

Carein Ministries

Exegetical Teaching Handout: Hebrews 2:9–15

Hebrews 2:9

“But we do see Jesus [do see — Present Active Indicative: continuous perception by faith], who was made lower than the angels for a little while [was made lower — Perfect Passive Participle: completed humiliation with lasting results], now crowned with glory and honor [crowned — Perfect Passive Participle: permanent exaltation], because He suffered death [suffered — Aorist Active Participle: completed historical suffering], so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone [might taste — Aorist Middle Subjunctive: Christ fully experienced death for humanity].”

Teaching Meaning: The grammar emphasizes both the completed historical suffering of Christ and His continuing exalted state. The perfect participles show that His humiliation and glorification have abiding consequences.

Hebrews 2:10

“In bringing many sons and daughters to glory [bringing — Aorist Active Participle: decisive action of leading believers], it was fitting that God [was fitting — Imperfect Active Indicative: continuously appropriate within God’s eternal purpose], should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering [should make perfect — Aorist Active Infinitive: vocational completion through suffering].”

Teaching Meaning: Christ’s suffering was not accidental but divinely necessary. The aorist forms emphasize decisive redemptive accomplishment.

Hebrews 2:11

“Both the one who makes people holy [makes holy — Present Active Participle: ongoing sanctification] and those who are made holy [are made holy — Present Passive Participle: believers continually receive sanctification] are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters [is not ashamed — Present Middle Indicative: continual identification with believers].”

Teaching Meaning: The present tense verbs stress Christ’s continuing ministry of sanctification and His present relationship with believers.

Hebrews 2:12–13

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters [will declare — Future Active Indicative: Messianic proclamation], in the assembly I will sing your praises [will sing — Future Active Indicative: Messiah leading worship].” And again, “I will put my trust in Him [will put — Future Middle Indicative: Christ expressing dependence on the Father].”

Teaching Meaning: The future tenses emphasize Christ's continuing identification with His people and His trust in the Father.

Hebrews 2:14

“Since the children have flesh and blood [have — Perfect Active Indicative: humanity permanently shares mortal nature], He too shared in their humanity [shared — Aorist Active Indicative: Christ decisively entered humanity] so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil [might break — Aorist Active Subjunctive: decisive destruction of Satan's authority].”

Teaching Meaning: The incarnation was a deliberate act. Christ became fully human in order to decisively defeat death and Satan.

Hebrews 2:15

“And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death [free — Aorist Active Subjunctive: liberation accomplished through Christ; were held — Imperfect Active Indicative: continuous former bondage].”

Teaching Meaning: The imperfect tense describes humanity's ongoing slavery before Christ, while the aorist subjunctive points to decisive liberation through His death.

Overall Teaching Summary

Hebrews 2:9–15 presents Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son who entered human suffering in order to destroy death, defeat Satan, sanctify believers, and bring many sons and daughters to glory. The active verbs emphasize Christ's deliberate saving work, while the passive verbs highlight the Father's redemptive action upon the Son within salvation history. The perfect tenses stress abiding results, the present tenses emphasize ongoing ministry, and the aorist forms point to decisive once-for-all accomplishment.