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HEBREWS CHAPTER 2

In Your Group Read Hebrews chapter two (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As A Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 2 King James Version

HEB 2:1 ¶ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. **[2]** For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **[3]** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; **[4]** God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? **[5]** ¶ For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. **[6]** But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **[7]** Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: **[8]** Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. (Psa. 8:4-6) **[9]** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. **[10]** ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **[11]** For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which

cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, [12] Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (Psa. 22:22) [13] And again, I will put my trust in him. (Isa. 8:17) And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (Isa. 8:18) [14] ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [16] For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. [17] Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. [18] For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2 VERSES 1-4

Hebrews 2:1 ¶ Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. [2] For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; [3] How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; [4] God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

[1] So we must pay more careful attention to what we have heard. Then we will not drift away from it. [2] Even the message God spoke through angels had to be obeyed. Every time people broke the Law, they were punished. Every time they didn't obey, they were punished. [3] Then how will we escape if we don't pay attention to God's great salvation? The Lord first announced that salvation. Those who heard him gave us the message about it. [4] God gave witness to it through signs and wonders. He gave witness through different kinds of miracles. He also gave witness through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He gave them out as it pleased him. **(New International Reader's Version).**

It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. If the old message delivered by angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation? First of all, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him. All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as he saw fit. (verses 1-4). **(The Message Bible).**

[1] Since all this is true, we ought to pay much closer attention than ever to the truths

that we have heard, lest in any way we drift past [them] and slip away. [2] For if the message given through angels [the Law spoken by them to Moses] was authentic and proved sure, and every violation and disobedience received an appropriate (just and adequate) penalty, [3] How shall we escape [appropriate retribution] if we neglect and refuse to pay attention to such a great salvation [as is now offered to us, letting it drift past us forever]? For it was declared at first by the Lord [Himself], and it was confirmed to us and proved to be real and genuine by those who personally heard [Him speak]. [4] [Besides this evidence] it was also established and plainly endorsed by God, Who showed His approval of it by signs and wonders and various miraculous manifestations of [His] power and by imparting the gifts of the Holy Spirit [to the believers] according to His own will. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

Additional Information: This chapter is closely linked with the teaching of chapter 1. “Therefore” shows us that this admonition arose from what had just been said. What had just been said? That Jesus is greater than the angels and that God has spoken His final word in Him. There is also a continuance of the contrast between Jesus and the angels (verses 2-3).

The words “we” (verses 1, 3) includes the author and his readers.

The word “ought” (verse 1), Greek = *dei*, means it is necessary and required to attain some end (Thayer’s Lexicon). It is translated, **must** 58 times, **ought** 31 times, **must needs** 5 times, **should** 4 times, misc. 7 times. It is in the **present tense** in Greek meaning **a repeated, habitual action**.

The word “heed” (verse 1) Gk. *Prosecho*, means **to bring to, bring near, to apply one’s self to, hold or cleave to** (Thayer’s Lexicon).

“Slip” (verse 1) Gk. *Pararheo*, lit., to flow past, glide by, is used in Heb.2:1 where the significance is to find oneself flowing or passing by, without giving due heed to a thing, here “the things that were heard,” or perhaps the salvation of which they spoke. (Vine’s Lexicon). “Slip” in the dictionary means “**to pass gradually or fall into error**.”

(Verse 3) “**escape**” = The Amplified Bible adds “**escape**” (**appropriate retribution**). The Easy-to-Read N.T. states, “surely we also will be punished.” The Simple English Bible states, “**we will not escape punishment**.”

(Verse 3) “**Neglect**” is the Gk. Word *ameleo* and means **to neglect or be careless of** (Thayer’s Lexicon). “**Neglect**” in the dictionary means “**to pay little or no attention to; fail to heed; disregard. To fail to care for or attend to properly**” (American Heritage Dict.).

