

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Heb 2:1-18 NKJV] 1 **Therefore** we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, **lest we drift away.**

I had you make a note of the word therefore –

Because as you know – from our studies

The word, therefore, is a really important word in the New Testament

Often when “therefore” is used by a writer in the scriptures, he is usually applying or bringing to conclusion what was previously written –

The author is summing up the evidence of why Jesus is superior to angels – everything that we have gone over the last two weeks -

And he is expecting this group of Jews to respond to the things that they just heard.

Notice that they were to respond to the things we have heard –

That is because in the early church – the people didn't walk around with scrolls when they went to church.

These letters were read out loud –

And the people would have to listen to the Word of God read.

Now, in chapter one – the writer of Hebrews made the argument as to why Jesus is greater than the prophets of the Old Testament and the revelation that they gave.

Through the prophets, the people only got small glimpses through a period of time – but in these last days, God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ – who is greater than the prophets.

And He has given a greater revelation of God because He is God Himself

If we want to know what God is like – all we need to do is to look to Jesus

They also heard about how Jesus is superior to the angels.

Some of the things that the author pointed out to us were that angels are created beings as opposed to Jesus who is the Creator.

And he made other points – that we covered last week.

Everything that he has said - about who Jesus is and about the work that Jesus has done, the response should be that we give the more earnest heed to these things

It is not simply – taking notice of the things that Jesus did and to who Jesus is

It is doing it in a more abundant way!!!

Paying extra attention – taking it up a notch when it comes to heeding.

Notice - that the writer is not calling the group of Jewish believers out and saying –  
“you guys need to do this”

He is including himself as part of the exhortation

He needs to apply these things that he is telling them in his life as well.

**“We must give”**

He is not saying that it would be pretty cool if they responded to the biblical truths that he stated –

And the reason being – if they don't apply these things that they have heard – they will begin to drift away. (I had you make a note of this)

This is a nautical term –

When a boat anchors itself – there are times when the tide comes in and it lifts the anchor up and the boat starts to drift away – to move slowly from where you originally anchored it.

I remember going to the beach with my friends in Southern California – and we would set our stuff on the beach and go play in the water.

And as we played in the water – we would begin to drift further and further down the beach – and after 30-45 minutes, we would find ourselves hundreds of yards from where we went in the water.

So the writer of Hebrews is warning the believer here –

By the way – this is the first of five warnings that he provides for us in this letter.

He's warning them about the danger of drifting away from their faith in Christ.

Now, we don't use the word drifting to describe our spiritual walk today -

We use the term – backsliding

Nobody wakes up on Monday morning and say “I think I am going to try backsliding today” or “ I have been a Christian for 30 years now – I think I am going to give the cults a shot – maybe the LDS or JW”

It doesn't happen that way

It is a drift.

You stop fellowship, then you stop reading your bible and stop praying, and so on –

And it is only a matter of time where one finds themselves pushed by the current of our own fleshly desires

**2 For if the word spoken through angels proved **steadfast**, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,**

Turn with me to Deut 33

**[Deu 33:2 NKJV] 2 And he said(Moses): "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with **ten thousands of saints**; From His right hand [Came] a fiery law for them.**

I had you make a note of the ten thousand saints –

When God gave the Children of Israel the Law in the Wilderness, He used angels – remember, angels are messengers.

And because the Children of Israel revered the law as God's Word, therefore they also revered the angels – because they were the instrument that God used to give them the law –

This is what the author here is referring to – the law – the Old Covenant

The list of do's and don'ts on how the Children of Israel were to worship Him and how they were to treat one another.

And what he is saying is -

if God was serious about the Old Covenant, which was delivered to by angels

And we know God was serious about the Old Covenant because they were accompanied by blessings and curses

You break the Law and you go to jail, or lose an ox, or lose an eye, or are beaten, or are put to death.

So if the Old Testament Law had consequences for breaking the law...

Let's look at verse 3 -

**3 how shall we escape 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],**

Again, if God was serious about the Old Covenant, which was delivered to by angels - then how much more serious is He about the New Covenant which was hand-delivered by His own Son?

If we must take the word which came by angels seriously, then we must take the word that came by the Son of God even more seriously. The Son is proven to be greater than the angels, so His message should be regarded as greater.

Jesus shared the message that man could become right with God.

The apostles who continued the work – confirmed it

I had you make a note of the word confirmed here in verse 3 and in verse two, I had you make a note of the word steadfast.

Draw a circle around both words and draw a line connecting them.

The reason - They are the same word –

Something firm to stand on – reliable.

**4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?**

God has placed His seal of approval on the Gospel of Jesus Christ through an abundance of signs, wonders, and miracles.

Throughout the book of Acts, we see supernatural things taking place as a way of “confirming” or imparting God’s “witness” to the message that was being preached.

It happened in Jerusalem –

**(Acts 5:12 NKJV) And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.**

It happened through Paul at Iconium.

**(Acts 14:3 NKJV) Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.**

It is not necessary that miracles be present to “confirm” the message of the gospel.

The message that Jesus can save anyone from hell is powerful enough all on its own.

