

WHY JESUS BECAME FLESH

Heb 2:14-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We live in the flesh. And it's because we yield to the temptations of the flesh that we sin and need salvation.
- B. The good news of the gospel is that in order to provide this salvation, Jesus, the divine Son of God, Himself became flesh, showing God's love for us.
- C. In Heb 2:14-18, the inspired writer explains four reasons why Jesus came in the flesh and how it's important to us.

DISCUSSION:

I. HE CAME TO DIE A PHYSICAL DEATH v. 14a

- A. The apostle Paul declares that in order for God to provide justification by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ, it required the blood of His sinless Son: Rom 3:23-26
- B. Thus, the fact that Jesus Christ died for us is one of the foundation facts of the scriptures: Rom 5:8-9, 1Cor 15:1-3, Heb 2:9
- C. The shed blood of Christ is the means by which God's wrath is appeased toward the sinner.
 - 1. Nothing else could bring salvation--not even O.T. sacrifices of animals: Heb 10:1-4. Jesus had to die for man's salvation
 - 2. As long as He remained the pure spirit being that He was with God in heaven, that could never happen; so before Jesus could die for us, He had to become flesh

II. HE CAME TO DEFEAT THE DEVIL v. 14b

- A. The devil is the source of all sin, evil, and misery on this earth: Gen 3:1-6, Job 1:6-12ff & 2:1-8ff; Matt 4:1
- B. How did Jesus defeat the devil? Of course, His death on the cross, as we've already seen, made it possible for us to have forgiveness of sin
- C. But it was His resurrection from the dead by which He gained Victory over the devil who had the power of death: Rom 1:3-4
- D. In this way, He gives us victory over death as well because by His resurrection from the dead He enables us to have the hope of our own resurrection from the dead when He returns: 1Cor 15:54-57
- E. We can be more than conquerors through Him who loved us because He defeated the devil through His resurrection, but that would'nt be possible if He hadn't become flesh Rom 8:37

III. HE DIED TO DELIVER US FROM BONDAGE vs. 15-16

- A. All who sin are in bondage to sin and the devil, but Jesus came to bring freedom: Jhn 8:32-36
- B. While we understand that both the death and resurrection of Christ were necessary to make this deliverance possible, we also recognize that there are some things that we must do to be made free from sin: Rom 6:16-18

- B. Notice how the Heb. writer explains this, saying that Jesus didn't take on the nature of angels but the seed of Abraham
- C. This refers us back to the promise that God made in Abraham, that in his seed all the nations of the earth should be blessed, which He fulfilled in Christ: Gen 12:1-3; Gal 3:16, 26-29.
- D. There's a definite connection between the fact that we can become Abraham's spiritual seed or God's children being delivered from the bondage of sin and the fact that Jesus took on Him the physical seed of Abraham in becoming flesh

IV. HE CAME TO BECOME OUR HIGH PRIEST vs. 17-18

- A. One of the basic themes of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ is our superior High Priest: Heb 3:1
- B. The function of a High Priest is to serve as mediator between God and man; therefore, it's necessary for the high priest to be compassionate toward man whom he represents to God: Heb 4:14-16, 5:1-10
- C. Of course, the superiority of the High Priesthood of Jesus is based on the fact that unlike the Levitical priests of the Old Testament who themselves were weak and ultimately died, Jesus was also the sinless Son of God who lives forever: Heb 7:11, 23-28.
- D. Yet, the point of the Hebrew writer is Jesus is uniquely qualified to be our High Priest as a result of the fact that He has lived upon this earth as we do
- E. He has suffered, He has been tempted in all points like as we are; & this was possible only because He became flesh.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Over the centuries, people have argued about how a divine being could become a human being and how Jesus could be 100% God if He was also 100% man.
- B. There's just a lot about this subject that we don't know because God hasn't revealed it.
- C. But we do know this, that He who was the divine Son of God, being so much better than the angels, became flesh, made a little lower than the angels, that He might taste death for every man, destroy the devil who had the power of death, deliver people from bondage, and be our High Priest to bring us to God. Heb 2:9
- D. Have you accepted the blessings that Jesus offers by His death and resurrection through the gospel?
- E. If you haven't yet obeyed the word of God--remember: Gal 3:26-27....

(Outline by Wayne Walker partially from article By Dan Richardson revised by JLH)