

Verse 13-15: 'And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Here again, the writer is quoting David and Isaiah, speaking of the Messiah. When the Lord Jesus Christ was being falsely accused, convicted and crucified, He willingly submitted to all of it... He said, 'I will put My trust in Him.'

Why did Jesus Christ willingly go through all of that? He did it because He understood that there was far more happening, far more being accomplished than appeared on the surface... far more than Satan realized. Jesus Christ knew all of the Word of God... He is the Word of God... He understood what every prophecy meant and what every religious symbol and ritual signified and pointed to. He understood that He was the Lamb of God to be sacrificed for the sins of the children whom God had chosen and promised to Him... those then living, those who had already died and all those yet to be born. Remember... before God created the World, He developed a plan whereby He would eternally glorify Himself and He would create, redeem and glorify, a people for His Own possession to have and to love, who would glorify Him, for eternity... and that people which He would create for Himself, would be drawn from every tribe, tongue and family... and from all time, throughout many thousands of years.

When God first created man, Adam and Eve... they actually inhabited two worlds simultaneously... the spiritual world and the physical world. The two of them, as living souls, each lived within a kind of 'double body' one that could move in and experience all that happens within both the spiritual and the physical realms. They could live in and experience the physical world and they could also experience and interact in the spiritual realm with God Himself when He, in His Spiritual form, came into the garden and walked with them. They could see Him and hear Him and probably even touch Him... they could experience the spiritual realm. There was probably a glorious brightness on them as their spiritual selves reflected the light and glory of God... it was as if they were clothed in that brightness and glory and the same brightness was probably on all creation... all creation was alive and glorious under the dominion of God's *pinnacle of creation*, man.

But the moment they sinned, everything changed; their spiritual bodies died instantly. They were then left only as living souls within physical bodies. Now, they could only experience and interact within the physical realm... they were completely blind and deaf to the spiritual realm. Everything around them, all creation was darkened... the glorious reflection of the light and glory of God was gone from off their bodies... it was gone from the animals, the insects and birds... the glorious brightness of God's reflected glory was gone from the plants and even from the ground itself... all creation was darkened by sin and death. Everything began to corrupt and die. They recognized that they were naked and they were very ashamed at what they had done... they knew they had sinned and that nothing would ever be the same. They immediately saw that death and shed blood were caused by sin... God had killed animals to use their skins to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, to 'cover' their sin. God never again came to walk with them and talk with them... even if He had, they could not have even known it... they would have been completely unable to recognize and experience Him in any way... their spiritual bodies were dead and they were now dead to the spiritual realm.

They saw animals beginning to kill and to eat each other... everything around them began to grow old and die. Instinctively, they knew that they would die and when they did, they would once again stand before God, whom they had disobeyed and whose presence they had despised, and they would be judged according to what they had done because they continued to sin for the rest of their lives. Because of that realization... they feared death, they feared it more than anything else on Earth... and their only hope... the only light they could hold on to was the promise they'd heard in God's curse of the serpent... that God would, one day, send a Savior Who would destroy the works of the devil... and destroy his power of death.

When they sinned, they forfeited their right of dominion over the Earth. Lucifer was allowed to regain a certain degree of dominion and he was allowed to hold the power of death over all humans who sinned... and he thought that would include every human for all time to come. Satan didn't know that all of this was fitting exactly within God's perfect plan to glorify Himself and to create for Himself a people drawn from every tribe and tongue and from all time... His plan to redeem all creation.

For the next 4000 years, God began to speak, once in a while, to different chosen men, His prophets, in order to begin to re-reveal Himself and His will to humans... and to establish a religious system which would predict and point to that promised coming One Who would rescue His people and destroy the works of the devil... a religious system which would prepare them to understand that not only did sin bring death, but it also required the shedding of blood and the destruction of flesh for the forgiveness of sin... that for a time, God would graciously accept the blood of animals, but eventually, the genuine requirement for the forgiveness of sin would come... the breaking of the body and the shedding of blood of a perfect and sinless human... but it seemed that no human could ever qualify because they were all sinners, needing forgiveness for their own sin.

