

An Exposition of Hebrews

Lesson 3 – Chapter 2:1-18 ³⁴⁰³

Passage NASU	Commentary & Analysis	Bible Interprets the Bible References
<p>Contextual Transition: Because we saw in 1:1-4, God’s revelation of the Son’s glory and majesty, and because we saw in 1:5-14 a series of 8 quotations from the Hebrew Scriptures (1st Ps 2:7 – vs 5b; 2nd 2 Sam 7:14 – vs 5c; 3rd Ps:97:7b – vs 6; 4th Ps 104:4 – vs 7; 5th Ps 45:6-7 – vs 8 & 9a; 6th Is 61:1 & 3 – 9b; 7th Ps 102:25-26; 8th Ps 110:1) that prophesy of Christ and God’s sovereign plan for the Son’s rule written many centuries previously.</p>		
<p>Do Not Neglect Salvation It is easy to think of oneself as “pretty good”, and much better than others. It is easy to think of God as a loving Father at the exclusion of His holiness, righteousness, and wrath and to think of oneself as substantially religious, resulting in our neglecting the serious matter of one’s own need of life changing redemption.</p>		
<p>2:1 <i>For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.</i></p>	<p>Because of OT Scripture writings, we (Hebrews) <i>must pay much closer attention</i> so as not to miss our redemption in Christ. Understand that at this early date Gentile Christians would not know of or understand these OT passages. To lose this offer of redemption from God is to fall into apostasy for which there is no recovery. A serious warning to these Hebrews.</p>	<p>Matt 16:5-12 <i>I did not speak concerning bread?</i> Deut 4:9-10 <i>so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth,</i> Deut 32:45-47</p>
<p>2:2-3a <i>For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,</i></p> <p>^{3a}<i>how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?</i></p>	<p>“If-Then” argument, a.k.a. in this case a “rhetorical argument”. “If” is the “protasis” in this case assumed confidently to be true and agreed upon. “Then” is the “apodosis”, the consequent need for response/action because of what is agreed upon.</p> <p>Because these Hebrews understand that it is true that the Law (spoken through angels) was unalterable and that <i>every disobedience received a just penalty</i>.</p> <p>Since this is true, how can one ignore the gospel message (<i>so great a salvation?</i>) considering the following evidences as to the gospels source as being God Himself???</p>	<p>Ac 7:51-53 <i>you who received the law as ordained by angels.</i> Dt 33:1-4 <i>The LORD came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, and He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones;</i> Heb 4:1-2 <i>let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may have come short of it.</i></p>
<p>2:3b <i>After it was at the first spoken through the Lord,</i></p> <p>^{3c}<i>it was confirmed to us by those who heard,</i></p>	<p>1st <i>It was spoken through the Lord</i> Jesus who is supreme as a witness for God, over the angels. His teaching is the radical root of His being. His own words declare Himself.</p> <p>2nd <i>It was confirmed</i> by those who saw and heard its proclamation. The disciples, and including the apostles are eyewitnesses. These truths came to us by reliable witnesses, mostly still living at the time of the writing of this book.</p>	<p>Jn 8:53-59 <i>Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."</i> I Jn 1:1-4 <i>what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have touched with our hands,</i></p>
<p>2:4a <i>God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders</i></p> <p>^{4b}<i>and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.</i></p>	<p>3rd God Himself testified through a broad range of signs and wonders performed by Jesus, the Christ, God’s anointed one.</p> <p>4th “Spiritual gifts are not an end to themselves to be used for our personal private enjoyment. Spiritual gifts edify the church and testify that Jesus Christ is Lord. As Paul explains inf Eph 4:8, Christ has ascended on high, and now, with all authority in heaven, showers gifts on His church. Gifts within the church, therefore bear witness to Jesus Christ as the resurrected Lord and to the superiority of the new covenant over the old.” Albert Mohler; Christ-Centered Exposition; p. 27-28</p>	<p>Jn 1:29-34 <i>I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.</i> Eph 4:7-16 <i>and He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain -</i></p>
<p>The Son Made Lower than Angels In the incarnation the Christ was made lower than the angels, only in the sense that he was 100% a man of men. He lived without the benefit of being God, very God which He also was.</p>		

