

The Captain of Salvation

Hebrews 2:9-10 [Joshua 5:13-15; 2 Chron. 13:12]

In our text (Heb. 2:10) we see three things:

1. Christ's TITLE: Captain of salvation
2. Christ's TASK: Bring many sons to glory.
3. Christ's TRAVAIL: Made perfect through sufferings.

The word “*captain*” occurs 258 times in a KJV. Among these Biblical captains are: **Jephthah** (Jud. 11:6-11); **Abner** (1 Sam. 17:55); **David** (1 Sam. 18:12-13; 22:2); **Adino**, the Eznite (2 Sam. 23:8); **Joab** (2 Sam. 24:2); **Abishai** (1 Chron. 11:20-21); **Amasa** (1 Kings 2:32); **Benaiah** (1 Kings 2:34-35; 4:4); **Naaman** (2 Kings 5:1); **Jehu** (2 Kings 9:5); **Hezekiah** (2 Kings 20:5); **Lysias** (Acts 24:7, 22 cf. 23:10-19).

The English word “*captain*” comes from a Latin word meaning “head.” Jesus is “*the head of the church.*” The common idea behind the word “captain” is the one who is in command... the one who leads / guides.

- In the **nautical terms** it is the title of one in charge of a sea going vessel (Jack Sparrow-Captain of the Black Pearl; “Captain Hook” [Jolly Roger]; **Richard Phillips**, captain of the merchant vessel that was attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia in 2009).
- It is a **military term** designating rank and authority—Has charge over a company of soldiers.
- The title “captain” is also used in **civil service positions**—A “captain” in the police and fire departments. He is in charge of a precinct.
- In **commercial aviation**, the pilot of a large aircraft operated by an airlines is referred to as a “captain.” Captain Sully [Chesley Sullenberger III] of US Airways Flight 1549 landed in the Hudson River on Jan. 15, 2009.
- A football team has a captain. (Russell Wilson—Seattle Seahawks captain)
- Captain America; Captain James T. Kirk (Starship-USS Enterprise)
- The captain of salvation—Jesus Christ is the GREATEST CAPTAIN of all!

The Greek word translated “*captain*” is “*archegos*” [arch=top or first / eogos=to lead]. Hence the word “*captain*” means: Chief... first and foremost... pathfinder... pioneer... trail-blazer... the author. It signifies the one who initiates and cuts through something so others may follow. Jesus Christ opened up the way or trail for us to be saved and become part of His family (see Heb. 5:9).

I. As “Captain,” He *pioneered* the way into His **FAMILY**

(“...bringing many *sons* unto glory... v. 11—he is not ashamed to call them *brethren*”).

➔The word *pioneer* speaks of doing something no one else has done. ILLUS: Pioneers in covered wagons who settled the West. Pioneer church planters.

A. Jesus is the *Pioneer* of our salvation by His death on the cross. His was not the first to be crucified, but His was the first to be crucified and raise from the dead. He pioneered our salvation through His sufferings on Calvary and resurrection from the dead.

B. He is the captain of my salvation. When I was outside the family—a vagabond without hope, God looked on my helpless estate and said, “I will suffer Myself to bring that miserable derelict Al Hughes into My family so he won’t have to suffer.”

➔ I’m so glad that I’m a part of the FAMILY OF GOD!

1. You don’t get into the family by WATER.
2. You don’t get into the family by WORKS.
3. You don’t get into the family by WEALTH.

➔You get into the family by what the CAPTAIN of salvation already did. You get in by His sufferings, and His shed blood.

➔Have you received what He has done to bring you into His family?

II. As “Captain,” He *precedes* us in the **FIGHT**.

A. We are in a war—A spiritual war—A war between two armies—The army of God made up of believers and the army of Satan made up of those who reject the Christ.

1. We have the battle plan (God’s Word). We have awesome weapons (Prayer; Sword of the Spirit; Praise). And we realize we have an advantage, for we have a CAPTAIN who has never lost a battle.

2. But to win the battles ahead, we must follow our Captain and obey His commands!

➔Read Joshua 5:13-15.

➔“I’ve not come to chose sides—I’ve come to take over.”

B. As “*captain*,” He not only gives orders, but He takes the lead for us to follow (Heb. 2:10). He gives orders from the frontlines.

➡ He's a "trail-blazer!" He doesn't push us into battle from behind, but He blazes a trail for us to follow.

- C. See 2 Chronicles 13:12. Cf. Dt. 1:30; 9:3; 31:3, 8; Isa. 45:2—***I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight...***
1. You'll never have to go nowhere where He hasn't already been!
 2. When God sends you somewhere, He'll already be there before you arrive, cheering you on, "Come on! **The way's all clear!**"

- He blazed a trail for me when I came to Washington in 1974.
- He blazed a trail for me to Vermont in 1978.
- He blazed a trail 31 years ago for me to Port Orchard (1986).
- He blazed a trail for us to build this facility on Bethel Road.
- I believe He'll blaze a trail for me when I leave here next year.