(Verse 3) “**salvation**” Gk. Means “**rescue and safety**” (Strong’s Lexicon). Knox states, “**a message of salvation,**” Barclay “**a way to salvation,**” and the Translator’s N.T., “**an offer of salvation.**”

(Verse 3) “**spoken**” is in the **present tense** and means “**spoken and continued to be spoken by the Lord.**”

(Verse 4) “**divers**” means “**various.**”

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2 VERSES 5-9

Hebrews 2:[5] ¶ For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. [6] But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? (Psa. 8:4) [7] Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour (Psa. 8:5), and didst set him over the works of thy hands: [8] Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. (Psa. 8:6) For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. [9] But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God

should taste death for every man. (King James Version).

[5] Now, God has not put the world to come, about which we are speaking, under the control of angels. [6] Someone has somewhere confirmed this, saying, “What are mere people, that You are concerned about them? Or the son of man that You should care about him?” [7] “For a little while You made him lower than the angels, then you crowned him with glory and honor.” [8] You put everything in subjection beneath his feet.” Now, in making everything subject to him, it is clear that nothing was left outside of his control. However, we do not at this time see everything in subjection to him. [9] But we do see Jesus crowned with glory and honor because he suffered and died, although for a little while He was made lower than the angels, so that by the wonderful, undeserved favor of God to us he might taste death for everyone. **(The New Translation).**

[5] God did not choose angels to be the rulers over the new world that was coming. That future world is the world we have been talking about. [6] It is written some place in the Scriptures. “God, why do you care about man (people)? Why do you care about the son of man? Is he so important? [7] For a short time you made him lower than the angels. You gave him glory and honor to be his crown. [8] You put everything under his control.” (Psalms 8:4-6). If God put everything under his control, then there was nothing left that he did not rule. But we don’t yet see him ruling over everything. [9] For a short time Jesus was made lower than the angels, but now we see him wearing a crown of glory and honor because he suffered and died. Because of God’s grace (kindness) Jesus died for every person. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament).**

⁵And the future world we are talking about will not be controlled by angels. ⁶No, for in the book of Psalms David says to God, “What is mere man that you are so concerned about him? And who is this Son of Man you honor so highly? ⁷For though you made him lower than the angels for a little while, now you have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁸And you have put him in complete charge of everything there is. Nothing is left out.” We have not yet seen all of this take place, ⁹but we do see Jesus—who for a while was a little lower than the angels—crowned now by God with glory and honor because he suffered death for us. Yes, because of God’s great kindness, Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world. **(Living Bible).**

Additional Information: (Verse 5) “Not...angels, but people, will be awarded the dominion in the world to come. That the author was not just now introducing this subject is made plain by the expression about which we are speaking. It is obvious that the first chapter, with its manifest stress on the kingship and future reign of the Son, was about this very subject” (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 784). (See Heb. 1:2, 8; Revelation 11:15).

(Verses 6-8) The writer of Hebrews now quotes from Psalm 8, but states that these words do not now describe the actual state of things. Instead he says, “But now we see not yet all things put under him (man)” (Verse 8).

(Verse 9) Although total dominion over creation is not yet **(But now we see not yet all things put under him. (Verse 8)**, we do see Jesus crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death. He was made a little lower than angels (i.e., He became a man in order to die), so that by God’s grace He might taste death for every individual.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2 VERSES 10-13

Hebrews 2:[10] ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. [11] For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, [12] Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (Psa. 22:22) [13] And again, I will put my trust in him. (Isa. 8:17) And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (Isa. 8:18) (King James Version).

[10] God is the One who made all things. And all things are for his glory. God wanted to have many sons (people) to share his glory. So God did what he needed to do. He made perfect the One (Jesus) who leads those people to salvation. God made Jesus a perfect Savior through Jesus' suffering. [11] The One (Jesus) who makes people holy and those people who are made holy are from the same family. So he (Jesus) is not ashamed to call those people his brothers and sisters. [12] Jesus says, "God, I will tell my brothers and sisters about you. Before all your people I will sing your praises." (Psa. 22:22) [13] He also says, "I will trust in God." (Isa. 8:17) And he says, "I am here. And with me are the children that God has given me." (Isa. 8:18). (The Easy-to-Read New Testament).

