

Hebrews Chapter 2

We read in chapter 1 that the writer of Hebrews is quite fixated on angels. Angels are used again to illustrate a point.

V1. A warning not to backslide. This same warning is in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6.

V2. He refers to the heavenly ceremony that preceded the giving of the law. Deuteronomy 33:1-2 Moses describes a heavenly fire at the base of Mount Sinai plus he recalls ten thousand saints / angels in his departing farewell blessing, Moses gives a more graphic recount of the giving of the law in Exodus 19 or Deuteronomy 5.

Hebrews reminds us that this much trumpeted and heralded law brought punishment to all who broke it. Jesus saved you from that punishment, so how much better is grace than the law, and why would you neglect it?

V3. Define the word neglect in this context; what do you have to do to lose your salvation? See v 1 & 2 and related passages. The writer hints about doubt by reminding you that at that time, living people were first hand witnesses of Jesus Himself, telling everyone about His salvation, John 20:28.

V4. What wonders, signs and miracles performed by God, rather than Jesus, can you recall? Matthew 3:13-?. Matthew 27:51-54, Romans 6:6

V5. This sentence would not make sense, we're it not about God. The tenses are mixed up. Has not put ἄ (past tense) the world to come (future tense). When God says what He's going to do, it's as good as done. When I promise something, it's a strong statement of intention and subject to variable factors outside of my control. So when you read a promise in the Bible, you can bank it. Timing is the only uncertainty, and that's in God's hands. Romans 8:24.

V6-8. A reference to Psalm 8:1-6.

Ps 8:4 Who is man and who is son of man in this context? The psalm is a blend of you and Jesus in the context of creation.

Ps 8:5 Jesus's voluntary demotion. We read in Hebrews 1:4 Jesus being promoted above the angels, after His ascension.

What additional glory and honour did Jesus get? A new title, the Lamb of God.

Ps 8:6 This is a prophecy also found in Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 5:13. This is not how it is now, currently man has this title, Genesis 9:2-3.

V8. Confirmation that Jesus is going to be in charge of everything, in Heaven and Earth, but that's in the future, not now.

V9. Now, we see Jesus, who in the Heavenly hierarchy, demoted his rank to just under the angels, Philippians 2:5-8. Why does Paul use the term bond servant? Is the Hebrews writer overstating Jesus's position in the hierarchy, in that in reality He became a little lower than the average guy? Isaiah 53:2-3. These verses emphasise the contrast between Jesus, the man on Earth and Jesus, Son of God and Lamb of God. What do you take from the sentence; He might taste death for everyone? How, or in what way did Jesus taste death? In this context, what does the words taste and everyone mean?

V10. In chapter 1:10 Jesus is given credit for creation. In chapter 2:10 God Himself takes the credit. So, which is it? Without a knowledge of the Trinity, you'll never understand. Look carefully at the premise of this verse. Bringing sons and daughters to glory. Spot another title of Jesus, Pioneer of your Salvation. He went from perfect to imperfect when He took on your sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21. He then took the punishment for that sin through crucifixion, upon death He went into Hades, Hell, 1 Peter 3:18-20 and was raised raised by God after 3 days, Acts 2:23-24. So having taken your punishment, Jesus was once again restored to perfection.

V11. Who's this one that makes people Holy? Obviously, Jesus is rightly proud of His achievement which has elevated you and I into God's family, as Jesus's brother / sister.

V12. A quote from Psalm 22:22.

V13. A quote from Isaiah 8:27-28.

V14. We're made up of flesh and blood so Jesus had to become the same as us in order to die. The power of death is Satan,

V15. Freedom for slaves held in the fear of death. It's not death you should fear, it's what happens after death that you fear, it's what happens after death you should worry about. Like reassuring someone that's afraid of flying, it's not flying that you should be afraid of, no no, it's crashing you need to worry about. These days, people seem less worried about dying, some want to hasten it by going to death clinics like Dignitas. What's brought that about do you think? It's common to hear people say: 'No, I'm not afraid of death.' But that's because they've no concept of what's on the other side, they're under the misconception that there's nothing, but that's not what God tells you in the Bible.

So are you a slave to the fear of death, if, rightly or wrongly, you're not afraid of it? How does that effect your perspective of the gospel? Is it relevant? Does that affect your message when witnessing and / or the Church's message?

16. Does God favour the Jews over the angels, and if so why?

17. Jesus was made in the form of a man. Let's be clear, Jesus is a spirit but became a human being. This transition was temporarily suspended, Matthew 17:2. If you've ever doubted that Jesus came down from Heaven, read Hebrews 2:17 and Matthew 17:2. We always knew Jesus was a sacrifice, one of His treasured titles is Lamb of God, but did you know that He is also a priest? He was born of Mary, so from the tribe of Judah rather than Levi, so how so? Hebrews 9:14-15.

18. How does Jesus in Heaven, sat at the right hand of God, help us overcome temptation?