

Heb. 2:5-18 The Great Founder

Today's main truth comes from v. 10: **"For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering."** The word for "founder" is also translated as "author," "captain," "pioneer," "prince," and even "originator." I think of those captains of great voyages, sent from Europe to explore the unknown world as they landed in new lands. Those of you who are older, do you remember the words from Star Trek: **"To boldly go where no man has gone before?"** Though all these pictures and words fall short, in the same kind of way Jesus is described as the great author, founder, pioneer, doing something much greater than discover a new country or a new ocean or even a new planet or solar system. He certainly has gone where no man has gone before. But there is more. The emphasis of our author is not merely on what Jesus pioneered or founded, but what he did in order to accomplish such things . . . He endured great hardships and suffering, even to the point of death on the cross. Phil. 2:8: **"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death."** And v. 9: **"Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name . . ."** In Heb. 1:3 **"After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . ."** Look at 2:9: **"But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor . . ."** Why? **"because of the suffering of death . . ."** In our text today, we see 3 results of the suffering of Christ as our founder: 1) He is the founder of a new world; 2) He is the founder of our salvation; and 3) He is the founder of a new family.

1. Through Suffering and Death He Is the Founder of a New World! I get this from vv. 5-10: **"For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone."**

In these words, we see a shift in power, a shift in authority, because of the suffering of Christ, particularly his death. We must remember our context. The author is showing the superiority of the Son to the angels as to their authority given by God in the service of this world. Think about it. The old world was subject to angelic administration. In the Greek OT, which the early Christians would have used, we read these words in Deut. 32:8: **"When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he established boundaries for the nations according to the number of the angels of God."** (LXX) I think of Daniel and his vision on the bank of the Tigris River. There, an angel stood before him and said, **"Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your**

words. **The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days**” (Dan. 10:12-14). We’ve seen this in cp. 1:7: **“He makes his angels winds and his ministers a flame of fire.”** And in 1:14: **“Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?”** In God’s providence, this present world is under the administration of angels, both good and evil. Just this week I read of Satan’s dealings with Job, all under the permission of God. However, he speaks of another world, a “world to come,” (v. 5) as it will be subjected to another, namely the Son, and this because of his humiliation, suffering, and death.

In order to show this truth, the author quotes Ps. 8. Turn with me. In vv. 1-2 the Psalmist speaks of the greatness of God. And then in v. 3, thinking of God’s majesty in creation, wonders why God has given man such authority and dominion. After all, we know God’s mandate from Gen. 1:26: **“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”** Now look at vv. 3-4: **“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”** And then in vv. 5-6: **“Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.”**

The author of Hebrews shows that these verses ultimately point to the Son of God, who though He was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself . . . There is so much here! Jesus accomplished what Adam lost, and what WE lost because of sin. But, the Son, who is also man . . . the perfect man, obeyed the law of God in every way. And then he laid down his life as a sacrifice. Look at v. 9: **“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of suffering and death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”**

Brothers and sisters, we live in a sinful, evil world. And there is nothing we can do to change this fact. Now, we do live as salt and light as we make disciples. And as the hearts of men and women are changed, so the world changes. But, we cannot overcome sin and its effects in this world. As Adam fell, so we are fallen in him. But, there is a new Adam, the man, Christ Jesus. And because of his suffering and death, particularly concerning the fallen angels, Paul says, He **“disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them”** (Col. 2:15). And because of his death (and resurrection and ascension), He is the founder of a new world.

Before moving on, let me make a couple quick comments. The world we live in is still sinful and evil. This is apparent! But when Jesus said on the cross, saying, “It is finished,” and he breathed his last, the curtain of the veil was torn in two. The power of sin and death was defeated. This means that NOW, He is Lord. He sits at the right hand of God. And his suffering and humiliation

is finished. This will never happen again. And because of this, we wait for the world to come where the angels will not have such administration as they have in this one. This means there is an overlap between NOW and the world to come. And concerning OUR suffering, Paul says, **“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God”** (Rom. 8:18-19). Let’s move on.

2. Through Suffering and Death He is the Founder of Our Salvation! Today, we recall the words of Scripture: **“If any man be in Christ He is a new creation”** (2 Cor. 5:17). This means so much. It is salvation from sin and death, a new life now, and eternal life in the world to come. And all of these glorious truths are a result of the founder of our salvation through suffering and death. And this we REMEMBER today as we take the Lord’s Supper! We see this truth throughout this passage. Look at v. 9: **“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”** And then v. 10: **“For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.”** V. 14b: **“that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver those who through death were subject to lifelong slavery . . .”** And then at the end of v. 17: **“to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”**

I can’t help but think the author is giving the Hebrews a picture of slavery as they would have recalled their time in Egypt as slaves. In the OT nothing compares to this great, miraculous, event as God delivered the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt through his servant Moses. I cannot imagine witnessing such miracles. The Nile was turned to blood. Frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts covered the land. Livestock died. The people are struck with boils. Hail falls from heaven and destroys the crops. Darkness like there has never been, fell upon them. And finally, all the firstborn of the land were struck down. And through this great leader, Moses, the people left Egypt. The Egyptians were so terrified they even gave them their jewelry and their possessions. Then, if that weren’t enough, Pharaoh sent his armies to surround the Israelites at the Red Sea. And there, God opened the waters. Israel escaped. The armies of Egypt were destroyed! And through Moses, God delivered his people from slavery and death the Sea. And if we think of Moses, he was a meek and humble man (none like him). And he endured great hardships in this role. He suffered greatly. And we could say, he was a pioneer. He was their founder as the nation of Israel.

