

Advantages of Jesus' humanity

Hebrews 2:5-18

Today we will look at the necessity of the Lord Jesus Christ to come into the world as a human being.

In the verses we will look at today we'll see that this was indeed well planned ahead of time, both for the successful fulfilment of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ as well as for our comfort and encouragement.

We'll first go through all the verses of the Scripture for today and after that we still will look at some other Scriptures that confirm these things and make them clearer for us.

So, let's start!

Hebrews 2:5-6

- For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.
- But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?"
- Want Hij heeft de komende wereld, waarover wij spreken, niet onderworpen aan de engelen, maar iemand heeft ergens getuigd: Wat is de mens, dat U aan hem denkt, of de menszoon, dat U naar hem omziet?

I realize that in these verses God is speaking about the new world, that will come after this world has been destroyed, But I still believe that it is good to quickly go to Genesis chapter 1:26-28 to the verses that describe the creation of Adam.

We see these verse on the next sheet.

Genesis 1:26-28

- Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Thee verses reveal very clearly unto us which plans God had for the human beings He was going to create.

We need of course to realize that this doesn't mean that mankind owned the earth and could use it for whatever purpose they wanted to use it.

We were given the position of caretakers over the earth that God had created, taking good care of all the beautiful things God had created. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve this turned out in a completely wrong way. Because of their sinful nature mankind has exploited the earth for their own purposes and we can see the results of this daily in pollution etc.

Let's go back to chapter 2 of Hebrews.

Hebrews 2:7

- You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.
- U hebt hem voor korte tijd minder gemaakt dan de engelen; met heerlijkheid en eer hebt U hem gekroond. U hebt hem gesteld over de werken van Uw handen;

We need to remember that this verse, and the following verses refer to the Lord Jesus Christ!

During His time on this earth our Lord Jesus Christ was fully God and fully human. As God He was able to see what was really in the hearts and minds in the people He was dealing with. We see that mentioned in the Gospels several times.

But at the same time, He also was limited to the possibilities of His human body for most of the time. He got hungry, tired etc.

And we see also in the Gospels that He did not fully use the authority He had as God, especially as that was necessary for the great task that was before Him: reconciling us with God.

Let's continue.

Hebrews 2:8

- You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.
- alle dingen hebt U onder zijn voeten onderworpen. Want bij het onderwerpen van alle dingen aan Hem heeft Hij niets uitgezonderd dat Hem niet onderworpen is. Nu zien wij echter nog niet dat Hem alle dingen onderworpen zijn,

Already now the Lord Jesus Christ is Lord over all, even though we do not always see that specifically in the material realm in which we are living.

But in the spiritual realm that is definitely so.

We also can see that from the fact that, even while He was walking around on this earth, demons obeyed Him and recognized Him for who He really was.

Very often people are questioning the existence and/or power of God because of all the wrong things that are happening in this world. But then they forget that they can see only a small part of creation.

God is still in control of His creation.

Let's continue.

Hebrews 2:9

- But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
- maar wij zien Jezus met heerlijkheid en eer gekroond, Die voor korte tijd minder dan de engelen geworden was, vanwege het lijden van de dood, opdat Hij door de genade van God voor allen de dood zou proeven.

Have you ever thought about the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ died because of the grace of God?

Do we realize that He indeed is crowned with glory and honor because of His death?

Isn't that amazing? We probably always consider His death something terrible, that only happened because of the wrath of God. But without His death we would not be able to experience the grace of God.

Gods ways are wonderful, isn't it? Who of us would ever have come up with such a solution?

Let's continue.

Hebrews 2:10

- For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- Want het paste Hem, om Wie alle dingen zijn en door Wie alle dingen zijn, dat Hij, om veel kinderen tot heerlijkheid te brengen, de Leidsman van hun zaligheid door lijden zou heiligen.

Again, we see here something that is hard to understand. Had the Lord Jesus Christ to be made perfect? How do we need to understand that?

Because Jesus Christ is indeed God the Son, He was already perfect in righteousness.

But as God He had no experience in the matters of temptation. And that is something He needed to experience. You can read in the Gospels that He was tempted many times in many ways. That caused Him to have hard times and distress.

But it was something He needed to experience for our sake. We'll see that later.

Let's go to the next sheet.

Hebrews 2:11-12

- For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."
- Immers, zowel Hij Die heiligt als zij die geheiligd worden, zijn allen uit één. Daarom schaamt Hij Zich er niet voor hen broeders te noemen, want Hij zegt: Ik zal Uw Naam aan Mijn broeders verkondigen; te midden van de gemeente zal Ik U lofzingen.

Regarding Christ it is proclaimed specifically that He was born of God. We can see that for instance in Luke 1:26-35.

But for us as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ that is true also. We can see that in the Gospel of John chapter 3:1-8.

And John refers to it also several times in his first letter, using the phrase "born of God".

So, as disciples of Christ we are also brothers of Him.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, in his position of ruler over Egypt is a picture of this, being under Pharaoh, but over everybody else in Egypt, including his earthly father and all his brothers. And as such he became the savior of his family to the flesh, according to the plan of God.

