

You Can Have the World, But Give Me Jesus

God created man to have dominion over creation, over all things, but when man fell into sin, we lost our crowns. We should be kings and queens, but instead we became slaves, weak and bound to sin, ruled by what we were originally designed to rule over. Yet God sent Jesus to restore us to what God intended us to be and to reinstate our crowns. Jesus could only be our Savior if He became a man and died. The New Testament repeatedly makes it clear that, to be the Savior, He had to become a man and die. Dying as a man qualified Him to be our great Savior. The writer of Hebrews, writing to new Christians and to us, tells us in **Hebrews 2:9-18** of Jesus' great accomplishments: He is our substitute; He is our Sovereign; He is our sanctifier; He is our Satan-conqueror; and He is our sympathizer. Jesus was previously the sovereign ruler above the angels at the right hand of God, but had to humble Himself, be made a little lower than the angels, and die to redeem His people, us. **Hebrews 2:9:** *"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of His suffering death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."* And **Philippians 2:6-8:** *"He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross."* So rather than death disqualifying Christ, it qualifies Him as our Sovereign Lord, the source of eternal salvation: **Hebrews 5:9:** *"once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him."* As our sanctifier, Jesus regains the dominion Adam lost; He has made us holy and set apart, paid for our sins, and granted us righteousness. **Hebrews 2:11:** *"For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters."* He also crushed Satan at the cross. By sharing His flesh and blood and His death, Jesus "freed" us from the fear of death, **Hebrews 2:14-15:** *"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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."* Satan holds people in deep guilt over their sin and instills in them the fear of death. That's why Paul said that Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. When Jesus died, He destroyed the devil and neutralized his power. Furthermore, Jesus helps us as we face any temptation because He has been there Himself. **Hebrews 2:18:** *"For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."* Jesus understands all our needs, our joys, our sorrows, and our struggles. See Him for all that He is, the majesty and glory of His person, and realize that He alone is our great Savior.