



Advent (4)

The Purpose of
The Incarnation

Hebrews 2:9, 14-18

#1 The Purpose of The Incarnation

The author of Hebrews talks about 5 reasons or purposes of Jesus' incarnation in Hebrews chapter 2.

1) To Taste Death for Everyone

“But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, **so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.**” (Heb 2:9)

Jesus being made lower than the angels refers to the incarnation of Jesus. And there was a reason for this. By taking the form of a human body, **He was able to taste death for everyone.**

One thing we know about God is that He is Spirit. Because He is Spirit and doesn't have a physical shape. But **Jesus became a human being in body so that He could suffer, shed blood, and die for us.**

#2 The Purpose of The Incarnation

1) To Taste Death for Everyone

In the Old Testament we can find an important principle God set about the forgiveness of sins.

“For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**… it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.” (Lev 17:11)

According to this principle, God set up the method through which people could make atonement for their sins. It was to attribute their sins to animals without defect by laying their hands on them and killing them.

The animal sacrifice exactly represents what Jesus would do to atone for all our sins. Since a spirit can't die, Jesus became a human being to take our sins in His body and shed His precious blood to pay the ransom for our sins.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Mt 26:28)



#3 The Purpose of The Incarnation

2) To Break the Power of Death and Satan

When the author of Hebrews talked about Jesus' death, he intentionally used the verb 'taste,' which means that death couldn't completely control or exercise its absolute power over Him.

“Since the children have flesh and blood, **he too shared in their humanity** so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds **the power of death** – that is, the **devil**” (Heb 2:14)

For everyone in the world, death is the last stop of their lives without exception. But Jesus' death ultimately resulted in glorious victory because **He overcame death by being resurrected.**

By tasting death, and by being raised from the dead, Jesus broke the power of Satan, who holds the power of death.

Now, we know that our physical death is not the end, but only the start of a new, eternal life. Jesus was raised from death to life so that **we, who believe in him, can also have eternal life in Him after this life on earth.**

#4 The Purpose of The Incarnation

3) To Free Us from Death

Jesus became human to taste death and to break the power of death by His resurrection. And by doing so, Jesus “[freed] those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb 2:15)

Before we believed in Jesus, we were sinners heading towards eternal death. We were slaves to sin and Satan who captured us and controlled our lives with his powerful weapon, death.

But, the good news is that by becoming human, tasting death, and being resurrected from the dead, Jesus defeated all our enemies and has set us free from the reign of sin, the fear of death, and Satan.

Even though they still have a powerful impact on our lives, they can't rule over us anymore because we're now under God's grace in Jesus Christ. We don't have to be afraid of death anymore because it was already defeated.

#5 The Purpose of The Incarnation

4) To Make Atonement for the Sins of the People

“For this reason **he had to be made like them, fully human in every way**, in order that... he might make atonement for the sins of the people” (Heb 2:17)

The fourth reason that Jesus became human was to make atonement for our sins. To make atonement, Jesus needed to become fully human so that He could shed His blood and taste death since a spirit can't die.

5) To Help Us

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted.**” (Heb 2:16, 18)

Another reason that Jesus became a human was to understand us by becoming like us. **Jesus is the perfect helper.** He can perfectly understand our difficulties, emotions, situations, and everything not only because He is God who knows everything but also because He Himself experienced all of them as a human.

#6 The Purpose of The Incarnation

5) To Help Us

Because Jesus also suffered and was tempted just as we face all kinds of suffering and temptations, He is able to perfectly help us in our times of need. And He also showed us a perfect example of how to overcome our trials and temptations with the power of God's word so that we can also be victorious in every situation.

“We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Heb 4:15-16)

The reason Jesus came into the world in human flesh was to understand us and help us in our times of need. We always need a helper and Jesus will never leave us but be with us always.