

JESUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER

Lesson 4 for
January 22, 2022



In Hebrews, Jesus is introduced as God and man. Paul emphasized the contrast between both natures in the first chapters of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 (divine)	Chapter 2 (human)
Son of God (v. 5)	Our Brother (v. 12)
Sovereign God (v. 8-12)	Faithful to the Father (v. 13)
Creator, Sustainer, Sovereign	Human High Priest, merciful, faithful

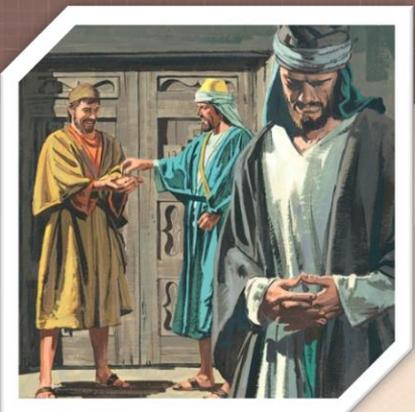


The presentation of Jesus as a faithful and merciful Brother is depicted in the description of the Son as the ultimate manifestation of the eternal Creator God (Heb. 1:1-4). Let's study how the human nature of Jesus is depicted in the book of Hebrews.

- ➡ Jesus is our Redeemer
- ➡ Jesus is not ashamed
- ➡ Jesus is like us
- ➡ Jesus was perfected
- ➡ Jesus is our role model

JESUS IS OUR REDEEMER

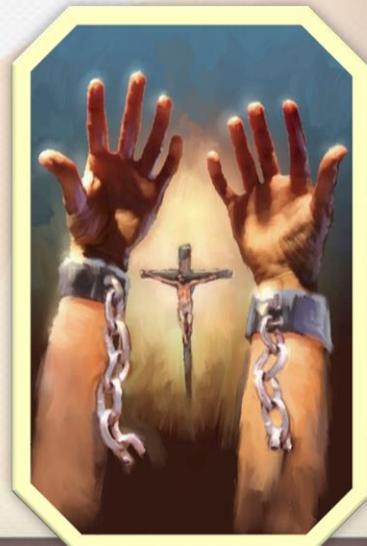
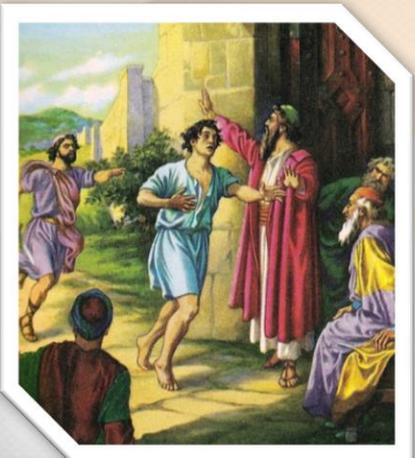
“and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (Hebrews 2:15)



In ancient Israel, a person could be taken as slave to cover their debts (Lv. 25:47). If they didn't settle them, they were enslaved until the Year of Jubilee (Lv. 25:54). However, a close relative could function as their redeemer by paying off their debt and thus liberating them (Lv. 25:48-49).

The redeemer was also responsible for avenging the murder of a relative (Nm. 35:19).

We all have been enslaved by sin since Adam sinned. We've been sold to Satan as slaves. Jesus became human. He is our brother, our close relative, our Redeemer (Heb. 2:14-16). He paid off our debt with His death.



JESUS IS NOT ASHAMED

**"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."
(Hebrews 2:11)**

The story of Moses is a type of what Jesus did for us. Moses rejected Egypt's throne and chose to be part of an enslaved people, his brothers and sisters (Heb. 11:24-25).



Jesus was the King of the universe. He became part of a race that was enslaved by sin. He was not ashamed of being part of a family of slaves, murderers, poor, and immoral and despicable sinners.



Are we ashamed to declare that Jesus—the King of the universe—is our brother (Mt. 10:32-33; 2Tim. 1:8)?

Let's openly confess that Jesus is Lord (Heb. 13:15)!



“Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is ‘not ashamed to call them brethren’ (Hebrews 2:11); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness.”

