

## **Yeshua, the Son of Man ~ Part 4**

### **Messianic Jews 2:14-18**

#### **Letter to the Messianic Jews**

In my last post, we continued to learn about **Yeshua, the Son of Man ~ Part 3** in **Messianic Jews 2:10-13**. That passage concerned Yeshua's identity as a real man. In this post, we continue to explore **Messianic Jews 2:14-18 ~ Yeshua, the Son of Man ~ Part 4**. This passage concerns **Yeshua** as humanity's true sacrifice.

***"<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share a common physical nature as human beings, He became like them and shared that same human nature; so that by His death He might render ineffective the one who had power over death (that is, the Adversary) <sup>15</sup> and thus set free those who had been in bondage all their lives because of their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> Indeed, it is obvious that He does not take hold of angels to help them; on the contrary, 'He takes hold of the seed of Avraham.' <sup>17</sup> This is why He had to become like His brothers in every respect — so that He might become a merciful and faithful cohen gadol in the service of God, making a kapparah for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For since He himself suffered death when He was put to the test, He is able to help those who are being tested now."*** ~ Hebrews 2:14-18 (CJB)

Verse 14 explicitly analyzes the **Messiah's** work in taking on Himself the nature of humanity (compare Philippians 2:6-8). **"For the Messiah Himself died for sins, a righteous person on behalf of unrighteous people, so that he might bring you to God"** ~ 1 Kefa 3:18. By doing this He tricked **the one who had power over death (that is, the Adversary)**, as explained in Matthew 4:1-11. For Satan has the capability of causing death but has no right to inflict it on someone who resists his temptations and does not sin (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16; Matthew 4:1-11), because death is the punishment for sin (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12-21). Does that mean Yeshua **render** Satan **ineffective**? Not entirely, yet. Although Satan continues to exercise power, his days are numbered, and he will ultimately be destroyed (see Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:9; 20:2, 10).

As Believers, we should have no **fear of death**. We should know in our knower, our ultimate destination. Personally, I have no fear of death and admit at my age; I find myself more and more looking forward to it. However, I am concerned about the method of my demise. Going to sleep and not waking up is my preferred method of choice.

**Yeshua** did not **take hold of angels to help them** because angels cannot die. He **takes hold of** not human beings generally but the **seed of Avraham**, because Jews, of all humanity, have in the **Torah** the most stringent conditions to fulfill in order not to sin and by not sinning escape death. If **Yeshua** could live as a Jew according to the **Torah** without committing any sin, so that He would not have earned the death penalty, He would deliver Jews from death and Gentiles (see Romans 11) as well.

**Yeshua** had to be made exactly like those to be rescued from death so that He would fully know and empathize with our experience and thereby, as our **cohen gadol**, be able to be entirely **merciful** and **faithful, making a kapparah** (atonement) **for the sins of the people**. The Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53:12 predicted this seven hundred years in advance and also makes the best commentary: it is precisely because he **"poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors"** ~ Isaiah 53:12 (ESV).

The majority of the **mitzvot** outlined in the written **Torah** deal with the sacrificial system, including the **cahanut** (priesthood), in which all the **cohanim** (priests) and the **cohen hagadol** were members of the tribe of Levi. Thus it is astounding, indeed revolutionary, to find that **Yeshua**, the **Son of David**, from the tribe of **Judah**, is spoken of as our **cohen gadol**. Much of the rest of the letter is occupied with explaining how this can be and why it is necessary.

How has God enabled Yeshua to become humanities true sacrifice? ***Making a kapparah for the sins of the people*** in the **Tanakh** required the animal sacrifice to be unblemished (see Leviticus 11:3). So, then, what the writer to the **Messianic Jews** is saying is that through suffering **Yeshua** was made fully able for the task of being the pioneer of our ultimate salvation.

Why should that be? Barclay explains it this way: <sup>1</sup>

1. *It was through his sufferings that he was really identified with men.*
2. *Through this identity, Jesus Christ sympathizes with man.*
3. *Because he sympathizes Jesus can really help. He has met our sorrows; he has faced our temptations. As a result, he knows exactly what help we need; and he can give it.*

In my next post, we'll explore **Yeshua** as better than Moshe as a servant in **Messianic Jews 3:1-6**.

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<sup>1</sup> Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) by William Barclay.