III. As "**Captain,**" He **partook of our FLESH.** (Heb. 2:9-18).

- ➡ "*Perfect*" does not mean sinless in verse 10. Jesus was already sinless. "*Perfect*" also means complete. Christ was made "*perfect*" in the sense of becoming complete in the ROLE of "*the captain*" of our salvation.
- ➡ Jesus never ceased to be GOD and never ceased to be a MAN. He is the "*one mediator between God and men, THE MAN Christ Jesus.*" When He comes again, He will come as a MAN, still bearing the nail prints in His hands and feet! When you see Him you'll see A MAN.
- A. The AIM of the Incarnation—
1. This is **why He partook** of human flesh (vs. 14). He could only know human suffering by becoming a human being Himself (v. 9).
 - See 5:7-9 —What a mystery that Christ could "*learn*" anything! Yet He learned "*obedience*" through sufferings.
 2. Jesus suffered—hunger... thirst... weariness... rejection... betrayal... physical pain... and agony, etc. ***He suffered as "*a MAN*"—"***a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.***" ***He did not come as an angel (vs. 9, 17, 18). ***He took upon Himself "*the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*" (Phil. 2:7-8). ***"*When he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me.*" (Heb. 10:5).

- B. The ACCOMPLISHMENT of Christ's suffering.
1. Why would Jesus leave heaven in the likeness of sinful flesh and suffer as He did? TO BE OUR CAPTAIN! Because He wanted to be like us. He wanted to know by experience what it was like to be human. He became a "man" so He could redeem man.
 2. Sufferings made Jesus complete (or perfect) as our "captain." Through suffering He can *now* "relate" to what we face.
- C. The APPROPRIATENESS of Christ's suffering.
1. A God who would love man enough to suffer in man's place is completely foreign to the world's thinking. During the first century, the world considered the "gods" to be vengeful, angry, and indifferent to man. It was repugnant for unsaved people in the Roman empire to think God was loving and merciful.
 2. For Jesus to die on the cross for sinful men would disqualify Him from being God. God would not let Himself to suffer and die on a cross. [This is why Islam rejects the deity of Christ. If Jesus were God, He would not have allow himself to be crucified.]
 3. Paul said, "*We preach Christ CRUCIFIED, unto the Jews a **stumbling block**, and unto the Greeks **foolishness***" (1 Cor. 1:23). Why would they think "*Christ crucified*" was foolishness. Because they had no concept of a loving and merciful God like Jesus! They thought no god would give himself for the likes of sinful man. So Jesus' crucifixion was foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews.
 4. Hebrews 2:10 teaches Christ's sufferings was **not** proof He wasn't God, but proof that He was God. "*For it **became** him [it was appropriate for him] for whom are all things, and by whom are all things [He created everything], in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING.*"
 5. The crucifixion of Christ was **the only appropriate way for the true Creator God to act**. The true God would do whatever was necessary to redeem His fallen creation. Since Christ created the world and man, it was **appropriate** for Him to die to redeem man and creation. It's what a true God would do!
 - Christ created the world perfect. It was always God's desire to fellowship with us reign and over the earth with us.

- But man sinned and the curse came upon the earth. Fellowship with God was broken.
- God would not allow His purpose for man and the earth to be thwarted or frustrated. Therefore, He initiated a plan to redeem man and restore the earth to the way He originally intended. The crucifixion of Christ was part of that plan.
- The crucifixion was the appropriate thing for a loving God to do. An unloving god would have forsaken his creation and let man and the earth wallow in it's depravity.

D. The ASSEMBLY of our "Captain." He LEADS in "*bringing many sons unto glory.*" What a **march** He is leading.

ILLUS.: Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Robin Olds was a hero in the Vietnam War and great leader. When he arrived in Vietnam, the moral was very low. Instead of giving orders and trying to whip his troops into shape, he told them he would lead them into battle and fly with them. That made all the difference. At the end of his term, those men would have followed him anywhere! He was their Captain... their leader!

Jesus is "*the captain*" worthy of anyone to follow since He's already paved the way by suffering more than anyone would ever suffer. I want to follow a "captain" who has been through the battle and won!

This great assembly of "*sons*" follow because they are following Jesus, their Captain, who has suffered everything for them to get them to glory. They are not dragging their feet. They are MARCHING to Zion!

SUMMATION: Jesus is the Captain of my salvation—He **starts** it, and He **completes** it. He is the One **in charge** of my life... He gives the orders... He steering my vessel. I'm not running my life. If I were captain of my life, I would not be standing here right now—I would most likely be burning in hell.

- Is Jesus your Captain? Have you accepted His way into His family? Are you one of His "*sons*"?
- Is He in command of your life?

INVITATION: "*I Have Decided To Follow Jesus.*"