physically.” Matthew Trewhella

God gave man dominion over the earth, but man forfeited his power (not his right or authority) to take that dominion through sin, and the principle of death took away the power to rule. But Jesus came, and through His humility and suffering, defeated the power of death, and makes possible the fulfillment of God’s promise that humans will have dominion over the earth - fulfilled both through Jesus’ own dominion, and the rule of believers with Him. (Guzik)

- II. Jesus never experienced suffering until he entered the world. He didn't suffer in heaven, no one does. He didn't suffer because of sin or being sin against and he didn't suffer from the effects of living in a fallen body. As Jesus the man, he willingly suffered so that he could understand what it means for us to suffer. The purpose of his suffering was to make him perfect in the sense that he could empathize as a high priest with redeemed fallen men and women ravaged by the effects of the fall. *"To make perfect" does not imply moral imperfection in Jesus, but only the consummation of that human experience of sorrow and pain through which he must pass in order to come the leader of his people's salvation.*"
Vincent

Heb. 2:10-13

James 1:2-4

Ps. 22:22

Rev. 19:1

Isaiah 8:17-18

Heb. 5:8-9

ἀρχηγός archēgós, a chief leader:—author, captain, prince.

The phrasing of this quote from Isaiah 8:18 shows how precious Jesus' people are to Him. "He likes to dwell on that fact. They are precious to him in themselves, but far more precious as the Father's gift to him. Some things are valued by you as keepsakes given by one you love; and so are we dear to Christ because his Father gave us to him."
(Spurgeon)

- III. Our union with Christ is organic, spiritual, and familial. Organic in that we are in Christ, and he bears his fruit through us (Jn. 15:4), spiritual in that we are sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit and familial in that we have become a part of his family as his brothers and sisters. He made us holy (imputed righteousness) so that that could happen. He holds us in high esteem because we have put our faith in him. His gift to us in honoring our faith is freedom from spiritual death as well as direct ministry to each one of us as our high priest who understands what we are going through. Someday we will be worshipping alongside of him with exultant joy over what God the Father has done for us.

Heb. 2:14-18

Rom. 6:23

1 Cor. 15:54-58

Gal. 3:7

Lev. 17:11

Rom. 8:15 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*