

## "The Superiority of Jesus Christ over the Angels"

### Hebrews 2:1-4

#### Part 5

**Introduction:** Today in our study of Hebrews we have come to chapter 2 of this book and I need to remind you that the chapter divisions are not inspired. The chapter divisions are added by man so in the original letter there would be no break in the letter here. Chapter 1:14 would flow right into chapter 2:1.

The section we are about to look at which is 2:1-4 will be the conclusion of the "Superiority of Jesus Christ over the Angels". Now before we step into these verses that are before us tonight there are some thoughts which I want to bring to the front of your mind.

First of all I need to say that the study we have come to tonight is one of the most important studies we will ever consider. My prayer tonight is that we will be completely focused upon the first 4 verses of chapter 2.

We are so blessed in our lives because we have heard the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and I trust that all of us here have accepted Christ. We are also so blessed in that we have the Word of God, we have a church to attend, we have men here that are willing and able to teach the Word, and each week we can gather together and sit under the teaching of the Bible. There are so many people that do not have any of these blessings. There are people in other countries that would love to have what we have. There are places where men and women bike or walk 20 miles one way to get to a place where the Word

of God is taught. We are truly blessed. But I am not sure we really understand the accountability that comes with the blessings we have.

There are so many distractions within the world that we live in today and these distractions often pull us away from the Lord in the sense that God sometimes takes a "back seat" to that which our flesh desires. There are many times when the "stuff" of this world or the "entertainment" of this world becomes the controlling "god" in the life of the believer. There are many believers who are content with being saved and do not pursue anything deeper in their walk with the Lord. The message we are about to look at tonight I am sure will change our perspective on the Christian life.

### **The Believer's Responsibility**

#### **Notice Hebrews 2:1**

The word "therefore" is a word that is here to take our minds back to what we have just come through. What did we come through? We looked at how Jesus Christ is better than the prophets and how He is better than the angels. The prophets were "spokesmen" for God and they recorded and spoke the message of God but their message was fragmented in the sense that they did not have the complete picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus is better because He is the fulfillment of all they wrote and spoke about in the Old Testament. The angels were the mediators of the Old Covenant as we looked at in the previous verses. The angels were there on Mount Sinai when the Law was given to Moses and the Bible tells us they were the mediators. But Jesus is better than the angels for they are servants of God created by Jesus to be His ministering spirits. Jesus is not a servant of God He is the Son of

God. He is the One the entire Old Testament spoke of and therefore He is better than the angels.

To full understand this we again must look at the verses before us through the lens of the theme. The writer's mission is to show the Hebrew Christians that the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant or we could say that his mission and goal are to show that Jesus Christ is better than all the Old Covenant and therefore they were to move forward in their new life in Christ and not go back to the old practices of ceremonies and rituals which were only pictures of Jesus Christ. The fulfillment of the Old Testament was now here and therefore they no longer needed to go through the ceremonies and the rituals.

**Notice Hebrews 2:1 again.**

Now we need to consider what it was that they "had heard" which they were to give the more earnest heed to. The things which they "had heard" were the words of the New Covenant. That is the preaching and the teaching they had heard. It came from Jesus and all those who had heard Him. It certainly included the Gospel, that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day, but it was not limited to that. It was all the teaching of the New Testament that they had been exposed to. It was the teaching about the New Life in Jesus Christ. It was all the teaching and instruction about the Christian life. It was the teaching that was for the purpose of leading them deeper into their walk with the Lord. Let me show you something which our Lord had said.

**John 17:3**

<sup>3</sup> *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

This is the description of the teaching of the New Covenant wrapped up in one verse. You see the teaching we have by the apostles is for the purpose of drawing us deeper into our walk with Jesus Christ so that we might grow in our knowledge of Him and the Father.

#### A. **The Danger**

**Notice Hebrews 2:1 again.**

If they did not give heed to the teachings which they had heard they were in danger of letting them slip. Let me show you how Vines Dictionary defines this phrase:

*"to flow past, glide by" or to "run out as leaking vessels,"*

The human mind is sometimes like a "leaking vessel", that which is put in sometimes seems to run right out. Ave you ever noticed when we here a spiritual Truth sometimes it can be gone in the next hour? We forget things but there is also something else that happens. Notice the Words of Jesus in Luke:

**Luke 8:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> *Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

<sup>12</sup> *Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

The enemy can steal away the seed of the Gospel and he can also steal away from the believer's mind Truth from God's Word if we are not diligent in hiding it in our hearts.

