

## Our Pioneer and Champion of New Humanity



Today's scripture is from the book of Hebrews, which centers around the theme of Jesus. Who is Jesus? He is the Almighty Creator of the universe, the one who spoke stars into existence. He is utterly holy, glorious, beautiful, and completely different from us. He dwells in an inaccessible light, surrounded by angels who exclaim, "Holy, holy, holy!" Jesus needs nothing, and He is perfect in every way. I encourage you to revisit this book, as it will lead you into the very presence of God as we approach him as our priest, lover, and worshipers.



At Christmas time, God became like us - fully human, to be a sacrifice for our sins. This spectacular human is adored as God by the Father God in **Hebrew 1:8-10, "Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; that is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions. In the beginning, Lord, you established the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands."**

Before the creation, the sacrifice of Jesus for humans was already in the prophecy as was written in the Book of Revelation 13:8, "the lamb slaughtered before the creation." What does this mean?

The Triune God, possessing an infinite love and joy within their eternal community, yearned to share their divine love with their future human creation. However, humans needed free will to accept or reject this love, making it a daunting prospect. One of the Triune God questioned the possibility of humans rejecting their love, choosing the eternal darkness and curse instead. At this critical juncture, Jesus stepped forward, declaring, "I will become a human and sacrifice myself for them, restoring their lives and bringing them back to the light." This profound revelation encapsulates the essence of the Revelation scripture above.



Let's check again. What was the purpose of creating human beings? To share a holy community of eternal joy and love. For this purpose, God gave humanity the freedom of choice, which was the right of God. Without free will, there is no way to express love. Our first parents chose not to love God! They were deceived by Satan. Human misery began in the paradise where nothing lacked.

Through union with Jesus, we have unrestricted access to the holiest place of all—a place without a veil or anything that hinders our intimacy with God. You don't want to miss out on this incredible truth in your life! You find your fulfilled life in his love and joy, which was the purpose of our existence. This is the theological background that supports our scripture today.

Verse 10 introduces the name “**archegos**” for Jesus. This word struck me as a fresh revelation! It was translated differently in various versions, such as “**founder,**” “**pioneer,**” “**forerunner,**” “**captain,**” and “**perfect leader.**” Imagine a military commander. This word is more fitting. Unlike a commander who stays safely behind while sending his troops into battle, Jesus charged ahead, clearing the path and facing the enemy head-on. He showed us how we are liberated from the devil, the deceiver.

**So, verse 14 tells us: “Since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death - that is, the devil. And free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.”**

He emerged victorious in the battle against the devil! He bravely entered the fray against sin, death, and Satan, facing every challenge we could ever encounter. His cross was not a defeat; it was a triumph. The enemy's power was shattered. As 1 Corinthians 15 proclaims, “O Death, where is your sting?” He doesn't merely fight for us; he leads the charge, and we follow in his wake.

Therefore, Jesus, our *archegos*, serves as both our hero and example in all the challenges we face in our lives. As *archegos*, he first births the people of God, leads us into battle, rescues us through faith in him, and then inspires us as our model to emulate.

So, the Bible proclaims that we are heavenly citizens, distinct from the world. Our purpose is to live a life in accordance with God's will. He unveiled the glorious path for us to follow, a path that leads us to transformation and the emergence of a new humanity—a new race on the earth. Jesus serves as our guide, assisting us in overcoming our limitations and enabling us to walk in His footsteps.

Today's scripture delves deeper into the concept of Jesus' humanity and divinity. Unlike humans, Jesus is a divine person, the second person of the eternal Trinity. His humanity was created and conceived in Mary's womb, born in Bethlehem. His person, as second person of divinity, is distinct from the Father. However, he shares the same divine nature as his Father.

Jesus himself is God, and if you have eyes to see his divinity, it's evident all over the New Testament. God the Son took on humanity. He added humanity to his divine person. As Hebrews 2:17 says, Jesus was fully human, made like us in every respect, and “without sin.”

So, what exactly does this “every respect” of our humanity encompass? What does it mean for Jesus to be fully human just like us? He was born, grew, and eventually grew weary. He experienced thirst and hunger. He endured suffering and ultimately died. Jesus demonstrated

marvels, expressed sorrow, and was deeply troubled. He wept and rejoiced with happiness. Therefore, becoming fully human for Jesus involved not only a human body and a rational human soul, but also emotions, a mind, and a will.

Being fully human, he suffered both with us and for us. Suffering is an important aspect of his being fully human. Even though he himself was not a sinner, he was susceptible to the afflictions, assaults, sufferings, and pains of our world. He entered into our suffering in two senses. Not only does he, as man, suffer with us, but he, as the God-man, suffers for us — *in our place, in our stead*. He saves us through his death.

Why was Jesus made like us? Because Jesus needed a human body because only humans can die. We had sinned and needed covering before the holy God. To suffer with us and die for us. Jesus' sacrifice covers us.

**Verse 17 tells us he became "a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God."** A high priest's job was to represent the people before God and bring God's help to the people. Jesus is interceding for you right now as high priest. Imagine what would Jesus intercede for you right now! Jesus has gone through greatest suffering, greatest temptations in the world. Jesus understands your suffering, your struggles, your human limitations fully.

**Verse 18 is very comforting for us, "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."** Listen carefully, it is present tense! He **IS** able to help. Right now. Today. This moment.

Jesus was forerunner, pioneer, perfecter of your faith and won the victory. You are already included in that victory. When you are tempted, and when you fight against trials, You're not fighting for victory; you're fighting from victory. Your battle in your life is already won through Jesus. It makes the battle far easier, and gives you inner peace because you know the end result already. Jesus is your Champion in battle of temptation, your victory in trials, your empowerment, your provider! It doesn't finish there.

God is an incredible skill that can transform any aspect of your life into something wonderful. In God's presence, all your life events and situations become opportunities for growth, renewal, refreshment, and a renewed sense of identity as a child of God. This transformation continues until you attain the same love and power of Jesus Christ. Isn't that surprising? The Bible has written about this.

**Constant points that we rely on are the law of love, the law of liberty, and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. God's kingdom pursues everything through relationship, trust, vision, imagination, creativity, faith, and the truth of God's unchanging nature.**

Every battle you'll face, he's already won. Every fear that tries to grip you, he's already conquered. Every promise of God that seems impossible, he's already made possible through his victory. You are a human being separated from the world. Jesus is the perfect embodiment of God's vision for you.