

Hebrews: A Bridge from the Old to the New

Hebrews – Chapter 2

Jesus Christ: Superior to the Angels (concluded)

Heed the Message of God: A Warning against Drifting (Verses 1-4)

1 In the Greek, the phrases “careful attention” describe the precise mooring of a ship and “drift away” refers to a ship missing a harbor. These expressions are reminders of the need to “fight the good fight” and to hold on to “a good conscience”, because rejecting these can result in a “shipwrecked” faith ^{1 Timothy 1:18-19}.

2-3 The Greek word for “if” actually assumes a fulfilled condition, so a better translation of “For if...” would be “In view of the fact that...”. Also, “message” is the Greek word *logos* that is normally translated ‘word’, referring to the Word of God as the expression of wisdom. So, the angels were involved in the delivery of God’s Word, and specifically God’s Law ^{Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19}. If (because) “every [sin] received its just punishment” under the law (Old Covenant), how much more severe will the judgement be under the New Covenant? ^{Matthew 10:14-15, 11:20-24, Hebrews 10:28-29}. The Law was never given to justify anyone ^{Acts 13:39}, but to bring awareness of sin ^{Romans 3:20}; however, Jesus Christ brought the Good News of hope ^{Luke 4:16-21}. Therefore, the message of Jesus (Grace) is far superior to the message of the angels (Law), because man cannot elude judgement unless he accepts the salvation offered by God only through Jesus ^{Acts 4:12} and confirmed by the witness of the apostles, the disciples and the Biblical writers.

A violation of the law (transgression) is a sin of commission, while disobedience is a sin of omission.

4 Not only did God the Father testify to His offering of salvation through His Son and the Word, but also in “signs, wonders and miracles” by Jesus ^{John 10:37-38, Acts 2:22} and His apostles ^{Romans 15:17-19, 2 Corinthians 12:12}. God’s witness of salvation is also expressed by the many gifts of the Holy Spirit (encouragement ^{Acts 9:31}, life guidance ^{Acts 1:2, 16:6}, love ^{Romans 5:1-5}, sanctification ^{Romans 15:14-16}, revelation of prophecy ^{2 Peter 1:19-21}, joy ^{1 Thessalonians 1:4-6}, preaching ^{1 Peter 1:10-12}, etc) that are given according to His will.

The Humanity of Jesus: Regaining Man’s Lost Dominion (Verses 5-9)

5 Humans, not angels, will reign with Jesus in the millennium ^{Zechariah 14:5,9, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, Revelation 5:9-10, 20:1-6}.

6 The next 3 verses quote Psalm 8:4-6, but the unnamed author left the source vague, because his purpose was to emphasize the real author (the Holy Spirit ^{2 Timothy 3:16}), and not the human author (“someone” = David). This verse ^{Psalms 8:4} mentions “man” and “the son of man”, both referring to mankind ^{Ezekiel 2:1}, not Jesus. The greatest proof of God’s love & care for man is the Incarnation of His only Son, Jesus Christ ^{1 John 4:7-9}.

7-8 Just after the creation, God gave man dominion over the earth ^{Genesis 1:26-28}, but the fall of man ^{Genesis 3} removed him from that position; eventually, because of His perfect obedience to the Father, Jesus will fulfill that role completely ^{1 Corinthians 15:27, Ephesians 1:22-23}. The statement “You made him a little lower than the angels...” ^{Psalms 8:5-6} stresses the relative low position of Jesus being born a man ^{Luke 1:30-31, Philippians 2:7-8}, however, Jesus will later return to His rightful place...in glory ^{Luke 1:32-33, Philippians 2:9-11}.

Angels were created ^{Ezekiel 28:15} with supernatural powers ^{Exodus 33:1-2, Daniel 6:21-22}, have access to God's throne ^{Job 1:6, 2:1, Revelation 5:11} and will not die ^{Revelation 5:13-14}, but they answer to Jesus ^{2 Thessalonians 1:5-7}.

