

# Hebrews 2:10-18: Jesus Can Save You from “Life Sucks and Then You Die”

Ricardo Campos, Pastor Grace Chapel, Orange, CA July 1, 2018

## I. Introduction

Can anyone rescue us from the human condition? From the basics of human existence: birth, growth, emotionality, aspiration, conflict, and mortality? Birth comes with pain, growing up comes with pains, we long for our life to matter but most often it feels like it don't, our emotions get the best of us which lead us to various conflicts and at the end of our existence when we should expect some peace of mind before we die, death torments us. Life is a constant struggle from the day you're born till the day you die. Is there any other way?!

## II. Hebrews 2:10-18: Jesus Came to Save You from “Life Sucks and Then You Die”

God has told us that His Son Jesus Christ is God Almighty! He made the universe and everything in it and He sustains it all to this very day. He's cleansed us from our sins and is right now sitting at the right hand of God. Thus, He's greater than all the angels who worship and serve Him. He's the God-Man who will rule this world forever. Heaven and earth may disappear, but His years will never fail. So Jesus is the most important messenger God's ever sent us; we cannot neglect what He has to say: when God created us, He gave us dominion over this world; all of creation was put under our control. But we don't have control. Every aspect of our lives is chaotic and when our existence comes to an end, death tortures us. How will we escape this dire situation? God sent His Son to defeat every obstacle of the human condition, including death, which is why He tasted death for all of us. But in order to overcome our human condition, He had to become human.

**2:10-11**, this is why it was proper for God—for whom are all things and by whom are all things—to do what He did to His Son (Acts 2:23), because He wanted to bring you and me to glory, to a place where we no longer struggle in this life. God made Jesus perfect through sufferings, i.e., Jesus became our Leader, our Pioneer, our Champion who entered the fray of imperfect humanity and perfected it. He overcame the sufferings of this life and brought to an end the human condition. But Jesus didn't do this for Himself; He did it for us. He the Sanctifier is sanctifying us, thus, we are “all of one,” i.e., we and Jesus have the same nature: He and we are both humans who can rely on the protection of God our Father, which is why He's not ashamed to call us brethren.

**2:12-13**, to support the fact of our solidarity with Jesus, the author of Hebrews quotes three Old Testament Scriptures. The first is from Psalm 22, a psalm about Jesus. Two thirds of the way through the psalm is the verse the author cites: 22:22. The first 21 verses describe the torturous death Jesus suffered and His seemingly unanswered cries to God. But then God answers Him and resurrects Him, which is why Jesus sings praises and declares God's holy name to His brethren *in the midst of them*—which means He, God, became flesh. But they also share in His resurrection (22:29). Next the author quotes from Isaiah 8:17 and 18. The context of Isaiah 8 is that God is pronouncing judgment upon king Ahaz and the Southern kingdom of Judah for trusting in the Assyrians to defeat the Northern kingdom of Israel and Syria who were threatening them instead of trusting the Lord's promise to protect them. Yes, the Assyrians will destroy the Northern kingdom and Syria, but they'll also attack Judah and almost destroy it; Jerusalem survives. Many die in this judgment, but not the ones who trusted in the Lord. It's at this point that the author quotes Isaiah 8:17: Isaiah and the remnant will trust in the Lord to protect them. Next he cites 8:18 where it's not only Isaiah but the children God has given him who will trust in the Lord.

But the author puts the words of 8:17-18 in Jesus' mouth, i.e., Jesus is stating His solidarity with all who, like Him, trust God to deliver them from certain death, i.e., to bring them to glory—as Isaiah and the remnant of Israel did. Isaiah and the remnant faced the Assyrian army and God rescued them from death. Jesus and we face the torturous conditions of life and God rescues us all, even from death, by giving us Jesus' resurrection life. He brings us to perfection, to glory, by giving us Jesus' nature: His resurrection life (Romans 5-6). Therefore, the only way Jesus, who was God, could've help us sinners, the only way He could've enabled us to overcome our difficult human existence, including death, is for Him to become one of us, which is what he goes on to explain.

**2:14-15**, not only did Jesus enable you to have a successful life, rescue you from the human condition, He defeated your biggest enemy and rendered one of his biggest weapons against you powerless. How did He do this, how did Jesus save us from the fear of death? In order to conquer death, Jesus had to die. But how can He since He's God (John 1:1)? Jesus had to become flesh and blood like us. So He did and through His death, He rendered Satan powerless. Prior to this, Satan had the power of death over humanity. Humans are terrified of death. Every day they're closer to the grave; every moment of worry and anxiety brings them closer to their death:

July 31, 2012 -- Psychological distress, even at relatively low levels, is linked to an increased risk of death, a large new study shows. Distress is a measure of psychological health that takes into account symptoms of anxiety or depression. The study found that people frayed by even slight distress, meaning they sometimes stayed awake at night worrying or had trouble concentrating on tasks, for example, were about 20% more likely to die over a 10-year period compared to people who reported no such symptoms. That was true even after researchers adjusted their results to account for unhealthy behaviors that often accompany anxiety and depression, like smoking and excessive drinking. They also accounted for things like exercise, weight, and diabetes.... In this study, though, researchers discounted all early deaths -- those that happened in the first five years of the study. That makes it less likely that illness caused people to become worried and depressed.... The more depression and anxiety a person reported having, the more likely they were to die.... People with mild distress were about 29% more likely to die of heart disease or stroke than people who reported no distress. Mild distress didn't seem to raise the risk for cancer. People with moderate levels of distress were about 43% more likely to die of any cause. And people with high levels of distress were 94% more likely to die during the study than people with no distress. "We saw a very clear association across the full range of distress," says researcher Tom C. Russ, MD, a clinical research fellow at the University of Edinburgh in the U.K. "Even these low levels of symptoms that you might just dismiss as just part of life or whatever still were associated with an increased risk of mortality," Russ says.<sup>1</sup>

Even if you have it all, death renders your life meaningless: what does anything matter if in the end you die (Ecclesiastes 5:15)? Death even makes you worry about what will happen to your stuff after you die (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19). But Jesus has released you from Satan and your bondage to death. Satan's still around, but he can't hurt you anymore...unless you let him (Matthew 4:11; James 4:7).

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<sup>1</sup> *Even Mild Anxiety May Shorten a Person's Life* by Brenda Goodman, MA. <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/news/20120731/mild-anxiety-may-shorten-persons-life#1>.

**2:16-18**, Jesus didn't come to rescue angels but humanity starting with the Jewish people, which is why He was born a Jew. He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest who could satisfy God's penalty for our sins thereby bringing us back to our Heavenly Father. And He's not only able to sympathize with us, but help us overcome every obstacle, every anxiety because He's faced it all, frustration (Mark 9:19), depression (Matthew 26:37-38), even death (John 5)....and so can we through Him (Romans 5-6; Galatians 5:22-23).

**Your ability to overcome this difficult life is there, waiting for you:** we were meant to rule over this world and our lives on behalf of God. But instead, we decided to be God ourselves and rule on our own behalf (Genesis 1-3). It hasn't gone well; the world at large is a chaotic mess and so are our individual lives. Jesus has come to give us dominion over our lives once again. His resurrection life will enable us to overcome it all (Romans 5-6). He knows exactly how you feel because He faced everything this difficult life and Satan had to offer, but where we failed He succeeded, which is why He's able to help us overcome every obstacle, every anxiety (frustration, Mark 9:19, depression, Matthew 26:37-38, even death (John 5, 20).

### III. Conclusion

*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*