**The Captain of our Salvation**

***Acts 3:15; 5:31; Hebrews 2:10; 12:2***

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*December 12, 2021 p.m.*

Introduction: In the message this morning we noted Christ referred to as *“the captain of their salvation”* (Hebrews 2:10). The original word for *“captain”* can be interpreted as pioneer, leader, originator, &/or initiator. I mentioned that this word is used only 4 times in the N.T. Tonight I want us to look at those 4 passages & to determine if there is any significance to how the word is translated in our English Bibles & what the emphasis is in each of its occurrences. We find it 2 times in the Book of Acts & 2 times in the Book of Hebrews. What can we learn from this term & how does it apply to our lives?

I. *“Prince”* > Acts 3:15, *“But ye denied the Holy One & the just, & desired a murderer to be granted*

*unto you* (:14); *“And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are*

*witnesses.”*

A. The **etymology** (the study of the origin of words) of the word: *“archegos”*

1. It is a compound word, made up of: “the first” + ”to lead.”

2. It “primarily signifies one who takes a lead in, or provides the first occasion of anything”

(Strong’s).

B. The **emphasis** of the word: *“Prince”*

1. Crucifixion – the *“Prince of life”* is killed.

Note: “In order to convince the Jews of their crimes, Peter used several different names &

titles for our Lord: God’s Son, Jesus, the Holy One, the Just One, the Prince of life. This was

no ordinary man that they had handed over to the Romans to crucify!” (Wiersbe).

2. Resurrection – the *“Prince of life”* is raised from the dead*.*

Note also: “Calvary may have been man’s last word, but the empty tomb was God’s last word.

He glorified His Son by raising Him from the dead & taking Him back to heaven” (Wiersbe).

II. *“Prince”* > Acts 5:31, *“Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince & a Savior, for to*

*give repentance to Israel, & forgiveness of sins.”*

A. The **emphasis** is upon Christ’s exaltation:

1. He is exalted by the right hand of God the Father.

2. He is exalted to be *“Prince”* & *“Savior.”*

B. The **effect** of Christ’s exaltation:

1. For Israel to be given repentance

2. For Israel to have forgiveness of sins.

Summary: “The title *‘Savior’* was not new to the members of the council, for the word was used for

physicians (who save people’s lives), philosophers (who solve people’s problems), & statesmen (who

save people from danger & war). It was even applied to the Emperor. But only Jesus Christ is the

true & living Savior who rescues from sin, death, & judgment all who will trust Him” (Wiersbe).

III. *“Captain”* > Hebrews 2:10, *“For it became Him, for whom are all things, & by whom are all things,*

*in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*

[The emphasis is upon His humiliation.]

A. He was humbled as to become a man:

1. Hebrews 2:14 – took part of the same human nature.

2. Hebrews 4:15 – tempted in all ways (areas) that man is tempted (but without sin).

B. He was humbled as to suffer death on the cross:

1. Galatians 3:13, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:*

*for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”*

2. Philippians 2:8, *“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, & became*

*obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* - Literally “a cross” – “a cross kind of death,

the most despicable” (Ryrie).

IV. *Author”* > Hebrews 12:2

A. **Emphasis** upon His exemplification:

1. His title:

a. Pioneer, leader, originator, initiator.

b. Translated *“Prince”* in Acts 3:15 & 5:31; *“Captain”* in Hebrews 2:10.

2. His task:

a. It speaks of one involving others > (1) used of a man who starts & heads a family, has

children; (2) used of a man who founds a city, invites others to live there; (3) used of a

pioneer, one blazing a trail for others to follow.

b. It speaks of one leading others; an example, not one in the rear giving orders, but out front

(cf. Hebrews 6:20, *“forerunner”*). “Christ is the leader of all others who tread that path”

(Strong’s).

Summary: “Jesus, being the *Author* of faith wrote the first & last chapters in the life of faith”

(Strong’s).

B. **Exhortation** for us to follow:

1. Christ – I Peter 2:21, *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us,*

*leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.”*

a. John 13:15, His love.

b. Philippians 2:5, His mind.

c. I John 2:6, His walk.

2. Paul? – I Corinthians 11:1, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*

a. I Corinthians 4:16, *“Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.”*

b. Philippians 4:9, *“Those things which ye have both learned, & received, & heard, & seen in*

*me, do; & the God of peace shall be with you.”*

Conclusion: As the *“Prince of life”* Christ was crucified, raised from the dead, & now exalted at the Father’s right hand. It was His suffering – humbled to become man (“Out of the Ivory Palaces”) & humbled by death on the cross (“a cross kind of death”). He is therefore the “Captain of our salvation.” He is also declared to be the *“Author & Finisher of our faith”* – taking the lead in setting before us an example to live the Christian life. Are you following His example of His love, His mind, & His walk? Could you say with Paul, “Be ye followers of me as I follow Christ”? Are you *“looking unto Jesus”* daily in your Christian walk? Is He the Prince of life to you, the Captain of your salvation, the Author & Finisher of your faith?

If you are here tonight & not saved, why not come to Christ this evening? For the majority here who are saved, will we proclaim Christ in this season as not only the Babe of Bethlehem & the Christ of Calvary but as the coming King of kings & Lord of lords?