- 9** In explaining the previous quote, the glory and honor Jesus will be given is the result of His redemptive work (His Incarnation, substitutionary sacrifice on the Cross and victory over sin & death ^{Romans 6:23, 1 John 4:10}). Jesus (the 2nd Adam ^{1 Corinthians 15:45,47}) succeeded, where the 1st man (Adam) failed. Jesus tasted death for everyone ^{1 Peter 3:18a}; however, only those who accept Jesus as LORD & Savior gain the benefits ^{Ephesians 1:18}.

The Humanity of Jesus: Bringing His Sons to Glory (Verses 10-13)

- 10** The Father sending His only Son to die on the Cross makes no sense using human wisdom ^{1 Corinthians 1:18-25}, but it was “fitting”, because it was God’s plan for the only way to salvation for man ^{John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:3-6}. Jesus is the “author” (*archēgos*: originator, founder) of salvation. Jesus was “perfect” in His divine nature, and His human perfection was shown in his sinless obedience in everything, including suffering ^{Hebrews 4:15}.
- 11** The word “holy” is used twice to refer to the goal of the sanctification process that sets a person apart for service to God through purification from sin ^{1 Thessalonians 4:3-7} by the power of the Holy Spirit ^{Romans 15:15-16}. The author stated the concept of God and man being part of the “same family” ^{Ephesians 3:14-15, 1 Peter 4:16-17}, that is why Christians call God “Our Father” ^{Matthew 6:9} and are called the “brothers” of Jesus ^{Matthew 28:10}.
- 12** The author quoted the words of David ^{Psalms 22:22}, but applied them to Jesus, who taught about His family by saying anyone who did “the will of [His] Father” was His “brother and sister and mother” ^{Matthew 12:46-50}.
- 13** Again, the words of someone else (Isaiah) ^{Isaiah 8:17-18} are attributed to Jesus. The statement expresses His trust in His Father (important lesson for all mankind about submission) and speaks of man as His children.

The Humanity of Jesus: Disarming Satan and Delivering from Death (Verses 14-16)

- 14** The word “shared” means to take hold of something foreign. In other words, Jesus was not by nature “flesh and blood”, but took on the nature in order to provide the redemption for mankind ^{Philippians 2:5-8}. It was only through His perfect life ^{2 Corinthians 5:21} that Jesus could then die for man’s sins ^{Romans 6:10}, leading to Him being able to overcome death by His resurrection ^{John 11:25-26, Philippians 3:10-11}. By conquering death, Jesus offers victory to every believer over Satan & the world ^{John 16:33, Colossians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 John 5:1-5}.
- 15** Jesus freed all Christians from slavery to sin ^{Romans 6:6-7} and the fear of death ^{Psalms 23, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57}.
- 16** Jesus does not help (literally, “take hold of”) the angels, because they are not in need of rescue (salvation). As one of “Abraham’s descendants” ^{Matthew 1:1}, Jesus helped Jews ^{Matthew 1:21} and Christians ^{Matthew 16:15-18}.

The Humanity of Jesus: Becoming the Perfect High Priest (Verses 17-18)

- 17** To be an effective High Priest, by being merciful to man and faithful to His Father, Jesus had to fully embrace His humanness in order to be worthy to atone for the sins of mankind ^{Romans 3:21-26, 1 John 2:1-2}.
- 18** By experiencing temptation ^{Mark 14:32-36, Luke 4:1-13}, Jesus became fully capable of understanding, sympathizing with and helping His human ‘brothers’ when they are tempted ^{Luke 22:31-32, 1 Corinthians 10:13}. This completes the section in Hebrews on Jesus being superior to the angels ^{Hebrews 1:4-2:18}.

Matthew 1:21 [The angel said to Joseph:] “[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 11:20-24 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”.

Matthew 12:46-50 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 16:15-18 “But what about you?” [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Mark 14:32-36 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Luke 22:31-32 [Jesus said:] “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 16:33 [Jesus said:] “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Acts 2:22 Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 6:10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, ron@hopeinchristnm.com, 505-294-4743.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 12:12 The things that mark an apostle – signs, wonders and miracles – were done among you with great perseverance.

Galatians 3:19 What was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 1:22-23 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 3:14-15 For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

Philippians 2:5-11 ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Hebrews 10:28-29 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

1 Peter 3:18a For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Revelation 5:9-10 And [the elders] sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

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