

**Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class:
A Study in the Book of Hebrews – Lesson 2**

B. Christ is Better than the Angels – 1:4-2:18

1. Proof from the Old Testament – 1:4-14

2. First Warning Section – 2:1-4

3. Proof from Christ’s Sovereignty – 2:5-9

4. Proof from Christ’s Salvation – 2:10-18

The author is continuing his argument that Christ is better than the angels through chapter 2.

In the first four verses, he gives the first of _____ warning passages in Hebrews (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:26-31; 12:25-29). Hebrews 2:1-4 is the briefest of the warnings.

The author is warning the readers of the danger of neglecting the biblical truth of “what we have heard.” This is a reference to all that Christ is, the reality of His superiority. This is what “therefore” (KJV, NIV, ESV) and “for this reason” (NASB) is there for!

Here we have an example of a Hebrew form of argument used by the Jewish leaders of the day (Rabbi Hillel (d. 20 A.D.) for example). Is called a Qal va Homer argument. It compares a “light” principle to a “heavy” principle.

If a “lesser” point applies, the how much more the “greater” point applies. Compare Hebrews 9:13-14. If the Mosaic Law which was “delivered” through angels (Deut. 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Acts 7:38, 53) was steadfast and

brought judgment, then how much more would the revelation of Christ bring with it?

The fact that Christ is supreme and ultimately will have all things in subjection to Him is a reality that all believers should hold onto. The danger in not doing might lead to believers to _____ from or _____ away.

The Greek words μήποτε παραρυῶμεν (mēpote parapyōmen) is only used this one time in the New Testament. It is translated in the NASB as “so that we do not drift away from it.”

There are two options for this phrase:

1. “letting revelation slip by us” – In this view the recipients are fixed. This implies that the believers do not change in their lives and the truth of revelation moves past them.

2. “we drift away from revelation” – In this view the revelation is fixed. This implies that the revelation does not change and believers drift away from the truth.

Which one is preferred? _____

The _____ is like a boat dock, stable and unmoving, while _____ are like the boat that can drift away.

Do Christians “drift away” from sound teaching today?

The warning is seen in the “if” of 2:2. This is what we refer to as a first-class condition in Greek. “If” or “since” something is true, then result is also true. In verse 2, the “word” is the Old Testament Law. If the Law was ignored, judgment came (Deut. 28; Lev. 26:1-40).

Notice in Hebrews 2:3-4 that we have an argument against the verifying _____ today. The truth of the revelation was confirmed to the second generation of the church by those who had _____ the Lord.

In verse 4, God testified with them, the ones who had heard the Lord, by signs, wonders, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Notice that the author did not say that the signs, wonders, and gifts of the Holy Spirit was confirmed to his generation.

So, in brief, the gift of miracles does not exist today.

- a. These “miracles” were exercised by the apostles to authenticate their message (Acts 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 12:12).
- b. Those that did the miracles were those who witnessed Christ’s ministry and ascension (Heb. 2:3-4; Mark 16:17-20). No one can attest to that today.

The author of Hebrews considered “sign” gifts as past since he used a past tense (65-68 A.D.). The last recorded miracle in N.T. is in Acts 28:3-9 (58 A.D.). By 60 A.D. Paul could not heal Epaphroditus who was near death (Phil. 2:25-30). BY 64 A.D. Paul had to leave Trophimus uncured (2 Tim. 4:20).

Hebrews 2:3 - “...by the ones who heard to us it was confirmed/established...”

Hebrews 2:4 uses four words to describe gifts and miracles:

Signs – cf. 2 Cor. 12:12; John 20:30, 31. Emphasizes the purpose of the gift.

Wonders – cf. Acts 2:22. Emphasizes the effect and awe on the observer.

Miracles – Emphasizes the power of the one performing the miracle.

Gifts (lit. distributions) - Emphasizes the source of all gifts – H.S.

After this warning section, the author returns to his argument that Christ is better than the angels:

3. Proof from Christ's Sovereignty – 2:5-9

At the beginning of verse 5, the “for” makes a connection back to 1:4-14, continuing his argument. Here the author makes clear that _____ was not given to angels, but to man (Gen. 1:26-28).

Sovereignty was promised to man, but it was lost through the _____. Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection restored that right. As a result, we will rule and reign with Him in the _____. Angels were never promised the right to rule.

The author quotes from Psalm 8. This Psalm indicates that man was created with a position of _____. God's destiny for man is to rule, which he will do with Christ in the future.

What does the phrase “a little lower” in 2:7 mean? There are two options:

1. A little lower in degree. Man is _____ lower than the angels. There is a definite order in the universe: God – angels – man – animals – plants – inanimate objects. Man is physical and limited in creation. Angels are spirit beings and virtually unlimited in creation.

2. A little lower temporally. Man is for a _____ lower than the angels (1 Pet. 3:22). This seems to be the sense of the author's argument. See also Phil. 2:1-11.

Both can be stated as true for mankind and for Christ. Ultimately, both man and Christ will be higher than angels. This will come at first in the Millennium and then for eternity.

The author uses 2:9 as a transition to the next section. In Christ's sovereignty, He laid down his life for mankind. He did not lay down His life for _____.

In 2:9, the author makes an argument for _____ atonement in the use of the adjective παντός (pantos) which is a singular form. In Greek, when a singular form is used in place of a plural, it emphasizes the whole.

Jesus tasted death for "each and every" person. Adam's sin was appropriated to all humanity (Rom. 5:12). Christ's death made a universal _____ for all humanity. That provision has to be appropriated through faith for salvation.

4. Proof from Christ's Salvation – 2:10-18

The fact that Christ is better than the angels can be seen in the salvation He offers to mankind.

Here is the bottom line of this passage. By providing salvation to mankind, He by passed the angels. Jesus did not take on the properties of angels, but rather He took on _____ (John 1:12).

The author demonstrates four reasons for the incarnation and death of Christ (2:10-18).

1. They were necessary to be completely _____ with mankind. (2:10-13)

a. 2:10 – Christ is our ἀρχηγὸν (archegon) – a military term for the “one at the point” – the captain, leader, pioneer – to guide the way to salvation.

b. 2:11-13 – Christ is our _____. There is definite relationship in salvation. Through Christ, we become God’s children (John 1:12-13). The quotations from Psalm 22:22 and Isa. 8:17-18 show this relationship.

2. They were necessary to overcome the _____ - In the Greek, the phrase is reversed – “blood and flesh” – This emphasizes our blood ties to Christ. It was the shed blood of Chris that paid the penalty of sin (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Christ’s sacrificial death took the power of Satan away. It rendered Satan’s power to be inoperative!

3. They were necessary to set the believer _____ - absolute freedom!

4. They were necessary for Christ to help us as _____ - The author of Hebrews is the only New Testament writer to us this title for Jesus (Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14, 15; 5:1, 5, 10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1, 3; 9:7, 11, 25).