

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis Sermon

Notes [www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **Seeing Jesus**

**Hebrews 2:9**

A Worldwide Celebration!!

All around the world, Christians are gathering on this day to celebrate the awesome truth... Christ is RISEN! Death has been DEFEATED FOREVER! This worldwide celebration is a testimony to some powerful realities:

First, the universal problem of death.

Death is the enemy of the entire human race... it is a relentless enemy, which absolutely does not discriminate. It stalks everyone and has its final say in everyone's existence... rich and poor alike, young and old alike, beautiful and successful or despised and downtrodden... any human being who draws breath is held in bondage to this terrible foe. No mighty ruler – a king or President or Prime Minister or Premier – can say confidently “I am beyond death's reach! I have made a covenant with the grave that its cold bony hand cannot reach me.” Neither can a wealthy Wall Street hedge fund manager or Fortune 500 CEO buy a guarantee of immunity from death's long reach. Neither can a worried mother look on the fresh sleeping face of her newborn child and say with certainty, “You have many years ahead of you.” She doesn't know... she cannot be certain. Neither can a young man in the prime of health, who visits the health club or the gym be guaranteed of another day on earth beyond this one

The terrors of death enslave all people:

*Hebrews 2:15* speaks of people who *all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

SO!!! If death, the ultimate enemy, has been defeated, then truly the human race has much to celebrate!!

Death has been pressing on people's minds in some powerful ways in our recent experience.

None of us will ever forget the grip of the worldwide pandemic through which we have just passed, from 2020 until earlier this year, it was the lead story [in the news night after night](#). Many of us know people who died from COVID.

More recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has pushed COVID from the headlines with the terrible devastation of open warfare... of death in the streets.

Recently I saw a very powerful video depicting some of the agonizing details of the sufferings of the Ukrainian people.

It focused on the word "WAS" ... the narrative went like this:

**"Was... a simple word; merely a part of speech used in everyday life. But it is not that simple for us. Because now, the everyday Ukrainians simply cannot say 'Was' without bursting into tears.**

**This WAS my home (showing a block of apartments reduced to rubble, with one building blown apart as we watch)**

**This WAS my friend... this WAS my dog... this WAS my car... this WAS my job**

**And this WAS my father (showing an older man lying in the middle of the street while you hear an agonized voice crying 'Papa! Papa!')**

And this **WAS** my daughter (showing a little girl in a pretty dress loaded on a gurney and being wheeled into a crowded hospital, her father screaming 'Hurry! Hurry! Come quickly!')

[The narrative continued] The millions and millions of fresh wounds are bleeding with that word **WAS**! Russia has drowned Ukraine in tears and blood and children's corpses.

[Then the video turned... it put the word **WILL** on the screen and made all these bright promises]

We **WILL** win... There **WILL BE** new houses; there **WILL BE** new cities; there **WILL BE** new dreams; there **WILL BE** a new story

Those we have lost **WILL BE** remembered; and we **WILL** celebrate anew

Yes, Ukraine **WAS** beautiful; but it **WILL** become great!"

As I watched this video, I couldn't help thinking about the dark enemy of death, standing over everything we have valued in this world and saying **WAS**...

But Christ in his resurrection victory standing in glory saying **WILL**!

*John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me **WILL** live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me **WILL** never die."*

Also...

*Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he **WILL** live with them. They **WILL** be his people, and God himself **WILL** be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He **WILL** wipe every tear from their eyes. There **WILL** be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

This morning, we will join believing Christians around the world in celebrating Christ's resurrection victory...

And our focus today will be this majestic text:

***Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.***

Now our theme based on that text this morning is “SEEING JESUS”

The context is powerful:

Hebrews 1 celebrates the exalted greatness of Jesus Christ:

***Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

But then in chapter 2, it addresses the burning question: if Jesus is so great, why did he seem to be so lowly ...

Jesus was born of a human mother, the Virgin Mary, in a stable where animals were sheltered. He lived as normal human beings do physically, getting hungry and thirsty and tired. His appearance was completely normal while he lived on earth. Even more shocking, he died a painful and shameful death!!

The author acknowledges that Jesus was for a little while lower than the angels, but he did that so that he might become one of us – human like us – and that he might be able to die in our place to save us from eternal death

And having achieved that saving work on the cross, Christ rose from the dead and is exalted to the highest heavens

So now, WE SEE JESUS exalted!! That is the focus of our study today.