¹⁰And it was right and proper that God, who made everything for his own glory, should allow Jesus to suffer, for in doing this he was bringing vast multitudes of God's people to heaven; for his suffering made Jesus a perfect Leader, one fit to bring them into their salvation. ¹¹We who have been made holy by Jesus, now have the same Father he has. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers. ¹²For he says in the book of Psalms, "I will talk to my brothers about God my Father, and together we will sing his praises." ¹³At another time he said, "I will put my trust in God along with my brothers." And at still another time, "See, here am I and the children God gave me." (The Living Bible)

Additional Information: (Verse 10) - Hebrews 2:10 (English Standard Version)

"For it was fitting that he (God), for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder (pioneer, captain, leader or author) of their salvation perfect through suffering (i.e. through the suffering of Jesus, God made him a perfect leader, one fit to bring them into their salvation)."

(Amplified Bible) "For it was an act worthy [of God] and fitting [to the divine nature] that He, for Whose sake and by Whom all things have their existence, in bringing many sons into glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect [should bring to maturity the human experience necessary to be perfectly equipped for His office of High Priest] through suffering."

In other words, He identified with us perfectly (He became one of us). Even to the point of suffering, so He could be a compassionate High Priest and Saviour. For it was through suffering (dying on a cross) that He would bring many sons to glory.

(Verse 11) - Hebrews 2:11 (ESV) "For he who sanctifies (Jesus Christ) and those who are sanctified (the saints) all have one origin (or Father). That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers," The Lord Jesus and the saints have the same God for our Father (Wuest).

(Verse 11) "sanctifieth" is the Greek word *hagiazō* and means to make holy, purify, consecrate, to hallow, to separate from things profane and dedicate to God, to purify internally by reformation of soul.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2
VERSES 14-15

Hebrews 2: [14] ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; [15] And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (King James Version)

¹⁴Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: (Verse 14) “him that had the power of death, that is, the devil,” Satan holds the power of death only insofar as he induces people to sin and to come under sin's penalty, which is death (See Eze. 18:4; Rom. 5:12; 6:23). NIV Study Bible.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2
VERSES 16-18

Hebrews 2: [16] For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. [17] Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. [18] For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. (King James Version)

¹⁶We all know that Jesus came to help the descendants of Abraham, not to help the angels. ¹⁷Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted. **(New Living Translation).**

Additional Information: (Verse 17) “behooved” means it was necessary or proper for. **“Reconciliation”** is the Greek word *hilaskomai* and has the idea to so deal with sin that God can show mercy to the believing sinner by removing his guilt and offering him pardon.

(Verse 18) “succor” means to help, aid or rescue.

(Verse 18) Jesus is able to help and bring aid to those who are being tempted. The word **“tempted”** in this verse is in the **present tense** and means “those that are tempted and continue to be tempted.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Hebrews Chapter 2)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Hebrews Chapter 2.**

1. **Read Hebrews 2:1.** What is the first warning that the writer of the Hebrews gives in this letter? a. we must pay close attention to what we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip (KJV). b. we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away (NKJV). c. we must pay close attention to what we have heard, lest we “stray away from the truth” (NCV). d. all of the above.
2. **Read Hebrews 2:2-3.** If there were severe penalties for infractions of the law (words spoken by angels), What will happen to those who neglect or drift away from the words spoken by the Lord? a. nothing. b. I don't know. c. How shall we escape (divine retribution)?
3. **Read Hebrews 2:3.** The message of salvation was first spoken by: a. the apostle Paul. b. James. c. the Lord (Jesus).
4. **Read Hebrews 2:3.** How do you think a person could neglect salvation? Acts 24:24-25; 26:27-28, Hebrews 2:1; 3:6,12-14; 4:2; 5:9; 6:4-9, 11; 7:25; 9:28; 11:15-16; 12:1-2; 13:9, etc.
5. **Read Hebrews 2:4.** God attested to the message of salvation with: a. Christian tracts. b. signs, wonders, various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. c. None of the above.
6. **Read Hebrews 2:5.** God has not placed under the power and authority of angels: a. heaven. b. the world to come. c. the Lamb's book of life.
7. **Read Hebrews 2:7.** For a time, God has made man a little lower than: a. demons. b. angels. c. animals.
8. **Read Hebrews 2:8.** God has put all things in subjection to man. But at the present: a. we see not yet all things put under him. b. we see all things put under him.
9. **Read Hebrews 2:9.** Jesus was made a little lower than the angels (for a time) so that: a. he could suffer and taste death for every man (pay the price for our sin). b. help the poor.