<p>2:5 For He did not subject to angels the <u>world</u> to come, concerning which we are speaking.</p>	<p>Angels have not been charged with ruling responsibilities of the <u>world</u> (<i>οικουμενην οικουμενην</i> (Str. 3625) 15x; meaning “inhabited earth” rather than meaning the whole globe of creation along with the universe. (note lesson #2; v. 1:6) Adam was commissioned to name the animals, to have dominion over the earth, to be God’s representative on the earth. But He failed!</p>	<p>Gen 1:26-31 Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over</p>
<p>2:6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?" <i>Ps 8:4</i></p>	<p>Why does God concern Himself with fallen man who is rebellious and unrepentant towards their Creator? Mankind is certainly unworthy of God’s great love and grace.</p> <p>Yet here is an important element of man that needs to be remembered. Man and only man was <u>made in the image of God!</u></p> <p>Christ in the person of Jesus has now become the second Adam, to recover and fulfill God’s commission to rule the earth as God’s representative since Adam, the man of the earth failed.</p>	<p>Is 64:6-8 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like -</p> <p>1 Cor 15:45-49 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.</p> <p>We who are in Christ have been birthed into a new spiritual life in Christ!</p>
<p>2:7a YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS;</p> <p><i>7b</i> YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; <i>Ps 8:5-6a</i></p>	<p>Since the fall, throughout history, mankind is fallen, he is less than the angels apart from God’s redeeming grace.</p> <p>But God has determined before time began, to choose a people for His own loving gracious work of redemption.</p> <p>God has chosen a people to be adopted into His family by the gracious redeeming work of Christ on the cross.</p>	<p>Ps 8:3-8 Yet You have made him a little lower than God;</p> <p>1 Cor 2:6-9 all that God has prepared for them who love Him.</p> <p>Eph 1:2-12 having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,</p>
<p>2:8a YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET <i>Ps 8:6b</i>.</p> <p><i>8b</i> For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.</p>	<p>Here we are talking initially about redeemed mankind, but this also speaks secondarily regarding Christ our 2nd Adam, our “Federal head”.</p> <p>Only having left the federal headship of Adam and dying to our old man with Christ are we now, as God’s beloved, now heirs of all that God intended for Adam as rulers over the earth as those under the authority of Jesus the Christ (Christ’s Federal Headship!). We don’t now experience all of this inheritance, but it is sure to us who are in Christ.</p>	<p>1 Cor 15:20-26 those who are Christ’s at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.</p>
<p>2:9a But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus,</p> <p><i>9b</i> because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.</p>	<p>Verse 8 above is talking about God’s intention for man. Here in v. 9 it now speaks regarding Christ, our brother, our Federal Head. The Son was a genuine incarnation unto manhood!</p> <p>Jesus the God-man is God’s mystery agent to bring about the redemption a people from the sin and depravity of the “Fall”. Jesus, God’s anointed One, willingly lowered Himself in the incarnation, suffered unto an actual death, is now crowned with glory and honor in tasting death for all of God’s chosen redeemed as planned from eternity past.</p>	<p>Php 2:5-8 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.</p> <p>Rom 5:6-12 But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.</p>
<p>Bringing Many Sons to Glory Jesus’ incarnation’s purpose was to dwell with men, experiencing all that it meant to be a man. As a glorious, eternal member of the Triune Godhead it was necessary to so identify with those for whom He was to die to make <u>propitiation</u> (satisfaction) to the Father, that He would suffer temptation, hunger, pain of loss, perhaps illness, rejection, etc. etc. thus becoming identified thoroughly with those whom He was providing salvation for.</p>		
<p>2:10 For it was <u>fitting</u> for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in</p>	<p>This is counterintuitive for our minds, but this person, Jesus, who was eternally existent and had full access to all the attributes of the Godhead, needed to so identify with the objects of God’s love (unredeemed men and</p>	<p>Rom 3:21-26 the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a <u>propitiation</u> in His blood through faith.</p>