Let's get back to the text now. These Hebrew Christians had received the Gospel and they had also received the teaching which would lead them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ but they were letting the Truths slip through their minds. They were saved so they had grasped the Gospel but they were letting the Truth of the New Testament teaching about how to grow deeper in their walk slip right through their minds. Remember they desired to go back to the "old life" they had under the Old Covenant. They had New Testament teaching but they were not applying it to their lives because of the pressure they were getting from their fellow Jews.

### B. **The Consequences**

#### **Notice Hebrews 2:2**

The "word spoken by angels" here is a reference to the Old Testament or the Old Covenant. It was steadfast and when it was not heeded there could be severe consequences which would come with it. That is what the writer is saying when he says,

*"every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;"*.

The meaning here is that when the Law was broken there were consequences that followed the disobedience. We looked at some of the judgments that fell on Israel because they would not walk in obedience to God's Word when we came through 1 Corinthians 10.

Let me show you one account.

#### **Numbers 14:28-35**

<sup>28</sup> *Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:*

<sup>29</sup> *Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.*

<sup>30</sup> *Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

<sup>31</sup> *But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.*

<sup>32</sup> *But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.*

<sup>33</sup> *And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.*

<sup>34</sup> *After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

<sup>35</sup> *I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.*

There would be 603,550 men die in the 40 years of wandering because of disobedience. These are the consequences which the writer of Hebrews is reminding his readers about.

### c. **The Application**

#### **Notice Hebrews 2:3a**

The writer has just reminded them that the Word spoken by the angels had severe consequences for those who were disobedient to it. Now he asks a question. If there were consequences for disobedience

to the Word spoken by angels then how were they going to escape the consequences if they neglected so great salvation?

Now let me explain something here that will help you. This letter is addressed to Hebrews who were saved.

### **Notice Hebrews 3:1**

Here we see it is for the holy brethren.

So when the writer refers to "great salvation" he is not limiting salvation to just to be forgiven of sin. But he is talking about the life we live in our salvation. That is the "abundant life". It is the life where we study the Word of God and we grow deeper in our walk with the Lord and we learn what it is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and He then begins to live the life of Christ through us. This is the life that comes after salvation for it is our New Life in Christ. The word salvation here takes in all of our salvation.

These people were saved but they were not growing.

### **Hebrews 6:1-2**

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

*<sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

So I want you to understand that they were saved but they were not applying the teaching of the New Testament or New covenant. They were letting them slip because they were looking to go back to the Old Covenant. There was no growth.

### Notice Hebrews 2:3

Now if they neglected the Word spoken by angels and there were consequences they needed to know that there was no way to escape the consequences if they neglected the Word spoken by the Lord. In other words if they chose to go back under the Old Covenant and not press forward in their spiritual growth there would be some harsh consequences they would need to deal with. This would be the chastening of the Lord.

### Hebrews 12:3-11

<sup>3</sup> *For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

<sup>5</sup> *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

<sup>6</sup> *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

<sup>7</sup> *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

<sup>8</sup> *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

<sup>9</sup> *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

<sup>10</sup> *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*



*<sup>11</sup> Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

This would be the result of neglecting salvation/the abundant life and going back to the old life.

### **Conclusion:**

There is so much more here and we will get to that next week but as we get ready to close out tonight there is an application here that I want you to see.

In the beginning of this lesson I mentioned that there are many distractions in this world that pull us away from God and many times those distractions become idols in the lives of believers. Therefore, a believer will chase after "stuff" or "entertainment" and will neglect his or her spiritual growth. They will often times go back to some of the practices that they were involved in before they were saved. That is exactly what was happening to these Hebrew Christians.

Don't miss from this section that there are consequences when our lives are not lived for Jesus Christ. We have the Bible and gifted teachers to lead us in spiritual growth.

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

*<sup>11</sup> And he gave some[churches], apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*<sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

*<sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

*<sup>14</sup> That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*<sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

*<sup>16</sup> From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

To neglect the teaching of God's Word is a very serious matter. To approach the Christian life in a casual way is an offence to God. To be satisfied with know you are saved and not cultivating the New Life in Christ is an offence to God.

This Christian life is a serious matter and we need to pursue a deeper walk with the Lord every day. God has gone to great depths of suffering to provide what we need to live Godly lives.