

## HEBREWS 2

### SCRUTINIZE YOUR SALVATION

Chapter two begins with a “Therefore,” which causes us to ask,

**“Wherefore this therefore?”**

Chapter one ends like this from the **NLT - 1:13** And God never said to any of the angels, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.” 14 **Therefore**, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation... **Therefore...**

**Hebrews 2:1** *Therefore* we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. *(From Jesus to Judaism)*

- Here is one of the warnings we introduced last Sunday – the warning to **NOT DRIFT AWAY!**
  - I am fascinated by the stories of survivors of adrift at sea. As you can imagine, they become uncivil after a few days of starvation, thirst, and exposure.
    - They begin to hallucinate and believe things that they would NEVER have believed true before drifting away.
  - One survivor I read about this week said that when she and 58 other people became lost at sea... Much prayer was being said. When there were only three left alive, NO PRAYERS were being said. The last three were rescued on May 16, 2021, after drifting for 22 days. [www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-57089249](http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-57089249)
- The spiritual danger of drifting away from Jesus is that like castaways, we begin to believe things... **and IN THINGS**, that we would NEVER even consider when staying close to the Lord!
  - We fill the spiritual vacuum with things we once considered evil, or at least spiritually unhealthy.
  - Like shipwrecked survivors who choose to drink seawater, instead of water that rhymes with that, we begin a slow and fatal desperate attempt to satisfy our thirst.
  - BTW, Who **DOES** survive being shipwrecked? **People with hope!**

**SO... another warning...**

## A WARNING AGAINST IGNORING SALVATION

2 For if the word spoken through angels (*Any Messenger – Perhaps, YOU!*) proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience **received a just reward, WHAT REWARD?**

**Romans 6:23a** For the wages of sin is death,

- Spiritual death... Eternal separation from God.
  - THAT is how God deals with unforgiven sin... Who wants to hear the REST of the verse? (**Me too**)
- 23b but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 how shall we escape (*Escape what? Judgment of God*) if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed **to us** by those who heard *Him*, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and **gifts of the Holy Spirit**, according to His own will? **SEE 1 CORINTHIANS 12**

- **GILL** speaks about how the Lord spoke the Gospel... “Spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ himself; the Gospel was preached by him, and he was extraordinarily qualified for it; and he spake it as never man did: it was preached by John indeed, and by all the prophets before him, and to the Israelites in the wilderness, and to Abraham before them, and even to Adam in Eden’s garden, which was the first time it was spoken;”
- So... to us was given this **great salvation**... It was **confirmed** to us by eyewitnesses... Proven to us by God sending **signs and wonders**... AND, confirmed with **gifts of the Holy Spirit**. HOW grateful we should always be!
- When my Dad used to pray before our meals, he ALWAYS began, “Father, Thank You for Your Son, and thank You for salvation...”
  - Sometimes he even mentioned the food. We too need to **always** be grateful for our salvation. **WHY?**

## WORSHIP JESUS – NOT ANGELS

5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

- Because our enemy, NOT GOD, has sent angels to twist and pollute the Gospel message into something that is similar... close to... Almost like... And even admirable, BUT, NOT the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - Angels have appeared to men and started religions like Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, New-age movement, and even Faith Healing ministries.
    - Their gospels are complicated, man-centered, works based, and expensive.
    - Tithing is required rather than freely given out of love. Service is encouraged by browbeating rather than done with love...
  - And the concept of serving Jesus is twisted into a concept of Jesus serving us.
    - Instead of talking about being rich because of our salvation, we are encouraged to want to be rich because of dollars in our pocket.
      - It is a very slight adjustment at first, but would you want to fly in an airliner that had just a small problem with its GPS?
      - Would you trust scuba tank that almost was OK?
      - Would you trust a parachute that was almost certified?

## TAKE THE WORD OF GOD'S AUTHORS

6 But one (*David*) testified in a certain place, saying: "WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, OR THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM?" **PSALM 8:4**

7 YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS. **PSALM 8:5**

8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." **PSALM 8:6**

8b For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that* is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ***We will someday! As soon as Jesus kicks Satan outta here!***

- The writer of Hebrews takes a moment to consider the **8<sup>th</sup> Psalm**, so I think we should do the same... Here it is:

**Psalm 8:1 To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. (AKA a “Worldly” instrument) A Psalm of David.** O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!

2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have made him (**Adam**) to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen—Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

**BACK TO HEBREWS...**

### **WHO DO WE LOOK FOR?**

9 **But we see Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, **that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**

- How appropriate to study this the very week we begin to think of the Sacrifice of our Savior for us.
  - He tasted the rejection of sin, by the Father, so that we would NEVER have to. **THANK YOU LORD!!!**

### **CAPTAIN JESUS**

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, (**IE, God**) in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **NLT - God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.**

## TIME TO WORSHIP

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU." **PSALM 22**

## TIME TO TRUST

13 And again: "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again: "HERE AM I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME." **PSALM 18**

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, **(IE, human)** He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- **NLT - Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. 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. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.**

16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

- And fortunately, Father Abraham, has many sons... Many sons has Father Abraham. You are one of them, and so am I...

## HIGH PRIEST JESUS

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation **(Payment)** for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. **WHAT a great promise!**

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR RESURRECTION SUNDAY!**