

In These Last Days – The Message of Hebrews

#4- Jesus, Our Faithful Brother

Lev 25:25–27; Heb 2:14–16; Heb 11:24–26; 1 Cor 15:50; Heb 5:8, 9; Heb 12:1–4

Memory Verse

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV) *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,.*

Jesus identifies himself with every tender earthly relationship. A son, a father, a mother, a friend and a brother.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

John 15:15 (NKJV) *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

Isaiah 49:15 (NKJV) *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. Isa 66:13 As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;*

Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV) *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.*

Romans 8:29 (NKJV) *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

The Brother as a Redeemer

Leviticus 25:25–27 (NKJV) *‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.*

Leviticus 25:47–49 (NKJV) *‘Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger’s family, ⁴⁸ after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him; ⁴⁹ or his uncle or his uncle’s son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.*

Ruth 2:20 (NKJV) *And Naomi said to her, “This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.”*

Hebrews 2:14–16 (NKJV) *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.*

This passage describes us as slaves of the devil, but Jesus as our Redeemer. When Adam sinned, human beings fell under the power of Satan. As a result, we did not have the power to resist sin (*Rom. 7:14–24*). Worse, there was a death penalty that our transgression required, which we could not pay (*Rom. 6:23*). Thus, our situation was apparently hopeless. Jesus, however, adopted our human nature and became flesh and blood like us. He became our nearest relative and redeemed us. He was not ashamed to call us “brothers” (*Heb. 2:11*).

Not Ashamed to Call Them Brothers

Hebrews 11:24–26 (NKJV) *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

Acts 7:22 (NKJV) *And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.*

E. G. White also says that he was “a favorite with the armies of Egypt” and that Pharaoh “determined to make his adopted grandson his successor on the throne” (see *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 245).

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV) *“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

2 Timothy 1:8, 12 (NKJV) *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ...¹² For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

Hebrews 13:12–15 (NKJV) *Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Hebrews 6:6 (NKJV) *if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

Flesh and Blood Like Us

- “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.” - Pope Pius IX 1854,

Hebrews 2:11 *For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,”*

Hebrews 2:16–18 (NKJV) *For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 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. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

- Those who believe Jesus took Adam's unfallen nature, before the lapse into sin, are called Prelapsarians. Those who believe that Jesus assumed the nature of fallen man are called Postlapsarians.

Philippians 2:8 (NKJV) *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **Romans 8:3** ... "in the likeness of sinful flesh"*

1 John 4:3 (NKJV) *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

"Christ did in reality unite the offending nature of man with His own sinless nature, because by this act of condescension, He would be able to pour out His blood in behalf of the fallen race" (E.G. White, Manuscript 166, 1898).

Hebrews 2:14 (KJV) *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

The doctrine of the incarnation of Christ in human flesh is a mystery, ... “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” ... Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. “As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.” He was the son of Mary; He was of the seed of David according to human descent. Lift Him Up- pg. 74.

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity.”—DA , p. 49.

Perfected Through Sufferings

Hebrews 5:8–9 *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*

Hebrews 2:17–18 (NKJV) *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. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

Hebrews 12:3, 4 (NKJV) *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

The Brother as a Model

Hebrews 6:19–20 *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

1 John 2:6 (NKJV) *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

1 Peter 2:21–22 (NKJV) *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;*