## I. We See Jesus... By Faith

### A. The Text Says “We See Jesus”

***Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor...***

B. Faith is the Eyesight of the Soul

1. Sight is the most powerful of all our faculties
2. We derive 83% of our knowledge about the physical world by our eyes, only 11% through hearing, 3.5% through smell, 1.5% through touch, and 1% by taste.
3. Therefore, Jesus said

***Matthew 6:22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.”***

This is especially true of the eyesight of the soul, FAITH...

If your spiritual eyes are good, indeed your whole soul will be filled with light

**BUT ... *Matthew 6:23 ... if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!***

4. Another text speaks of “the eyes of our hearts”

***Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened***

What could this be other than faith?? Faith is the eyes of the heart by which we see invisible spiritual realities, past, present, and future.

Also, in Hebrews 11, the author defines faith

***Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

Later in that chapter, he will speak of Moses:

***Hebrews 11:27 By faith [Moses] endured as seeing him who is invisible.***

AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE... and that is Christ!

### C. The Text Says We See Jesus NOW

***Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, ... now crowned with glory and honor***

### D. BUT... We Have Never Seen Jesus Physically

***1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy***

### E. Seeing Jesus Physically Never Saved Anyone

1. Many think, "Oh if only I could have been alive in those days and seen Jesus with my own eyes!"
2. They would love to be transported back in time to see the days Jesus walked on the earth
3. BUT the overwhelming majority of people who saw Jesus physically never saw the truth about him spiritually

The reason was... he looked like any ordinary man, with no particular glory to him

***Isaiah 53:2-3 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

So, physical sight of Christ alone does not save the soul... even back then, people had to see him by faith to understand who he really was

To be saved, we must SEE JESUS BY FAITH, based on the Word of God

## II. We See Jesus Crucified

### A. The Text Speaks of His Suffering

***Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.***

1. Jesus “tasted death”... the bitter cup of death, for sinners all over the world

B. We “See” Him Crucified When the Gospel Account is Proclaimed

***Mark 15:22-37 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). <sup>23</sup> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. <sup>25</sup> It was the third hour when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>27</sup> They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.... <sup>33</sup> At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?".... <sup>37</sup> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.***

1. Hebrews says that Jesus TASTED DEATH FOR EVERYONE, that is, all who would believe in him one day
2. He tasted death for them because only in this way could our sins be atoned for
3. Death and sin...linked from the Garden of Eden

***Romans 6:23 ... the wages of sin is death***

4. Jesus tasted death for us all that we would not have to die eternally
  - a. The real death is what the Bible calls the second death
  - b. First comes physical death... then judgment day... then the second death

***Hebrews 9:27 ... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment***

***Revelation 20:14-15 The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

5. So we can see Jesus' death on the cross BY FAITH when the gospel is preached clearly and publicly

### C. The Bronze Serpent Lifted Up

1. The most famous verse in the Bible speaks of this EYESIGHT of faith

***John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

- a. The most famous verse in the Bible also has the most misunderstood word in the Bible... the word "so"
- b. Some people think it means "so much"... as in "God loved the world SO MUCH that he gave his only begotten Son..."
- c. But the Greek word translated "so" actually means "IN THE SAME WAY"
- d. "For in the same way, God loved the world..." In the same way as WHAT???

2. The preceding verses explains it

***John 3:14-15 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.***

3. The story of the BRONZE SERPENT explains how salvation works
  - a. God had led Israel out of slavery in Egypt en route to the Promised Land
  - b. But Israel through terrible unbelief was constantly sinning against God, including a pattern of faithless COMPLAINING about the manna he was sending every day to feed them

- c. So to punish them, God sent poisonous desert serpents, which bit many many of the Israelites so that they died
- d. The people cried out to Moses to intercede for them; he prayed for the people; God told Moses that he would not remove the serpents, but that he would help the people
- e. God commanded Moses to make a replica of the serpent—a bronze serpent—and put it high on a pole where everyone in the camp could see it
- f. Then God commanded Moses to announce to the entire nation, “If you are bitten by a poisonous serpent, all you need do it LOOK at the bronze serpent and I will heal you
- g. This is a brilliant picture of the gospel!! It was a LOOK OF FAITH that would save their lives
- h. God was separating the believers from the unbelievers; if one person was bitten and did not believe in God’s provision, he would NOT look at the bronze serpent, and so would die
- i. But if another person was bitten by the serpent and DID believe in God’s provision he would quickly go out of his tent and find the bronze serpent up on the pole... he would look, and God would SEE the look of faith and would heal him
- j. The serpent’s bite represents our sinfulness that threatens us not just with physical death but with eternal death in hell
- k. Jesus is God’s provision for our sins; all of us have been bitten by sin; we have the deadly poison of sin coursing through our souls; we don’t know how long we have to live... death stands over us at every moment
- l. Jesus was crucified on a cross... lifted up high for all to see
- m. All you need do is to LOOK... LOOK to Christ crucified... the LOOK of faith; and God will see you and you will not perish but have eternal life!!

