

The Captain and Completer

1. Hebrews 12:2-3 – The Captain of Faith
2. Hebrews 2:10 – The Captain of Salvation
3. Acts 5:31 – The Captain Exalted
4. Acts 3:15 – The Captain of Life

“Captain” – *archegos* / αρχηγος (Thayer)

- 1) the chief leader, prince
 - 1a) of Christ
- 2) one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer
- 3) the author

VINE:

- “One who takes the lead in, or provides the first occasion, of anything.”
- “As in Heb. 2:10, the word suggests a combination of the meaning of leader, with that of the source from whence a thing proceeds.”
- In Hebrews 12:2 where Christ is called the Author and Perfecter of faith He is represented as the One Who takes precedence in faith and thus is the perfect exemplar of it... Christ in the days of His flesh trod undeviatingly the path of faith, and as the Perfecter has brought it into a perfect end in His own Person. Thus He is the Leader of all others who trod that path.”

Septuagint uses this word in Numbers 14:4 – “And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.” – Thus both *preeminent* and *a leader*.

THE CAPTAIN OF LIFE

Acts 3:14-16

“But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And **killed the Prince of life**, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong...”

The Context: Healing of the lame man at Gate Beautiful.

I. The Paradox: “You killed.” How could the Captain/Prince of life be killed? Because if He was truly the Prince of Life, He could have power to lay it down.

II. The Proof: Resurrection. He not only had power to live, not only power to lay that life down, but to come through both to die no more! That is a Saviour worth worshipping.

III. The Product:

- A. A man was healed, because the resurrection and life of Christ is the basis on which His apostles received power.
- B. His power should show impact on our lives.
- C. His preeminence in life shows power in life.

THE CAPTAIN EXALTED Acts 5:30-31

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, *whom ye slew and hanged on a tree*. Him hath God exalted with **his right hand to be a Prince** and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

I. The Glory of His Exaltation: “Him hath God exalted by His right hand.” God is pleased with His Son and proves it!

II. The Goal of His Exaltation: “repentance and remission to Israel.” He cannot reign as King of Glory over the nation unless He has been glorified as such.

III. The Grace in His Exaltation: “Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.” Imagine that after this the gospel would still go to Jerusalem first and then to the nations! This defeats replacement theology. God did not write off Israel after rejecting Christ. Do you think He will write us off at any point?

THE CAPTAIN OF SALVATION Hebrews 2:9-10

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should *taste death for every man*. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make **the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings**.”

I. The Contrast: Why should it be that of all in existence, the suffering Saviour should be the One of unrivaled power (“by Whom”) and all preeminence (“for Whom”)? Behold the man of Calvary. Is this Who you imagined the Lord of Glory to be? We thank God it indeed is, for He is also the Lord of Grace.

II. The Consummation: “Many sons to glory.” Now we see the true purpose of the cross: it was for and because of me.” What did it take to bring many sons to glory? The bringing of the Beloved Son to shame: “Made a little lower than the angels... for the suffering of death.”

III. The Completion: “Make the Captain of their salvation perfect,” that is, complete in His role as Saviour.

IV. The Cost: “Through sufferings.” There was no other way.

THE CAPTAIN OF FAITH Hebrews 12:2-3

“Looking unto Jesus the **author and finisher of faith**; who for the joy that was set before him *endured the cross*, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

I. As the Captain of Faith: He is the perfect pattern. Though He did not take the first role in faith, He took the greatest.

- A. Perfect obedience.
- B. Perfect dependence.
- C. Perfect endurance.

II. As the Completer of Faith:

- A. Faithfulness is not faithfulness unless it presses until the end.
- B. For Him it was the bitter completion of a full life: He ENDURED the cross.
- C. Yet He shows us the results of faith. The gospels leave us with the resurrection and the end of His earthly ministry. Acts picks up with His exaltation, which is only the beginning. Faith brings results and is rewarded.

III. As the Consideration of our Faith:

- A. Christ is our life as well as our rule of it.
- B. If we should lose sight of Him, we can only expect to grow “weary and faint in our souls,” that is, the very essence of our being, our very drive to live.
- C. We are soldiers in a lifelong war. How will we accurately press on? By following orders. How? By looking to our Captain, the one Who has proven the life of faith is possible to life.

CONNECTIONS IN THESE VERSES

In all, there is a contradiction.

- Heb. 12:2 – Joy in Shame
- Heb. 2:10 – The Creator made fit for suffering
- Acts 5:31 – The Prince of Life killed
- Acts 3:15 – Slain yet exalted / The slayers receiving grace

In all, there is a connection to Hebrews 12.

Heb. 2:10

- Captain made PERFECT
- Captain and PERFECTER (12:2)

Acts 5:31

- With the RIGHT HAND
- To the RIGHT HAND (12:2)

Acts 3:15

- His name through FAITH in His name
- Author and Finisher of FAITH (12:2)

In all, the centrality is Calvary.

- Heb. 12:2 – “Endured the cross.”
- Heb. 2:9 – “Taste death for every man.”
- Acts 5:31 – “Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.”
- Acts 3:15 – “Killed the Prince of Life.”