In much the same way Jesus, through suffering and death, is the founder of salvation. Now, Moses was a man, a sinful man, just like us. He was born in a lowly setting, with sure death coming his way as the Egyptians were killing all the male children. He ran from his responsibilities for many years in the desert . . . until God appeared to him at the burning bush. He told God, *“Let somebody else do this. I can’t speak.”* But, with Jesus, it was different! Yes, he was just like us. He was a man. But, this man came from heaven. The Son of God took on flesh. FOR THIS HE WAS BORN! He was “made ‘for a little while’ lower than the angels” (v. 9). He did not resist the Father’s will. In all ways, He obeyed, in both his heart and his deeds. In every way Adam failed, Jesus was obedient! And then he laid down his life? WHY? V. 9: **“so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”** WHY? V. 14b: **“that through death he**

might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.” WHY? V. 15 **“and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery? WHY? V. 17: “to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”** As we’ve seen from cp. 1, Jesus is superior in every way to the Fathers, the prophets, the OT saints, and the angels. He is THE pioneer? How? In his incarnation, his life, his suffering and death, He did what ONLY the perfect Son of God could do. He is THE FOUNDER of our salvation! He “tasted death.” This may be misleading, as some say he merely “sipped” death. But the meaning is clear. As a man, He suffered and died. What else? He **“destroyed the one who has power over death, that is the devil.”** Jesus himself said, **“How can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house”** (Matt. 12:29). Today, Satan is bound! He no longer has the power of death. He cannot keep the gospel from going to the nations! As Jesus says to Lazarus, “Come forth!” so we see the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit in this world. And this is evident as disciples are made every day.

In his suffering and death as our founder, He delivers his people from the slavery of sin and death. Look at v. 16: **“For surely it is not angels that helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.”** If you are united to Christ by faith, you are Abraham’s offspring. This belongs to the world, not merely the nation of Israel. . . . What else? V. 17: He **“made propitiation for the sins of the people.”** Moses and Aaron offered sacrifices. But the blood of bulls and goat could never take away sins (Heb. 10:4). But when the Lord Jesus was offered up, God is satisfied. His wrath and anger is averted. There is nothing more comforting to the people of God than this: OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. God is no longer angry at us. As He is happy with the sacrifice of the Son, so is He happy with us. This is peace. What a beautiful pioneer! What a beautiful founder! Through suffering and death, He is the founder of our salvation! This we remember as we eat this morning.

3. Through Suffering and Death He Is the Founder of a New Family! We also see this truth throughout the passage. Look at vv. 11-13: **“For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers . . .”** In this verse we see that God sets apart or “sanctifies” a special people. And the Son calls them “brothers.” And then in vv. 12-13: **“I will tell of your name to my brothers (brothers and sisters); in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold, I and the children God has given me.”** Here we have 3 quotations from the OT. The first is from Ps. 22, a Psalm of David, called *“Why have you forsaken me?”* In this Psalm David is suffering persecution. But in the end God saves him and then He says, **“I will tell of your name to my brothers”** (v. 22). How fitting a Psalm! The Jews did not see this as Messianic. But the author shows its fulfillment as the suffering of the Son of God and what this suffering accomplishes for their salvation. The 2nd and 3rd quotations are from Isaiah 8:17-18 as he waits for the salvation of God for his people. There is so much here! And we will hit more of these truths in the coming chapters. But for now, our point is that through suffering and death, He is the founder of a new family. ***If any man is in Christ, He is a new creation*** (2 Cor. 5:17). And this new creation is pictured here as a new family.

This was a truth prophesied over and over in the OT. Is. 43:5-7: **“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my**

daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made . . .” I think of lots of passages, but particularly Is. 53: The Suffering Servant. **“He was despised and rejected by men”** (v. 3). **“He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities”** (v. 5). **“The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all”** (v. 6). **“He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people”** (v. 8). And then starting in v. 10 we see the results of his suffering and death. **“It was the will of the Lord to crush him . . . He shall see his offspring. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied”** (v. 11). And finally in v. 12 **“Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many . . .”** I think of 1 Pet. 2:9-10: **“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”**

The entire Book of Ephesians is an explanation of this fact. He has brought together Jew and Gentile into one new family. This is the Church! NOW, there is unity. Brothers and sisters, we have more in common with the family of Christ than we do with our physical family. And, the reason is because the Son, who is the heir of all things, the creator of the world, the radiance of the glory of God, the exact imprint of his nature, the administrator of the universe . . . took flesh and dwelt among us. And he didn’t simply live among us. He suffered and died for us. This is why we are the new family of God! It had to be this way! It had to be a man. In Adam all have fallen, but in Christ, we are a new creation! And these things we remember. He is the founder of a new world. He is the founder of our salvation. He is the founder of a new family. And now, v. 18: **“For because He himself has suffered when tempted (tested), he is able to help those who are being tested (tested).”**

What a beautiful savior! What a beautiful Lord, who sits in heaven and is leading us there now as our great pioneer and founder!