

When the Son of God became man, He became part of a world that knew suffering. Jesus knew suffering. He came in order to willingly suffer for the sake of others, ultimately to suffer death that believers might live. His suffering was for the good of the believer and for the glory of God. God made Jesus the perfect Savior through that suffering, a fact which the author establishes with four reasons in these verses. This is for you, if by faith you have received Jesus as Savior.

I. *Your Savior suffered because it suited God to do that for you (2:10).*

1. It suited His design for the universe.
2. It suited His purpose of bringing “many sons” into glory.
3. It suited His means in that the Son thereby became the “perfect” trailblazer: opening the way for us to glory, and taking that journey first.

II. *Your Savior suffered because it identified Him with you in a fallen world (2:11–13).*

1. Believers are set apart by Christ and share with Christ not only a common human nature but also a common spiritual bond. (“Holy” (NIV) is better understood as “set apart”).
2. The Messiah as prophesied in the OT identifies with the “remnant”, those who are faithful to God.
 - a. Psalm 22:22 – The Messiah would be among His brothers, revealing God to them.
 - b. Isaiah 8:17c – The Messiah as typified by Isaiah would live by faith with the “faithful” surrounded by rebellious people.
 - c. Isaiah 8:18a – The Messiah and His spiritual family would be a testimony of life and death to those around them.

III. *Your Savior suffered because it conquered death for you (2:14–16).*

1. To conquer death for believers Jesus had to take on material existence.
(To be a perfect substitute Jesus had to be fully human, only without sin.)
2. To conquer death for believers Jesus had to suffer death in their place.
(Death is the penalty of sin which had to be paid. Sin and death are tools of Satan against mankind. By paying the penalty of sin, Jesus made the work of Satan ineffective. The believer is freed from the bondage of sin and from the fear of death.)
3. To conquer death for believers Jesus had to fulfil the promises to Abraham.
(God promised to bless the offspring of Abraham through the offspring of Abraham, not in or through angels. Jesus Christ fulfilled that promise to Abraham and all who are in Christ benefit.)

IV. *Your Savior suffered because it qualified Him to be your merciful and faithful high priest (2:17–18).*

1. To be a merciful high priest required complete identification with believers including suffering.
(“In every way” -v.17 included suffering temptation -v.18. He was tempted and did not sin, and can thereby be a help to us.)
2. To be a merciful high priest required having a satisfactory offering including suffering death.
(The high priest needed a sacrifice that would truly “expiate” or remove the offense of sin. Jesus Himself was that sacrifice, cf. 1 John 2:2. He provides true forgiveness.)

Jesus is the perfect Savior. God perfected Him through suffering, a suffering that came through entering our fallen world, living a sinless life, and dying a voluntary, sinless death. No mere person is comparable. No deceased mortal is comparable. Not even the Holy Spirit has this role. Jesus has opened the way to God. Jesus has traveled the way to glory and honor in God’s presence. Jesus is the Way, the perfect Savior.

Questions for further reflection:

- In what specific ways did Jesus suffer while on earth as a man?
- In each case would He have suffered more, less or the same as other people? Why?
- How did He respond?
- How could His suffering (and response) be of help to you? How should we respond to Him?