JESUS IS LIKE US

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,” (Hebrews 2:14)

The expression “flesh and blood” was used in other parts of the Bible to negatively refer to humankind:

Matthew 16:17; Galatians 1:16

- Lack of understanding

John 1:12-13

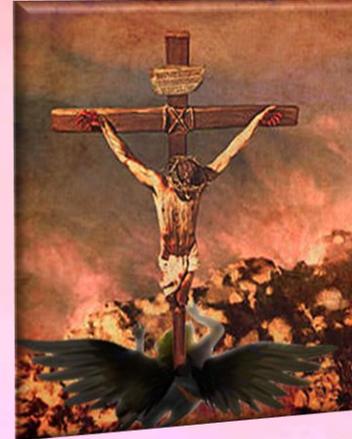
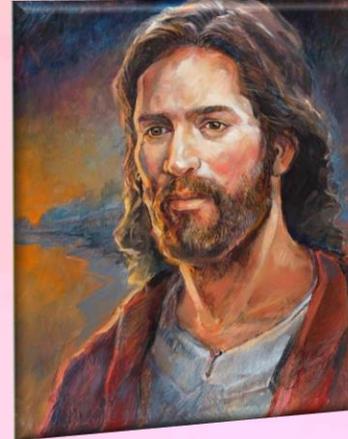
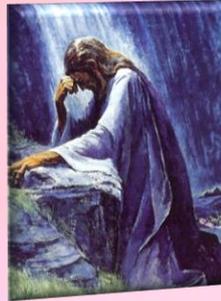
- Unable to become children of God

1 Corinthians 15:50

- Submitting to death

Ephesians 6:12

- Weakness



Jesus became “flesh and blood,” thus acquiring the weak human nature. However, He was somehow different to us. He never sinned, and His human nature was holy, harmless, and spotless (Heb. 4:15; 7:26). This way He was able to destroy the power of the devil and to liberate us from sin.

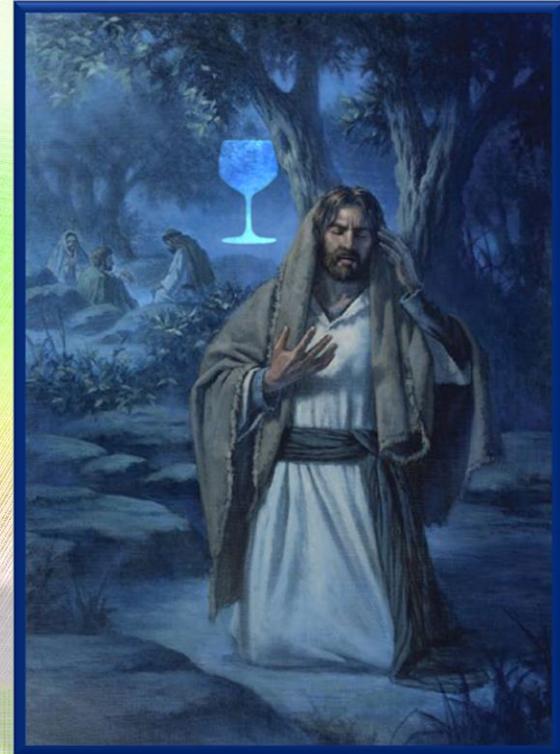
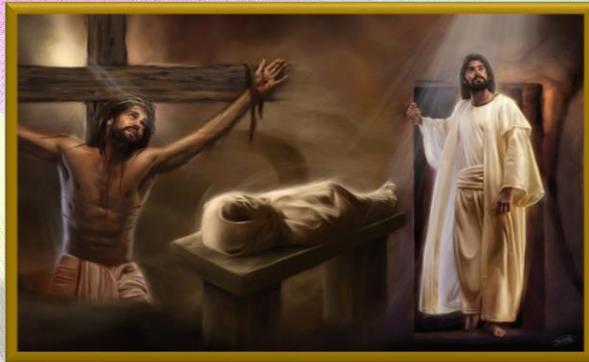
JESUS WAS PERFECTED

"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." (Hebrews 5:9)

If Jesus was already perfect, why did He have to be made perfect (Heb. 5:7-9)?

First, He prayed to God (Heb. 5:7).

Jesus prayed to be delivered from death, but also for God's will to be done above all (Mt. 26:39). God didn't deliver Him from the crucifixion, but He did deliver Him from the power of death. His prayer was answered with His resurrection.



