

## Jesus Made Like Us, For Us and With Us

### Hebrews 2:17-18

The author of Hebrews continues to unpack the blessings and benefits of Christ's incarnation with yet another "therefore" in verse 17. It means "as a result of, or in light of" what was previously stated. The accomplishments of Christ coming into our world are innumerable and incomprehensible.

Jesus was made flesh so that He could \_\_\_\_\_ us. (17a) Just as the author had stated in verse 10, "for it was fitting", he now says, "He had to be made like His brethren in all things".

**Remember our studies in Exodus:** The high priest was taken from among the people, and set apart by God to serve as a representative of the people before God. The breastplate of the high priest was adorned with twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes for which He mediated the Old Covenant.

**(Hebrews 4:14-15, Hebrews 7:24-25, and Hebrews 8:1-2)**

Jesus was made flesh so that He could make \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin. (17b) The main role of the high priest was to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people, thus turning away the wrath of a holy God and making reconciliation between God and man.

**Propitiation:** Christ's death is said to be a "propitiation for our sins." This word is used only four times in the New Testament. (twice by John: 1 John 2:2, 4:10; once by Paul: Romans 3:25; and once by the author of Hebrews: 9:5)

Christ's death on the cross turns aside God's wrath that otherwise would be directed toward us in the judgment of our sins. Christ accomplishes this for us through His offering up of Himself as the sacrifice on whom God poured out his anger. Christ shed His blood then, in part, to appease God's holy anger toward our sins.

RC Sproul, "The only hope of escape from that outpouring of wrath is to be covered by the atonement of Christ."

**Question to ponder:** If Christ did not need to die to satisfy God's wrath toward sinners, then why did God cause His Son to suffer such unspeakable torment, if He really didn't need to?

American Evangelicalism has no doubt become more preoccupied with morality, justice and ethics, and increasingly embarrassed by its biblical and historic roots, grounded in the death of Christ.

Jesus was made flesh so that He might enable us when we are \_\_\_\_\_. (18) The writer of Hebrews closes this section with a glorious promise of a sustaining, enabling, experienced conqueror of temptation to be our present helper and comforter, giving us aid when tempted!

**Note:** Jesus' temptations were a source of suffering for Him. We cannot imagine the sadness and sorrow that the sinless God-man experienced when He was tempted by the Devil.

**Application:** You know that you are a sinner and God is holy; how will you stand before Him?

Since Christ has turned away the wrath of God, there is no more condemnation! Live in praise and victory!

When you are tempted, turn to our faithful companion and conquering friend; turn to Jesus!