**(Romans 1:16 NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

Yet God still works today, and God will at times work in a way of adding His “witness” to the message that is being preached.

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

To his Jewish readers, the phrase, “the world to come” was a common one and referred to the New Age that would come when the Messiah came and ruled on earth.

They understood according to the OT prophets that the curse would be lifted from creation and the earth would be restored to a place of paradise – just like it was in the Garden of Eden

All the effects of the Fall would be reversed.

Sin, sickness, and sorrow would be exiled.

The lion would lie down with the lamb and the child would play with poisonous snakes and not be harmed.

That is what they thought of when they thought of the world to come.

Here the writer says that that world, that age, the Messianic Age, has not been put in subjection to angels.

God did not assign the angels to rule over the Messianic Age or any age

So the question is – who will?

The Answer is in the next verses...

And for some of us – it may come as a surprise.

**6 But one testified in a certain place, saying:**

This first part, in my opinion is very funny, because the writer is going to quote from Scripture, almost as if he can't remember where it's from (it's like he is saying – it is somewhere in the OT), yet he quotes it word for word.

He is quoting from Psalm 8 – a Davidic psalm

**"What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 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. 8 You have 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 do not yet see all things put under him.**

David has been musing on the awesome greatness of God.

He's been gazing at the night sky and been amazed at the hugeness of God's creation.

And then his thoughts turn to earth and he finds himself amazed that God would even take time to think about us small, puny humans.

God the Father will one day put Jesus in charge of all things.

We will also rule the world with Jesus, and we will even be judging the angels.

Where does it say that?

**[1Co 6:1-3 NKJV] 1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?**

Keep in mind that this passage is all about Jesus – it is not about “us”

**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.****

Jesus took on humanity – and for a short time, became lower than angels.

He did this – He became man, so that He could do something He could not do otherwise and that was suffer death.

By dying, He paid the accumulated debt of the sin of the entire human race

And because the Father said so,

because in His grace God allows His substitution in death to pay for our debt,

the Fall is reversed – the curse is lifted from earth.

It's important that we note who Jesus died for

Did Jesus die only for the elect, or for everyone?

Well, what does it say? He tasted death – for everyone!

Does this mean then that all people will be saved – absolutely NOT!

Individual redemption must be personally embraced and applied.

All we need to do is look to Him in sincere faith – and we can be saved.

**10 For it was fitting for Him (God the Father), for whom [are] all things and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**

The captain of our salvation is of course – Jesus

But in order to do this, Jesus had to become a man.

You see, dominion of earth had been given to man, lost by man, and could only be reclaimed by a man.

Jesus was that man – the only man would could qualify to do it because unlike other men, he was perfect – He was without blemish.

By becoming a man, God has now taken on the experience of humanity – and knows firsthand what it means to suffer physically.

We on the other hand are far from “perfect”.

One of the ways that we grow, mature, and are perfected, is through suffering. (I spoke about this on Sunday morning)

**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,**

Jesus is the one who “sanctifies”.

He’s the one who makes us holy.

He’s the one that gives us salvation.

Because of this –

Because He was begotten by the Father

We are begotten by God when we are born again.

Because we’ve got the same Father, He’s not ashamed to call us “brethren”.

And then the author quotes from Psalm 22 – which is clearly a picture of the crucifixion.

**12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."**

After the work of the cross is complete.

What the Psalmist was saying (1000 years before Jesus was hung on the cross) was that through the death of the Messiah – a door would be opened to the redemption of fallen man so that man could reclaim his place at God's side, as part of God's spiritual family.

**13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."**

This is from 2 Samuel 22 and Isaiah 8, which are prophetic of the Messiah's death and resurrection.

Like Psalm 22, they speak what the redemption of Christ at the Cross accomplishes.

It opens the door to the family of God.

Through His Sonship, we can become sons and daughters of God.

**14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

Because we, the children of God, are made up of flesh and blood, then the Messiah would need to be flesh and blood.

One of the reasons was so that He could be the perfect substitutionary sacrifice, He could die in our place.

This is one of the reasons that Jesus had to make Himself lower than angels -

And it was at the cross - Jesus stripped Satan of a certain power he had.

**[Col 2:15 NKJV] 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

Notice where it says that Satan had the power of death -

The writer doesn't mean that Satan had the ability to kill whomever he wanted.

We see in the book of Job, God set limits on what Satan was allowed to do to Job, and killing Job was not allowed.

The power that Satan has in regards to death is in the next verse.

**15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

The fear of death is the power that Satan has concerning death.

People are brought into bondage because of their fear of death.

What is going to happen when I breathe my last breath

That is the fear of death – not knowing what is going to happen next

**(John 11:25–26 NKJV) —25 ...“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

Jesus claimed to be the answer to death.

Even when our physical body dies, there is life after death.

When He died and rose from the dead, He conquered death, and laid down a path that we could follow, straight to heaven, straight to eternal life.

And it all happens when we put our life in His hands, when we “believe” in Him.

**(1 John 5:11–13 NKJV) —11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

God wants us to “know” that we have eternal life.

He doesn't want us “wondering” if we have it.

When we “know” where we are going after we die, our fear of death changes.