Some sacrifices in the Old Testament were for the shedding of an animal's blood while other sacrifices required the complete destruction of the animal's flesh as a burnt offering where the body was completely consumed in fire. In some sacrifices, an animal's blood was sprinkled on the altar but the body was then used for food. In a burnt offering, the animal was killed, the blood drained and then sprinkled on the altar. Its skin was removed and given to the officiating priest as his fee. Then the body was burned and completely consumed on the altar overnight.

As the perfect sacrifice for our sin, Jesus Christ's blood was shed, His body was broken, He was placed on the altar of the Cross and his covering, His cloak, was removed and given to those 'officiating.'

14: Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same...

All humans are 'partakers' of flesh and blood... the Greek word there for 'have partaken' is Koinoneo. You've heard of koinonia... fellowship... in other words... humans can have fellowship with each other because we all share flesh and blood... our human bodies... we can relate to each other, speaking, hearing, seeing and touching each other by use of our human bodies... we can even have a limited degree of fellowship with an animal but to have full fellowship with another, we must both be in human bodies... but we cannot have fellowship with God, apart from Jesus Christ, because God inhabits the spiritual realm and our spiritual selves are dead... we cannot speak, hear, see or touch within the spiritual realm... we all died with Adam and are only made alive again spiritually when we are born again through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross.

When God decided the time had come to completely reveal Himself to humans, it was necessary for Him to do so within a human body of flesh and blood. We could only have fellowship with God if He was in a human body. And then, in order for Him to be the adequate, perfect sacrifice for the sins of humans, it was necessary for Him to live a perfect and sinless life as a human, within a human body, withstanding the very same trials and temptations as every other human living before and after Him, and then to go through **our** deserved punishment within a human body... feeling, experiencing and suffering every minute of it. His would be the perfect, complete sacrifice for sin, once for all, for all whom God had chosen. Remember... what did He say through the prophet, speaking of the time of His sacrifice? 'Here am I and the children whom God has given Me'... not... 'Here am I and all the people of the World.'

I believe that was said prophetically of Jesus Christ when He went down to Paradise, Abraham's Bosom... after He had died on the Cross, just before He took all of those in Paradise with Him back to Heaven. The picture is of Him standing there in Paradise with His arms around all of the Old Testament Saints who had died and gone there before, to await His arrival. He is looking up toward Heaven... waiting for His Father to take Him and all of them up to Heaven, saying, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given Me' But, in a spiritual and eternal sense... He also was referring to every other true believer, every other human who would trust in Him for salvation... throughout all time.

He became human... living within a human body... He came down into the darkness of the physical Universe as a true and faithful shepherd, to seek and to save that which was lost... us. Then, when He found us, each of us, all of us whom the Father had given to Him... it was necessary for Him to pay the price of ransom to redeem us from death, unto God. He could only pay that price as a human... He was the price... His death was the price.

...that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

When Adam sinned, he brought death upon himself and all creation and he forfeited his right to have dominion over the Earth. I believe the Bible teaches that Satan was the ruler of this world before the creation we read about in Genesis 1. The Bible alludes to this in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. It seems to indicate that Lucifer had a kingdom and dominion on the Earth... it speaks of his throne. God created the world in Genesis 1:1 and allowed Lucifer to rule over it. 'In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth.' When Lucifer sinned and rebelled, he forfeited his right of dominion and God destroyed his kingdom. When He recreated it in Genesis 1:2 He gave Adam dominion over it and only gave Him one commandment... don't eat of that tree. Adam disobeyed and sinned. Dominion was taken from him and that power was usurped by the previous, deposed ruler... Lucifer. And since Adam's sin had plunged all creation into darkness and death, then Satan became the Prince of darkness having the power of death.

Let's look at those two passages:

The Fall of Lucifer in **Isaiah 14:**

¹² "How you are fallen from heaven,

O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; (he had a throne, a kingdom)

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, (his kingdom was down under the clouds)

I will be like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Lucifer had a throne which he sought to exalt above the throne of God.