10. **Read Hebrews 2:9.** By the grace of God: a. Jesus taught great sermons. b. tasted death for everyone. c. gave us the Bible.
11. **Read Hebrews 2:10.** God wanted many people to share: a. the things they have. b. their opinions. c. His glory.
12. **Read Hebrews 2:11.** God (through) Jesus makes people: a. holy. b. cleansed. c. free from guilt (pardoned). d. internally changed. e. all of the above.

Additional Information: (Verse 11) “sanctifieth” is the Greek word *hagiazō* and means to make holy, purify, consecrate, to hallow, to separate from things profane and dedicate to God, to purify internally by reformation of soul.

13. **Read Hebrews 2:12.** Jesus has a: a. savings account in the bank. b. beautiful donkey to ride on. c. a spiritual family that he tells about God.
14. **Read Hebrews 2:13.** Jesus put His trust in: a. riches. b. man. c. God.
15. **Read Hebrews 2:14-15.** Satan’s power and man’s fear of death has been destroyed by: a. a new discount burial plan now available. b. the death of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. c. none of the above.
16. **Read Hebrews 2:16.** Jesus did not become an angel but instead became a: a. descendant of a monkey. b. a man, a descendant of Abraham. c. none of the above.
17. **Read Hebrews 2:16.** It wasn’t angels that Jesus Christ came to help, but the descendants of Abraham. True or False.
18. **Read Hebrews 2:17.** Jesus became like us so that he could be: a. a merciful and faithful high priest. b. informed about what’s going on. c. available to talk to.
19. **Read Hebrews 2:17.** It was necessary that Jesus become like us: a. in order to prove to be a merciful and faithful High Priest in man’s relations with God. b. to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. c. all of the above.
20. **Read Hebrews 2:17.** Jesus became like us so that he could: a. visit and fellowship with us. b. understand our funny ways. c. die on a cross for our sins so that God would not hold our sins against us.
21. **Read Hebrews 2:18.** Christ shared all facets of our human experience (weakness, temptation, suffering, etc.). His full human experience guarantees He is able to help us when being tempted or tested. True or False.

22. **Read Hebrews 2:18.** Since Jesus was tempted like us, He knows how to bring help and aid to those of us who are now: a. being tempted. b. behaving ourselves. c. reading their Bible.

Instructions for Group Leader: You may want to summarize the chapter (for the group) by reading aloud the following.

Putting the Chapter in Context: Hebrews Chapter 2.

(Verse 1) This chapter is closely linked with the teaching of chapter 1. “**Therefore**” shows us that this admonition arose from what had just been said. What had just been said? That Jesus is greater than the angels and that God has spoken His final word in Him. There is also a continuance of the contrast between Jesus and the angels (verses 2-3).

(Verses 1-3) Since Jesus is the begotten Son of God, superior to all angels. And the words spoken by angels were binding with every violation and disobedience receiving its just punishment. Then how much more should we heed the words of the Son of God? How shall we escape (eternal punishment) if we neglect or ignore His words of salvation?

(Verses 3-4) This salvation was first announced by the Lord Jesus. It was then spoken by the apostles and confirmed to be true by signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(Verses 5-10) God did not subject to angels the world that is to come. But to man God put everything under his subjection. But now we do not see all things subjected to him. But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels, so that He by God’s grace should taste death for every individual, and thus bring many sons to glory.

(Verses 11-15) Both Jesus and God’s children have the same Father. Since God’s children share in being flesh and blood, Jesus Himself took on humanity. So that He through His death might render powerless the devil who by bondage brought fear of death upon mankind.

(Verses 16-18) Jesus gives help to the seed of Abraham. He becomes a faithful and merciful High Priest, making atonement for the people. He Himself has suffered the temptations of humans, and is able to aid and assist those going through temptations and testing.