



An  
**ANCHOR**  
for the soul

## STUDIES FROM THE BOOK OF **HEBREWS**

### STUDY 3

### HEBREWS 2:10-18

**Aim of Study:** Reflect on our connection to Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation and commit ourselves to fix our thoughts on him.

**Main Teaching Point:** God's plan for all time was to bring us to glory through making his Son Jesus perfect through suffering. This is perfectly adapted to our need.

#### INTRODUCTION

Last week we say that the Son is greater than the angels. Today's passage explores our relationship with the Son as humans, hence the language of Jesus being one of many brothers and sisters. It is clear from this that the ministry of the Son benefits us first and foremost and is not directed to the angels. (see verse 16a)

Remember the aim of the letter - theology (teaching the truth about God) in the service of encouragement.

As we plunge into this part of the letter and think about how Jesus was made perfect through suffering, we might feel that this is all rather abstract. These are deep truths to be thinking about and we might find ourselves asking what such a teaching has to do we daily life.

Let's try and capture the flow of the writer's argument:

He's been arguing since 1:5 for the superiority of the Son over the angels. This is in all likelihood a response to the particular fascination that the readers have for angelic beings. In 2:5 he introduces Psalm 8 as a part of his argument. Psalm 8 raises the question of the place of mankind in the universe that God has made and concludes that the man and the woman play an essential place - and that this place has been given to them by God. It is part of the creation mandate.

In quoting Psalm 8 the writer concludes that "the son of man" of Psalm 8 is in fact, Jesus (remember the son of man passage in Daniel 7:13-14). This can be most clearly seen in Hebrews 2:8b-9. The writer wants to go a step further however by showing the close connection between the son of man and all of mankind. Jesus is the first of many brothers and sisters. Psalm 8 therefore, even though it is firstly about Jesus, is not exclusively about him. Hence the argument about it being "fitting" of verse 10.

#### STUDY

##### A. ....it was fitting....through suffering (verse 10)

1. For whom was it "fitting"? What was it fitting for him to do?
2. What does it mean for it to be fitting for God to do things in this way? Hebrews 7:26 uses the same word and there is a similar thought behind it, i.e. the link between Jesus and us.
3. Why is the idea of God making Jesus perfect difficult for us to grasp? (The idea of Jesus becoming perfect is a recurring theme in the letter).

4. Why is suffering the means by which Jesus is made perfect?

**Leaders' Notes**

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that suffering is in and of itself a good thing. i.e. Jesus had to suffer because it would somehow "do him good". The suffering idea here is very closely linked to the bringing of many sons and daughters to glory. Surely too, if there was any other way that Jesus could pioneer their salvation, God would have allowed it!

5. What point is the writer making in verses 11-13?

Hebrews	Old Testament Quote
2:12	Psalm 22:22
2:13a	Isaiah 8:17, 12:2
2:13b	Isaiah 8:18

**B. Solidarity (verses 14-18)**

- 6. What does Jesus have in common with us?
- 7. What is different about him? How is this difference demonstrated?
- 8. Why are both these things important for us (i.e. common aspects and differences)?
- 9. What is the help that Jesus gives in verse 18? How is this knowledge a help to you personally?

**C. Application**

- 10. In 3:1 the writer will call on us to consider Jesus ("fix your thoughts on....." NIV 2011). Why in the light of the passage we've studied tonight is it a bad idea to fix our thoughts on angels? Where might such an action lead us?
- 11. How can we encourage one another in our group to fix our thoughts on Jesus this week?

Pray together that we would do this.