***John 6:40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.***

### III. We See Jesus Resurrected

#### A. The Account of the Resurrection

***John 20:1-8 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.***

#### B. "He Saw and Believed"

1. John acknowledged that it was the physical evidence that convinced him of Christ's resurrection
2. He saw the stone moved away from the entrance
3. He saw the empty tomb, with no body
4. He saw the grave clothes lying wholly undisturbed in their original position
5. He saw the head covering, carefully folded up by itself
6. This physical evidence spoke loudly of the resurrection
7. BUT access to it would be temporary!!
8. Within days, Jesus' enemies would destroy everything, or remove it... in any case, believers in every generation all over the world

would not be able to make any kind of pilgrimage to some empty tomb in Jerusalem

9. That's why John added the words

***John 20:9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)***

By scripture alone we can SEE the evidence of the resurrection... especially his physical appearance to the disciples in the upper room

***John 20:19-20 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.***

And then again the week later, to confirm Thomas's faith

***John 20:24-29 Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."***

C. We Read and SEE... and Believe!!

1. As we read these accounts, we can **see** the resurrected Christ, giving incontrovertible proof of his resurrection from the dead
2. The scriptures stand and testify to every generation of the truth of the resurrection!

#### IV. We See Jesus Crowned

***Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.***

- A. Once His Humiliation was Finished, God Exalted Christ to the Highest Place
- B. Christ's Present Exaltation Can Only Be Seen by Faith
  - 1. By reading scripture, we are told amazing things about the exaltation of Jesus Christ
  - 2. Scripture probes into the invisible heavenly realms to reveal Christ's glory to us
  - 3. SO... this is the only source of our heavenly "vision," the feeding of our faith by scriptural truth
- C. Christ's Present Exaltation

***Hebrews 1:3 After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.***

***Ephesians 1:20-23 [God] raised [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.***

Look at the significance of that statement... Christ is seated at the right hand of God

All the powers and principalities and authorities and spheres of influence both among humans and in the heavenly realms with angels and demons alike... all the seats of power there are in heaven and on earth, Christ is seated in a position infinitely ABOVE them all. If they all combined against him, they would lose, swallowed up under the tidal wave of his omnipotence.

This is the position of Christ RIGHT NOW in the heavenly realms

And God the Father exerting his sovereign power on behalf of Christ's Kingdom:

***Psalm 110:1-2 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." <sup>2</sup> The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.***

God the Father is exerting his sovereign power in subduing Christ's enemies, either by converting them or by conquering them

And we ourselves at one time were his enemies:

***Romans 5:10 when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son***

This is the majestic and powerful work going on all over the world... Christ is winning his former enemies over, melting their hard hearts, bringing them sweetly and submissively into his spiritual kingdom, to love him and obey him!

D. Christ's Future Exaltation will be OBVIOUS FOR ALL TO SEE

***Matthew 24:27 as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.***

***Revelation 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.***

V. See Jesus Now; See Jesus Continually

A. To All Guests... LOOK TO JESUS NOW! Think about the bronze serpent... see the poison of sin in your lives and know that Christ alone is God's provision:

***John 3:14-15 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.***

You don't know how long you have! LOOK, LOOK, LOOK to Christ while there's time!

B. For Us Believers, We Are Not Done Looking to Jesus

1. Our faith is a living thing, and it needs constant food
2. The food of faith is the word of God
3. In light of this sermon, we need to look to Jesus... in his perfect life, in his atoning death, in his resurrection victory, and in his present exaltation at the right hand of God, and his future glory in heaven
4. Our vision of Christ can get very cloudy sometimes... like the blind man whom Jesus healed in stages

***Mark 8:24 "I see people; they look like trees walking around."***

***Mark 8:25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.***

5. So it is with us... we need to look to Jesus again and again and again, by feeding on his word

The Author to Hebrews challenges us to keep looking to Jesus

C. Look to Jesus to Persevere in our Marathon Race of Faith

***Hebrews 12:1-2 let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

***Hebrews 11:27 [Moses] persevered because he saw him who is invisible.***

1. So... as you are battling chronic pain or significant illness... persevere as seeing him who is invisible

2. As you grow in Christian holiness, laying aside every weight and the sin that seeks to entangle your feet, **FIX YOUR SPIRITUAL EYES ON JESUS CHRIST!**
3. Derive your constant strength from him, knowing he has defeated sin and death and hell and is in resurrected glory for all eternity!!!