<p><i>bringing many sons to glory, <u>to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.</u></i></p>	<p>women) that His death (blood provision) was <u>totally efficacious in <u>satisfying</u> the perfect Law of God</u> regarding the necessity of a blood sacrifice to enable the resolution of the specific sins of those individuals whom the Father had set His love upon before time began.</p>	<p>Heb 5:7-10 <i>And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.</i></p>
<p>2:11a <i>For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father;</i></p> <p><i>^{11b}for which reason He is not ashamed to call them <u>brethren</u>.</i></p>	<p>Both Jesus the Christ and we redeemed (sanctified) were all identified by the Father to Jesus as those elect unto salvation before time began.</p> <p>The redeemed in Christ are not just of the faith, but rather they are of the same family, sanctified by a permanent family relationship.</p> <p>Gr. <u>brethren</u> αδελφους <i>adelphous</i> (Str. 80) 343x; noun principally meaning of the same parents (Father), in this case a binding, permanent, eternal, spiritual relationship!</p>	<p>Jn 17:6-10 <i>to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and you gave them to Me,</i></p> <p>Mt 12:46-50 <i>whoever does the will of my Father - - he is My brother and sister and mother.</i></p> <p>Jesus was always the Son, but now He became the man born of a woman!</p>
<p>2:12 <i>saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY <u>BRETHREN</u>, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE." Ps 22:22</i></p>	<p>David sings his praise to God the Father. Quoted here in Hebrews, the claim is made that the Son of David, Jesus the Christ, will praise God to His brethren, in the midst of elect of Israel and all of God's elect. Praises to God are not optional. We are obligated to praise God at every turn, every difficulty, every disappointment!</p>	<p>Ps 40:6-10 <i>I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;</i></p> <p>Implied praiser is: 1. David, 2. Jesus Christ, and 3. I!</p>
<p>2:13 <i>And again, "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." Is 8:17</i></p> <p><i>And again, "BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME." Is 8:18a</i></p>	<p>This praise toward the Father continues in Isaiah 8:17-18 (partial).</p> <p>Pr 9:10 <i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.</i></p> <p><u>This is the first step of redemption!!</u></p>	<p>Read in full:</p> <p>Is 8:11-18 <i>It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. 8:13</i></p>
<p>2:14 <i>Therefore, since the <u>children</u> share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,</i></p>	<p>God's chosen (elect) from the foundations of the world are but flesh and blood. Christ lowered Himself in the first advent to be a human of flesh and blood enabling Him to experience the full redemptive purpose of the required death to cover sin.</p> <p>It is in Christ's earthly life and death that He entirely defeated Satan and his forces of evil. Yes, there has been and will continue to be the <u>trilemma</u>* of evil in our world, but be assured, God wins this battle and the price has already been paid!</p> <p>* 1. If God is all good! and 2. If God is all powerful! then 3. Why is there evil in the world?</p>	<p>Col 2:12-15 <i>When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.</i></p> <p>1 Cor 15:21-25 <i>For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.</i></p> <p>Heb 12:3-11 <i>MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.</i></p>
<p>2:15 <i>and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.</i></p>	<p>It is fear of death, rather than fear of God that enslaves mankind throughout history and becomes deceives us, crediting false power to Satan. We who are in Christ, who have died with Christ in His crucifixion that are forever free of Satan's power!</p>	<p>Rom 8:12-17 <i>So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - - -</i></p>
<p>2:16 <i>For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to <u>the descendant of Abraham</u>.</i></p>	<p>When 1/3 of the angels fell, they never had an opportunity to receive grace, they were thrown out of God's presence as demons, obedient to their father, Satan, who is just like them. They hate that God redeems men, but never has redeemed any angel.</p> <p><u>The descendants of Abraham</u> are men of faith, the faithful Jew first and the Gentile of faith who is grafted into this Abrahamic faith by the gospel of Christ.</p>	<p>1 Cor 15:50-58 <i>But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, - - -</i></p>