But let's continue.

Hebrews 2:13

- And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."
- En verder: Ik zal Mijn vertrouwen op Hem stellen. En vervolgens: Zie, Ik en de kinderen die God Mij gegeven heeft.

In these verses we see clearly that also in the case of the Lord Jesus Christ everything happened according to the plan of God.

It is important that we always keep these things in mind. No matter what happens in the world of today, God is still in full control.

Let's go to the next verses.

Hebrews 2:14-15

- 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.
- Omdat nu die kinderen van vlees en bloed zijn, heeft Hij eveneens daaraan deel gehad om door de dood hem die de macht over de dood had – dat is de duivel – teniet te doen, en allen te verlossen die door angst voor de dood gedurende heel hun leven aan slavernij onderworpen waren.

In these 2 verses Paul describes the fact that our Lord had to die in order to overcome the power of death and of Satan.

That was the only way to set us free from the bondage in which we were living.

Through the sin of the first Adam death came into our lives and by it we were subject to bondage.

Through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ we were saved and set free from this bondage.

Isn't that a wonderful provision?

Let's continue.

Hebrews 2:16

- For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
- Want werkelijk, Hij neemt de engelen niet aan, maar Hij neemt het nageslacht van Abraham aan.

In 2 Peter 2:1-11 we see, among many other things, that God did not spare the angels that sinned but did cast them into hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved for judgement.

For those angels God prepared no way for salvation, but He did so for us, human beings.

Can you imagine that? How great is indeed His love for us and His compassion upon us.

But let's go to the next verses.

Hebrews 2:17-18

- 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.
- Daarom moest Hij in alles aan Zijn broeders gelijk worden, opdat Hij een barmhartig en een getrouw Hogepriester zou zijn in de dingen die God betreffen, om de zonden van het volk te verzoenen. Want waarin Hij Zelf geleden heeft, toen Hij verzocht werd, kan Hij hen die verzocht worden, te hulp komen.

In order to fulfill His mission, the Lord Jesus Christ had to be fully human also.

Because He was tempted in so many ways, He can indeed help us who are tempted also.

Without this experience and suffering He would not have been qualified to help us.

Let's look at some other verses that speak to us about suffering.

Hebrews 5:6-11

- As *He* also says in another *place*: “*You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek*”; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.
- And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,” of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

As we can see in verse 8 Christ learned obedience through His suffering.

We already see that ultimate obedience in the prayer of Christ on the mount of Olives as we find it in Luke 22:42

“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”

And just as suffering had a specific purpose in the life of Christ so it has also for us in our lives as we can see in 1 Peter 1:3-9:

1 Peter 1:3-5

- Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In these verses we see a description of all the great things that are in store for us in heaven.

We also see here that we are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation.

Nothing of these things come to us through our own strength.

But let's look at the next verses from this letter also.

1 Peter 1:6-9

- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of *your* souls.

In our lives trials also do have a purpose!

God doesn't just let things happen to us for the purpose of those things happening.

He always has a purpose for it and in the end that purpose is always good for us.

We see that also in the next verses.

Acts 14:21-22

- And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- En nadat zij aan die stad het Evangelie verkondigd hadden en veel discipelen gemaakt hadden, keerden zij terug naar Lystre, Ikonium en Antiochië, en zij versterkten de zielen van de discipelen, spoorden hen aan in het geloof te blijven en zeiden dat wij door veel verdrukkingen in het Koninkrijk van God moeten ingaan.

This is what the apostle Paul and Barnabas told the disciples in the cities where they preached the Gospel before.

Look at the last sentence!

This isn't what the preachers of the Prosperity Gospel will tell you.

But this is what the Word of God tells us!

If you want a life with no struggles, then you're not fit to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Facebook I found recently a quote I want to share with you.

We'll see it on the next sheet.

Russell M. Nelson

- Sin, even if legalized by man, is still sin in the eyes of God. His doctrine is not ours to change.
- Zonde, zelfs als deze door de mens is gelegaliseerd, is nog steeds zonde in de ogen van God. Wij hebben niet het recht om Zijn doctrine te wijzigen.

I believe that the above statement is true, and we must hang on to the Word of God if we indeed want to know the truth.

The book of Judges ends with the following statement:

In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

We are not called to do what is right in our own eyes, but what is right in the eyes of God. And that includes calling sin whatever God calls sin.

That can and will bring us into conflict with our culture, something that should not surprise us. After all, that is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ tell us in the following verse.

John 16:33

- “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- Deze dingen heb Ik tot u gesproken, opdat u in Mij vrede zult hebben. In de wereld zult u verdrukking hebben, maar heb goede moed: Ik heb de wereld overwonnen.

Our true peace does not come from this world, it comes from our Lord!

He knows what we're going through, He knows how we are tempted by the world and the evil one. He has experienced that temptation himself and He knows what the result of it can be.

But what the world did in the hope to put an end to His influence, God used to bring us salvation and reconciliation.

Shall we pray?