Then, in Ezekiel 28: The Lamentation for the King of Tyre: this is also speaking prophetically of Lucifer...

'Thus says the Lord GOD:

"You were the seal of perfection, (God's highest creation to that point)

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ ***You were in Eden, the garden of God;***

Every precious stone was your covering:...

¹⁴ ***"You were the anointed cherub who covers;***

I established you;

You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

¹⁵ ***You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,***

Till iniquity was found in you.

¹⁶ ***"By the abundance of your trading***

You became filled with violence within,

And you sinned; (there was trade happening in Lucifer's kingdom)

Therefore I cast you as a profane thing

Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, ***O covering cherub,***
From the midst of the fiery stones.

¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground,
I laid you before kings,
That they might gaze at you.

¹⁸ "***You defiled your sanctuaries
By the multitude of your iniquities,
By the iniquity of your trading;***

Therefore I brought fire from your midst;
It devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth
In the sight of all who saw you. (did Lucifer have a physical body which God destroyed?)

¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror,
And *shall be* no more forever." (this speaks of his final doom)

It seems that when God originally created, He put angels to rule over His creation. Hebrews says that angels are ministering 'spirits' sent forth to help us, those who will inherit salvation... but were they created like Adam was originally, having a spiritual and physical body? Remember, when the angels came to take Lot out of Sodom, they grabbed onto him and pulled him out by force. They must have had a physical substance to do that... didn't they? Just another clue.

If so, when Lucifer rebelled, and God judged him and his kingdom... did God destroy Lucifer's and the other fallen angels' physical bodies, leaving only their spiritual bodies, like when He judged Adam and Eve, He destroyed their spiritual bodies, leaving only their physical bodies?

In Genesis 6, when angels mated with human women, producing giants, then, and after the flood also... they would have needed physical substance to accomplish that... was this another group of angels that disobeyed God, whose physical bodies had not yet been destroyed? And Jude tells us that those angels, who mated with human women, have been imprisoned in chains of darkness until the final judgment.

For God to redeem mankind and creation from darkness and death, it was necessary for a perfect and sinless descendant of Adam to be the perfect and sinless sacrifice for sin and death.

Satan didn't understand, this was how God had created His plan of redemption... Satan was caught off guard. He thought that Jesus Christ, the Son of God was simply coming to Earth to set up His Kingdom... Satan failed to understand that the sacrifice of God's Son was the real plan... to legally destroy the power of death and to destroy all the works of the Devil. He thought if he killed the Son... then the kingdom would be his forever... such a rude awakening when he realized what he had done.

Paul wrote, '...but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.' 1 Cor 2:8

If Satan had understood what was really at work, He would never have instigated Jesus Christ's crucifixion, even though God Himself had planned it... and it was going to happen.

Let's go back for a minute to Genesis 1... just so you see what I'm talking about. Gen 1 says, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. God created... He spoke it into existence... He didn't need to do it in stages. Then, in the second verse it says, 'The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. That's pretty straightforward.

Then it says, 'the earth was formless and void.' That verb, 'was' is the Hebrew word, 'hayah.' It can mean is or was, but if you look at it, it actually often means 'to become, to come to pass, to happen.

'In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. And the Earth **became** formless and void.'

It might read, 'In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth... and he put it all under the dominion of His highest creation to date... Lucifer... who ruled over it for an unspecified amount of time until he rebelled. Then God completely destroyed Lucifer's kingdom, causing the Earth to become formless and void, covered in water and darkness until God chose to recreate it and place it under the dominion of His highest creation, Man.

Remember, we always say, 'look for the clues throughout God's Word.'

Here is another clue in Isaiah... 'For thus says the LORD, the creator of the heavens, who is God, The designer and maker of the earth who established it, Not as an empty waste did he create it, but designing it to be lived in: I am the LORD, and there is no other.' Isaiah 45:18

See that... another clue... the Designer and Maker of the Earth did not create it an empty waste place, but He designed it and spoke it into existence to be inhabited.

Think about it... what you know of God... everything He created, He created it in its complete form... why would the Earth itself be different? Why would He start out with it being without form and void?