<p>2:17a Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,</p> <p>^{17b}to make propitiation for the sins of the people.</p>	<p>Conclusion: Jesus as the Christ had to be a man of flesh and blood in order to be an appropriate high priest to the chosen (elect) of God. Mercy and faithfulness are derived from a fellowship and shared understanding with those whom He represents before the Father. He has become, not a Levitical priest, but rather a priest after the order of Melchizedek which we will study in greater detail later in this series.</p> <p>The sacrifice fully and permanently satisfied (propitiated) God's wrath from our sin and our sin nature in Adam!</p>	<p>Heb 4:14-16 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, - - -</p> <p>Col 1:21-23 He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach -</p>
<p>2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.</p>	<p>Through His suffering, through His living as a man, through His incarnation, Christ has become able to be a brother to His redeemed. He can relate to us personally. He understands hunger, illness, soreness, exhaustion, hard work, friendship, relationship, disappointment, temptation, and death itself. Now He is able to assist us in our trials and relate to our weaknesses!</p>	<p>Heb 4:14-16 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive and find grace to help in time of need.</p>
<p>Summary/Conclusions/Comments: Do Not Neglect Salvation!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is great danger in neglecting or ignoring your relationship with God. Of depending on human morality and regular church attendance to assure oneself that you are truly transformed by the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit. <p>The Son Made Lower than Angels!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We must gain Biblical appreciation for the degradation of Christ's incarnation compared to His place in heaven. We must appreciate all that He stooped down to do for us and its eternal purpose. <p>Bringing Many Sons to Glory!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. God has a great plan. We were saved not specifically for our own enjoyment and comfort, but rather as the Holy Father's ambassadors in a lost and dying world. We dare not ignore our responsibility to serve the ministry that Christ died for, namely the redemption of a people for God's own glory. We need to always proclaim Christ to a lost and dying world and to do it for His glory, not ours. 		

Important Quote(s)

[re. Heb 2:1 - drifting away] One writer, building on Shakespeare, put it this way, "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at its ebb, leads to victory; neglected, the shores of time are strewn with the wreckage." How true. The picture is not of an ignorant sailor, or a wantonly rebellious sailor, but of a careless sailor. We had better take all the more heed, therefore, lest, unintentionally and unexpectedly, we one day find ourselves having forever drifted past the harbor of salvation.

John MacArthur; MacArthur Commentary of Hebrews; p. 44

But by His doing I am in Christ: created anew, made a branch of the Vine, fitted for fruit bearing. Would to God that believers would cease looking most at their old nature, and complaining of their weakness, as if God called them to what they were unfitted for! Would that they would believingly and joyfully accept the wondrous revelation of how God, in uniting them to Christ, has made Himself chargeable for their spiritual growth and fruitfulness! How all sickly hesitancy and sloth would disappear, and under the influence of this mighty motive - - the faith in the faithfulness of Him of whom they are in Christ - - their whole nature would rise to accept and fulfil their glorious destiny!

Andrew Murray; Abiding in Christ; p. 28

In this world, royal children have to undergo extra training and discipline which other children escape, in order to fit them for their high destiny. It is the same with the children of the King of kings. The clue to understanding all His dealings with them is to remember that throughout their lives He is training them for what awaits them, and chiseling them into the image of Christ. Sometimes the chiseling process is painful and the discipline is irksome; but then the Scripture reminds us: "The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons . . . No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." (Heb 12:6-7 & 11)

.J. I. Packer; Knowing God; p. 222