

## **Bible Study Manual**

### **Christ Above All: Episode 4**

**Topic:** Christ's Suffering as a Means to Glory

## **Scripture Reading**

### **Hebrews 2:10–13**

*"In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered."*

*"He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again he says, 'Here am I, and the children God has given me.'" (Psalm 22:22; Isaiah 8:17–18 referenced)*

## **Christ, the Pioneer of Salvation**

### **What Does “Pioneer” Mean?**

The Greek word for pioneer, *archēgos*, refers to a trailblazer, leader, or originator who opens a way for others to follow. Christ is the ultimate trailblazer, leading humanity to eternal life and glory. His path was not through ease but through suffering, demonstrating that glory is achieved not by avoiding pain but by faithfully enduring it.

### **The Fittingness of Suffering**

The author of Hebrews emphasizes that it was fitting for God to perfect Christ through suffering. This does not imply moral imperfection in Christ but highlights His role as Savior. To fully qualify as the mediator for humanity, He needed to experience human pain and weakness. God's plan was neither arbitrary nor cruel. By allowing His Son to suffer, He revealed His justice, love, and solidarity with humanity.

### **Christ's Suffering Produces Glory**

Through suffering, Christ was exalted to glory, becoming the perfect Savior. His resurrection and glorification are proof that suffering in this world can lead to eternal glory in the next.

## **Solidarity with Humanity**

### **Christ Is Not Ashamed of Us**

Verse 11 declares a profound truth: Christ is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters. This statement affirms our inclusion in God's family. Christ fully embraces His humanity to the point of identifying with us, even in our brokenness.

## **Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8: A Declaration of Fellowship**

- **Psalm 22:22:** In this prophetic psalm, Christ, through the voice of the psalmist, declares God's name to His brothers and sisters. It paints a picture of restored community and worship.
- **Isaiah 8:17–18:** These verses reflect trust in God during times of trial and emphasize the unity between Christ and the “children God has given him.”

## **A New Family in Christ**

By becoming human, Christ unites people from all backgrounds into one family under God. We are no longer strangers to Him but beloved siblings, with Jesus Himself as our elder brother.

## **Key Insights**

### **God's Love Is Proven in Christ's Suffering**

Christ didn't remain distant from human suffering. Instead, He entered into it fully, proving God's love and commitment to His creation.

### **Suffering Can Lead to Glory**

Christ's suffering was not meaningless. It brought about the greatest victory—the salvation of humanity. This pattern reminds us that God can redeem our pain for His purposes.

## **Illustration**

Imagine a general leading troops into battle. Instead of giving orders from a safe distance, the general enters the battlefield, enduring every hardship alongside the soldiers. By his courage, he leads them to victory and glory. Similarly, Christ entered the “battlefield” of human suffering to bring us to eternal glory.

## **Application Questions**

1. How does Christ's example of enduring suffering inspire you to persevere in difficult times?
2. In what ways can you reflect Christ's solidarity with humanity by serving others in their trials?
3. Do you embrace the reality that Christ is not ashamed to call you His sibling? How does that truth shape your identity?