

## Hebrews 2:14-18 – BC Article 18 – “And Was Made Man”

**Introduction: The Son of God took on our flesh and blood to help us by defeating the power of death and making payment for sins.**

### 1. Jesus Was Made Like His Brothers

- Jesus is our brother because of the spiritual reality that we have been made sons of God by adoption. However, our text describes the fact that Jesus took on our nature, flesh and blood. Jesus had both a fully human and a fully divine nature. He was born of the Virgin Mary, and he took his flesh from his biological other. Jesus didn't just appear to be human (Gnostic Docetism) nor did he have a special type of 'celestial flesh' (Anabaptists).
- All children of Adam and Eve have a corrupt nature. Jesus is the exception to this rule because he was not only truly human, he was also truly divine. This divinity allowed him to live a perfect life, and fulfilled the prophecy that he would be “God with us” (see Isaiah 7:14; Matt 1:23).

### 2. Jesus Defeats the Power of Death

- There are two purposes identified in our text for the incarnation. The first is that he defeats death, the power of the Devil. This doesn't mean that the Devil has power independent of God, but that death is his mission, and bringing death into the world is what he accomplished.
- The Devil thought that he had defeated Christ when he died on the cross. He didn't. This was part of the plan. Jesus went to death willingly so that he could defeat death. He took our flesh through the grave to raid the kingdom of death (see Luke 11:14-23).
- We are given the extent of this salvation in verse 15. Jesus offers his redemption to 'the seed of Abraham.' This would be very meaningful for the Jews listening, because it offers salvation to them, but also, the true seed of Abraham are those who share Abraham's faith (John 8:53-59; Rom 4:11-12; 9:6-8; Gal 3:7-9). Jesus defeats death for believers.

### 3. Jesus Makes Propitiation for Sin

- The second purpose of the incarnation is that Jesus could be our High Priest. The High Priest was vital to Old Testament worship. On the Day of Atonement would perform the sprinkling of blood in the Most Holy Place and place the sins of the people on the scapegoat (see Lev 16).
- As the faithful High Priest, he performed the duty of propitiation. This means he turned away the wrath of God by removing our sins from us and giving us perfect righteousness. Jesus sprinkled his own blood and served as the scapegoat for our sins. God appeased his own wrath so that we could have access to him by faith.
- As a saviour who was able to be tempted, he has the right to help others who are also subject to temptation. Jesus was tempted in his sufferings to abandon his mission, but he didn't. Thus he has the power to help us in the midst of our trials and sufferings. Jesus is the perfect mediator because he was truly human.