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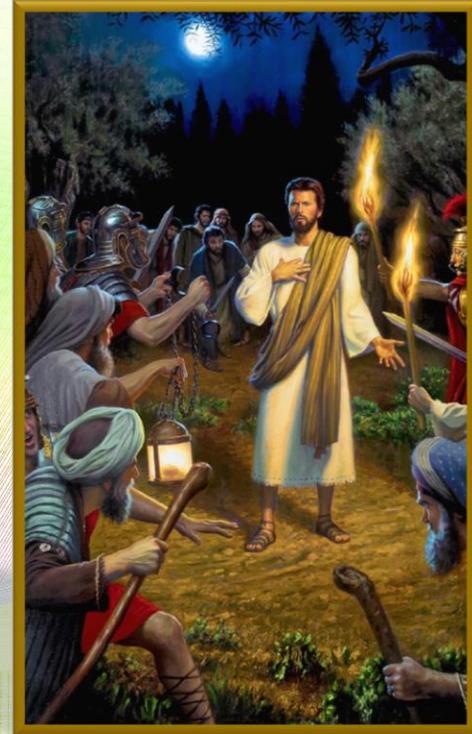
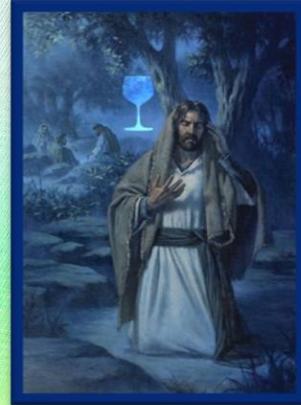
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Second, He learnt to obey (Heb. 5:8).

Jesus learnt obedience during His life on Earth. He surrendered to God’s will at Gethsemane. He never had to obey someone before, because He was God. Nevertheless, He had to learn to obey as a man to become our Savior, submitting to God’s will.



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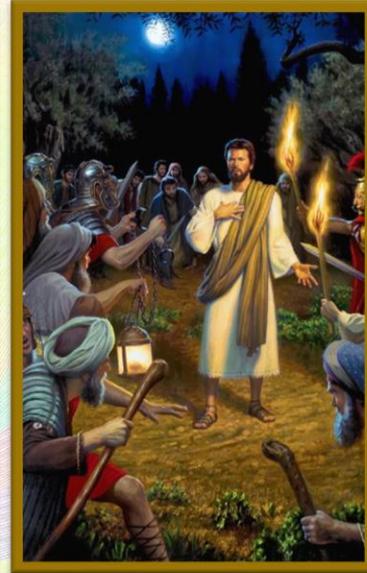
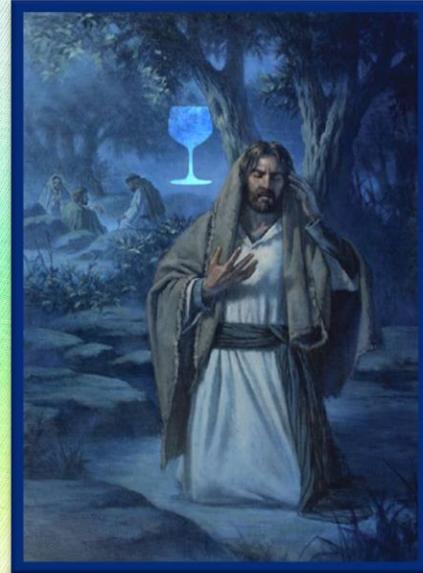
If Jesus was already perfect, why did He have to be made perfect (Heb. 5:7-9)?

First, He prayed to God (Heb. 5:7).

Second, He learnt to obey (Heb. 5:8).

Third, He was perfected (Heb. 5:9).

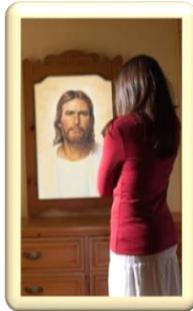
Jesus’ perfection was a result of His self-sacrificing obedience. It prepared Him to be our heavenly High Priest (Heb. 2:17-18).



JESUS IS OUR ROLE MODEL

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV)

In Hebrews 11, Paul mentioned several people who had been faithful to God. Then, he encouraged us to follow his faith example by abandoning sin and running to the finish line.



Then, he introduced Jesus as our role model. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. He is the beginning and the end. He is and will always be our role model.

As we imitate Him, we are being perfected day by day
(2 Corinthians 3:18).

“Yet this glorious Being loved the poor sinner and took upon Himself the form of a servant, that He might suffer and die in man's behalf. Jesus might have remained at His Father's right hand, wearing His kingly crown and royal robes. But He chose to exchange all the riches, honor, and glory of heaven for the poverty of humanity, and His station of high command for the horrors of Gethsemane and the humiliation and agony of Calvary. He became a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, that by His baptism of suffering and blood He might purify and redeem a guilty world.”

E. G. W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, cp. 11, p. 121)