How do all of these things fit together? If we don't have a rudimentary understanding of these things, how can it make sense to us when the writer of Hebrews talks about a sacrifice destroying Satan's power of death?

We have to ask ourselves... how is it that just because Adam sinned and lost his dominion... why was that dominion given to Satan... or did it fall to him by default as the previous ruler? Why did Satan have the power of death?

All of these clues along with what we are reading here in Hebrews begin to give us the answers.

All humans sin and apart from the conviction of God's Holy Spirit within a person... they all love to sin... and because they fear death, because the fear judgment, they continually sin to try and forget their impending death. Therefore, because of their fear of death they are held in bondage to sin and death all their lives.

Humans continually seek after anything that will take their minds off of their inescapable eventual death which will result in their standing before the God of the Universe Whom they have offended and rejected, Who will righteously judge them for their sin, resulting in their condemnation and eternal confinement to Hell's Lake of Fire. They seek any and every distraction, amusement, entertainment, diversion... television, movies, internet, drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, buying new things, traveling, seeing new things, always seeking a new experience.

Their sin causes them to fear death and judgment. Their fear of death causes them to seek every distraction. Their distraction keeps them from thinking about their coming death and judgment. They hate anything that reminds them of their coming death and judgment... God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible and Christians.

For the believer, there is no fear in death... it is a glorious entrance into the realization of eternal life. We may fear the unknown... the moment of death... but we know what lies beyond and we look forward to it.

Satan's fear of his own impending judgment and doom is what caused him to seek to kill the Son of God. Jesus spoke of this in His parable of the landowner: Jesus said, "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.³⁴ Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.³⁵ And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.³⁷ Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'³⁸ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'³⁹ So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.

⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

⁴¹They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. ⁴⁴And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

This parable has many applications. The first tenant was Lucifer. He was given a throne and dominion. He rebelled and his original kingdom was destroyed and then remade and given to the new tenants, Adam and Eve. They rebelled and the tenancy reverted to the previous tenant, Satan. God began His plan to redeem creation. He created and called Israel and promised some of the land to them. They rebelled and, along with the major tenant, Satan, killed the son and thought it would then be theirs forever. Jesus Christ destroyed the power of the first tenant and his power of death and will soon return to take full possession for Himself and His bride, finally destroying all of the trespassing tenants.

Verse 16: For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

Jesus Christ didn't come to redeem angels. There is no second chance for angels who followed in Lucifer's rebellion. They will all spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. The Bible speaks of *elect* angels. Paul writes to Timothy, 'I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things...' 1 Tim 5:21 The elect angels never rebelled. When it says that He gives aid to the seed of Abraham, it is not speaking of Jews. It means the 'spiritual' seed of Abraham... that is, all who will place their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, either as the 'coming Messiah' as in the Old Testament Saints, or in the crucified and risen Savior. By His Holy Spirit living in us, He helps us, He strengthens us, He encourages and protects us... and, the greatest help of all... He pays the penalty for our sin and redeems and saves us eternally.

Verse 17: 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.

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and He is also fully Man. He had to be fully human in order to be our faithful High Priest... in all things pertaining to God... to completely fulfill all the Law... to obey every part as a human, to be faithful in every part and to fully make propitiation for our sin. He couldn't be like an earthly high priest in bringing the sacrifice of an animal to the altar to temporarily cover over his own sins as well as the sins of the people for a past year... He had to bring the only acceptable sacrifice... the only sacrifice that would do away with all the sin of all His elect for all time... the sacrifice of Himself... the spotless, sinless Lamb of God.

Verse 18: For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

I don't think this means that Jesus Christ had to experience what we experience in order to be able to understand and help us. He has always known and understood everything. What it means is that, because He experienced what we experience... we can better come to Him for help, for understanding... we can more easily believe that He is Who He says He is and is able to do what He says He can and will do.

For example: I don't necessarily have to have lost a child to be able to comfort and help someone who has recently lost a child. But, if I have lost a child, it may be easier for the one who has recently lost a child to come to me, to believe that I can understand and help.

For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.