**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 2:5-18**

**Jesus. . . my Brother?**

 After telling us ten things that place Jesus far above any other name, and warning us not to neglect His great salvation, our author begins to show how it all “works” and the amazing way it has come about.

[In light of all we’ve said about Jesus, let’s talk about how it all has happened in human history. . .] 1:1–2:4

To begin, God placed mankind as stewards over the earth at creation, as such, only slightly lower (in authority) than angels. 2:5-8a

 Now (because of the Fall) all things are not under his control. But Jesus entered this condition and tasted death for everyone, and now is exalted above angels. 2:8b-9

So, it was “fitting” (*i.e.,* the only way it could have worked) for God to perfect our Savior through suffering, and so (because the identification with humanity is complete), He unashamedly calls those who believe Him, “brothers.” 2:10-13

In other words, because fallen humanity was subject to death and all of its terrors, Jesus partakes of every part of it, and that is why He can represent us to God and at the same time know precisely how to help us when we are tempted. 2:14-18

***Incarnation: The Grand Miracle***

 C. S. Lewis, in *Miracles,* calls the Incarnation “the Grand Miracle,” for it is the fount and foundation of miracles: First, because no other Jesus-Miracles could have taken place without it, and second, the redemption of mankind demanded that a Perfect One assume flesh and experience the effects of sin as a human. As a result, God perfectly understands men and women, and is absolutely fit to minster to and for them as High Priest. No world religion even approaches such grace nor does any provide a means to extricate us from the web of sin, death, and hell. Jesus alone saves.

*1. How was the perfect Son “made perfect” through suffering?*

In His unequalled compassion, God shares human nature and takes on our weaknesses to overcome them. 1 John 3:1-3

*2. Why do we need not fear death?*

The great chasm of death was bridged by One who has crossed over and returned. When we identify with Him, we are “in Him,” and our own resurrection is assured. Romans 6:5-10

*3. Can we doubt God’s love and acceptance of us as sinners?*

We are not saved by our goodness, but because He came for us and became one of us. 2 Corinthians 5:21

*4. Can we continue to live for ourselves in light of Jesus?*

 Jesus has died for us in order to save us from self and free us to live holy lives for Him. 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15