

# FOUNDER\*

*Jesus is the Founder (Prince, Author, Captain) of our salvation—planning, going before, leading the way.*

## SCRIPTURE†

**Acts 3:11–26 (15)**

**Acts 5:29–32 (31)**

**1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (25)**

**2 Corinthians 2:14–17**

Ephesians 1:22–23

**Colossians 2:8–15**

2 Timothy 2:8–10

**Hebrews 2:5–18 (10)**

**Hebrews 12:1–3 (2)**

Revelation 19:11–16

## MUSIC‡

**Across the Lands (Lopez) SATB**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hallelujah! What a Savior

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Joy Has Dawned

Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious

O Church, Arise

See the Christ

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

Victory in Jesus



\* Title is single-word approximation of the Greek word ἀρχηγός, translated “Prince,” “Author,” and “Captain” in *Acts* and *Hebrews*. Strong's's helpful definition: “one that takes the lead in [something] and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.” Theme fits in **Hebrews** series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## ARCHEGOS

Walk through New Testament occurrences and translations of the term *archegos* (in bold below).

- Acts 3:15 – And killed the **Prince** of life, whom God hath raised from the dead.
- Acts 5:31 – Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a **Prince** and a Savior...
- Hebrews 2:10 – 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.
- Hebrews 12:2 – Looking unto Jesus the **Author** and finisher of our 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.

Reference Strong's's helpful definition: “one that takes the lead in [something] and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.”

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## CAPTAIN

Explain the term “Captain” in **Hebrews 2:10**.

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

The word translated “captain” in Hebrews 2:10 is also translated “prince” and “author,” along with “founder” in other translations. So why did the translators of our English Bible use the word “captain” in Hebrews 2:10? To understand their word choice, we need to understand what a captain is. A captain is an officer on the tactical level, meaning he is the one responsible for carrying out the commands of his general and leading his men into battle. A captain does not issue orders from the rear, he gives the order and then leads his men from the front. We see this reality reflected in the uniforms and headgear that officers have worn throughout history. Take for example these Roman helmets (show slide) they are identical in many ways with one noticeable exception. The helmet on the right, which belongs to a centurion, what we would call a captain, has a bright red plume on the top so that his men can see where he is at all times and follow him. You see, a captain would not only make a battle plan and issue orders, but he lead his men into the fray and would often land the initial blow against the enemy.

So it is with Christ. Christ Jesus not only planned the redemption of mankind from eternity past with God the Father, but he carried out the solution by dying on the cross for us. He landed the first blow, and one day he will land the final blow against Satan, sin, and death. This truth deepens our appreciation for and confidence in our Bibles as we have them today, but also deepens our appreciation for what Christ did for us. Today let's praise God for sending us Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation. (Tim Waycaster)

## SON'S PLAN, TOO

**Hebrews 2:10** | Use the translation “Founder” of the Greek word *archegos* (“Prince,” “Captain,” “Author”) to present God the Son as part of the planning of salvation. He is not just a submissive victim of the Father’s plan—a view that might cast the Father as cruel or heartless. Jesus is called the Founder, both the visionary and the executor of the plan of salvation.

**Promotional Post:** Jesus is called in the New Testament the “Prince,” “Captain,” and “Author” of our salvation. But all these are translations of a single jam-packed Greek word, which we could summarize by calling Him the Founder of our faith.

Join us this Sunday to enrich your understanding of the gospel and to worship Christ for what He has done for us in salvation! These passages can help you prepare: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

There is a unique Greek word used for Jesus in the New Testament. *Archegos* is translated several different ways: Prince, Author, and Captain. In Hebrews 2:10, Jesus is called the “Captain of [our] salvation.” One translation uses the word “Founder” instead; that does strike at the full meaning. A founder is one who not only executes a plan but was also part of the planning. He is the visionary and the one who makes it happen.

Jesus wasn’t just a submissive victim of the Father’s plan, like Isaac laying down on the altar by Abraham. For some, this way of looking at the Son’s role in salvation makes God the Father look cruel—and they even become skeptics of Christianity. “How could a loving Father send His Son to die?”

But Jesus is the *archegos*. He was in on the plan! The Triune God planned our redemption “together.” And “for the joy set before Him, [Jesus willingly] endured the cross”—counting the shame a small price to pay. Jesus is the Founder of our salvation! If you’re in Christ today, you were part of that plan.

He willingly “left the gaze of angels...to seek and save the lost.” But once He had died in our place, “with a shout He rose victorious!” It was His plan all along. He made salvation possible through His cross and resurrection. And now He is getting it done—sending His cry of love across the lands! “From each tribe and tongue and nation, He [is] leading sinners home!”

**(Caleb French)**

## SPURGEON SERMON

Read and present Spurgeon's explanation of the **Hebrews 2:10** term "Captain."

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

The following is taken from a sermon by Charles Spurgeon entitled, "Captain of Our Salvation," on Hebrews 2:10 in 1882.

"Now I turn to my second point, which is concerning The Ordained Captain. God intends to bring 'many sons to Glory,' but He means to do it by the hand of a chosen Captain, greater than Joshua, who will fight for His people and conduct them safely into the Canaan of 'Glory.'

"The word here translated, captain, is in another place rendered, author, and in yet another passage, prince. In fact, it is twice translated, prince. But I feel perfectly satisfied...to say that the Lord our God leads His people to Glory by a Captain. He might have done it, if so it had pleased Him, by His own power and might, apart from a Mediator, but He has not done so. He has ordained everything by the hand of a Mediator, and it is an essential part of His arrangement of the whole system of grace that the Father should work by the Son to bring the many sons to glory, that the Son should bring them there by being the Captain in their midst, representing Him among men, being clothed with His power, effecting His Divine purpose for them.

"God will bring no sons to Glory except through this Captain! None may ever hope to enter Glory except by Christ Jesus! He Himself has said, 'I am the way.' And He is the only way. Therefore, woe be to those who refuse to come to God by Him! God will bring all His sons to Glory, but it must be by the Captain whom He has ordained.

"When the Lord our God chose Him as our Leader and Commander, He laid help upon One who was mighty. He did not take some poor weak mortal to be the captain of such a company as we are! He did not even select an angel for this great task. He exalted One chosen out of the people who was most suitable for the position—and God's wisdom would be dishonored if Christ were found incapable of bringing the many sons to Glory!

"But He is blessedly capable of all that is required of Him—and the ancient prophecies concerning Him shall be completely fulfilled! 'He shall not fail nor be discouraged.' 'And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hands.'"

As Spurgeon reminds us, we should be grateful today that Jesus, God's only Son, chose to take the wounds and death of the cross in order that He, our Captain of Salvation, might bring "many sons to glory."

## UNFINISHED PROJECTS

**Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:29** | *(This theme angle came about under the former combined “Author and Finisher” theme title. It could still be appropriately adapted.) Ask people how many unfinished projects they have in their garages, craft rooms, etc. We frequently begin things that we don’t complete, but Jesus never does this. He promises that He will complete the salvation He has begun in us, and He is relentless in His work in our lives so that the faith that is begun will also be completed. We look forward to the day when we, His projects, will be ultimately completed—when we see him face to face.*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]



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