

The Christmas Story (2)

Christmas Prepared in Heaven

(Heb. 10:5-7; 2:9-18)

Introduction: Imagine the heavenly scene. The eternal Son of God, in perfect glory with the Father, prepares to leave heaven for earth. He turns to the Father and says, as recorded in Hebrews 10:7, "*Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.*" This was no ordinary goodbye. This was the beginning of a rescue mission planned before the foundation of the world. Christmas is more than shepherds and stars and wise men—it's the commencement of a divine journey that would transform history. The issue is not that Christ came on that first Christmas, that is well documented. The real issue is why did He come? Jesus didn't just come on that first Christmas; He came for a reason. Hebrews 2:9-18 unfolds the "why" behind His coming. Let's explore this through five powerful truths what that first Christmas accomplished. When Jesus came...

I. He became our substitute: (v. 9)

This is the greatest reason for Jesus coming... Jesus' birth took place so He could die for every man as our substitute.

A. There was a cause – sin.

1. Man had sinned and been separated from God. (Rom. 5:12)
2. God must punish sin – (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)

B. There had to be a cure – Jesus would be the cure, by stepping into humanity and becoming our substitute.

1. **For a period of humility and substitution** “...for a little while was made lower than the angels,” (Heb. 1:1-4)
2. **The proof of His humility and substitution was**– “...the suffering of death...” The greatest proof that Christ was lower than the angels was His death. Angels can't die.
3. **The purpose of His humility and substitution was**– “...He might taste death for everyone...”
4. **The plan of His humility and substitution** – “...by the grace of God...”
 - a. *Jesus coming and death was no accident or tragic event – It was all a part of God's gracious plan*
 - b. Our salvation is based on God's sovereign will and love (Jn. 10:18; Rom. 4:8)
5. **The product of His humility and substitution** – “...crowned with glory and honor...”
 - a. When Jesus finished the task for which He came, God exalted Him and gave Him honor and glory (Phil. 2:8-11)
 - b. So, today, anyone who does not give Christ the honor due Him, is in danger of suffering under the wrath of God.

So, the primary reason Jesus came, was to be nailed to a cross for our sin- to die the death that we deserve.

II. He became our salvation captain (v. 10)

The term *founder* here can also be translated as "captain" or "pioneer." Jesus blazed the trail to salvation, navigating the wilderness of suffering and sin so that we could follow. “...bringing many sons to glory...”

A. He made the way – Jesus is our perfect Trail blazer. (Jn. 14:2-3)

B. Because apart from Him there is no other way-There is just simply no other way for man to get to God apart from Jesus (Jn. 14:6)

III. He became our sanctifier (vv. 11-13)

A. He gives us a new position – The word “sanctify” is a big word that means “to make holy.”

B. He gives us a new practice – Because there is still sin in my life, I must endeavor to be more like Christ; so that my practice matches my new position. (notice)

C. The procedure – We are made holy by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. (when God looks at me, He sees Jesus).

D. This is permanent – In other words there is nothing in this universe that can take away the holy righteousness of Christ in you (Heb. 10:4)

E. The promise – Jesus is “...not ashamed to call them [us] brothers.”

F. The prophecy – (vv. 12-13) are quotes from the Old Testament prophecy, (Ps. 22:22; Isa. 8:17-18)

So, when Jesus came, He didn't just come to save us; He sets us apart for God.

IV. He became our Satan conqueror (vv. 14-15)

One thing the devil knows and likes to hold over man's head is...

A. Death has power- (Rom. 6:23)

B. Death has been destroyed – Someone had to conquer death and destroy Satan's only power. This what Jesus did (v.14)

1. When Jesus came, He took on flesh and became a man so He could die, rise again from the grave and destroy Satan's power of death.
2. Jesus had to come and die as a man, so that other men could die and rise again following His path. (Jn. 14:19)

V. He became our sympathetic high priest (vv. 16-18)

A. His makeup – At Christmas we focus so much attention on the baby in the manger that we miss the point – Jesus Christ became a man. *Jesus became like us in every way.*

B. His mediation – When we go to Jesus with our cares, concerns, struggles and hurts, and whatever is on our hearts, He can say – “I know, I get it, I, 've been there.”

C. His mercy – (Heb. 4:15-16)

Christmas isn't just about Jesus coming to earth; it's about why He came.