We may still be afraid of the pain of an illness.

We may still be afraid of what will happen to our loved ones after we’re gone.

But we won’t be afraid of where we’re heading.

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

Jesus didn’t come to save the angels, He came to save mankind.

He came to save the “seed of Abraham”.

He came to save those who have the faith of Abraham

**[Rom 4:16 NKJV] 16 Therefore [it is] of faith that [it might be] according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**

Abraham – the first of the Called and Chosen of God

Remember, God chose Abraham while he was still a pagan.

The Jews viewed Abraham as their father

But here, the writer is telling them that Jesus came to save those who were like Abraham

**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 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.**

These last two verses were aimed directly at those pressured Jewish Christians.

The writer wanted to remind them that Jesus Himself knew what it was like to face opposition from His fellow Jews.

He knew what it was like to be mis-understood and hated.

He knew what it was like to be tempted, and to suffer the pressure of living in a fallen world that seems bent on making us stumble.

We may think the only temptation Jesus endured was the three temptations that came at the end of the 40 days he spent in the wilderness at the beginning of His public ministry.

But that is not the case.

It says that the devil left him for a more opportune time.

You can be sure there were many of them.

As when Peter rebuked Him for saying He was going to Jerusalem

to die. He said, "Get behind me Satan!"

I had you make a note in verse 17

### to make propitiation

Making "propitiation" is what a priest does through sacrifice, so the people may find mercy

In fact - The word "propitiation" is the same one used of the mercy seat that sat atop the ark of the covenant.

The mercy seat was the place where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of the goat on the Day of Atonement.

The meeting place of God and man was symbolized by the mercy seat.

It was there that the blood was applied and fellowship between God and man could be restored.

So the writer is saying that Jesus is the meeting place between God and man.

He is in himself, God and Man, and provides through His work on the cross the final and complete sacrifice that doesn't merely cover over sin, but forever takes it out of the way.

Why would his readers want to go back to a temporary arrangement of covering over sins when in Christ sins have been taken away forever?

Not only that – because Jesus is our propitiation, we can now enjoy a new relationship with God as His sons and daughters and reclaim our heritage of glory and honor to rule with Him.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,



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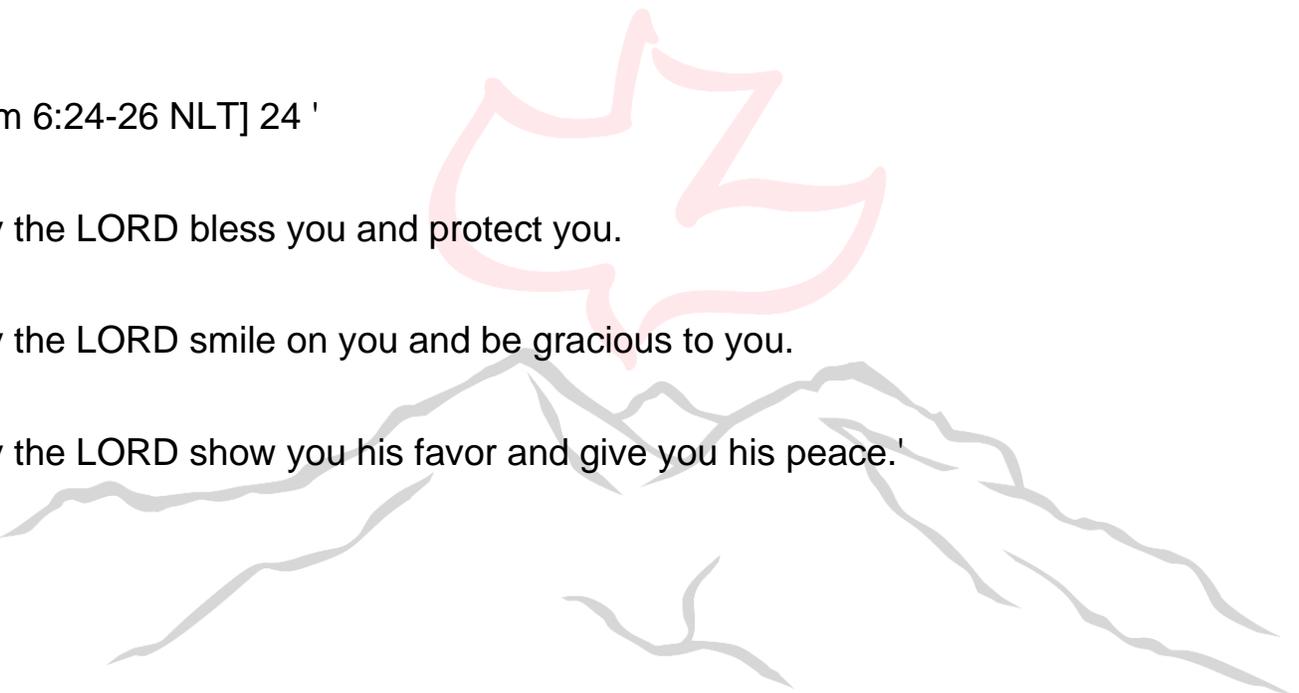
I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.!



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