“Book of Hebrews – Chapter 2”

*Everything under Jesus’ control*

[Series Title ~ ‘In Christ Alone - Towards spiritual maturity!’ ]

* Or

[Jesus … Simply The Best! ]

9.30a.m. Sunday 5 March, 2017

*Delivered by Senior Pastor Marshall Muller @ the Laidley Baptist Church (Qld).*

**Introduction:**

For the past two Sundays we have been looking at the Book of Hebrews.
Let’s just summarise briefly where we are up to?

- Written to Jewish believers in the Churches in Judea around AD 64-66
- Under pressure to give up their faith in Jesus because of local persecution
- Author unknown
- Readers know the author
- They are 2nd generation Christians who have been Christians for a while but are still spiritually immature.
- Considering going back to Judaism with it’s rules/regulations.
- It explains that while Judaism is good, Jesus is better.
- Hebrews written to show that Jesus is simply the BEST!

How did you go with your homework for this week? To read Hebrews Chapter 2?

Let’s read Hebrews Chapter 2 together, and then we’ll pray that God will open it to us by His divine Spirit, and show us all again that Jesus (His Son) is simply the Best.
Don’t forget, if you missed any of the last two week’s messages and would like to catch up, you can download the notes from the Laidley Baptist Church website.

Get your Bibles out. We’re going to read through Hebrews Chapter 2 together …

Let’s pray …

Gracious God & our Heavenly Father,

Thank you God for making a way through the mess of sin in my life through your perfect Son Jesus. May we continue to understand your amazing grace through the study of your Word this morning. May your Holy Spirit attend us and quicken us for this short period as we come to adore you and your finished work on the cross. Impart to everyone here listening to You a revelation of your beauty. Help us to fall in love with you because of what you have ultimately done for us. You have given us entry into the glorious realm of heaven. Teach us and grow us. We come now ready and thirsty as the deer pants for water, so our souls come longing after You. You are the Living Water – may no one here this morning go away without being satisfied.

Amen

The First Warning – The Danger of Drifting

The Book of Hebrews contains 5 warnings. Chapter 2 contains the first of these warnings – the danger of drifting. This warning is based upon what he has previously shown → the Messiah is superior to the angels.

In verse 1 the writer begins with the word ‘Therefore’ introducing the application of a previous truth he has just dealt with → because Jesus is superior to the angels (heavenly beings), for this reason we ought to give special attention lest we drift away.

The original meaning of the word in our English Bibles that has been translated as ‘drifting’, is used of a boat that has been untied from it’s mooring and is now drifting. Other implications of this meaning – to slip off/under, to slip into the wind, to disappear from memory.

The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) uses the same word in Proverbs 3:21 – a father’s counsel should not ‘slip away’. It also uses the same word in Isaiah 44 to describe running water.
That which the recipients of this epistle have learned, they must not let it flow/slip away, disappear from memory. Here’s the point → revelation from God that comes from His Son carries far more obligation than revelation mediated through angels or men. Hey, if Jesus (God’s Son) is talking, you better listen!

The Son is superior to angels, and even though the revelation from angels carried obligations, revelation from the Son carries heavier obligation ... and heavier judgment if ignored. ‘To what we have heard’ or ‘things we have heard’ – refers to the doctrinal truth that they have been exposed to.

**In other words, pay special attention to the new revelation through the Son.**

In verse 2, the author points out that’s impossible to escape if we neglect/ignore such a great salvation. He also gives the readers a reason why they should pay special attention to this new revelation → if the Law through angels proved steadfast ... how much more will this be true of revelation that comes by means of One who is superior to the angels. (aka The Son).

(Note – nowhere in the Mosaic Law do we see a clear indication that Moses received the Law through angels. There is some intimations of a possibility that angels mediated in the giving of the Law. Deuteronomy 33:2 & Psalm 68:17 – this has been part of Jewish Rabbinic teaching. This teaching is authenticated in the New Testament in Acts 7:53 & Galatians 3:19 as well as Hebrews 2. God *used* angels in the divine work of revelation, including the Mosaic Law.)

Every sin under the Law (mediated by angels) received a just punishment. For example – Leviticus 10, Aaron’s 2 sons, Nadab & Abihu, disobeyed the Law by burning incense improperly, and they were smitten dead. Numbers 16 – Korah, Dathan & Abiram, led a revolt against Aaron as the High Priest. God judged them by opening up the ground and swallowing them AND their families. Joshua 7 – Achin disobeyed the Law – he got stoned to death!

The Law was given by God through angels, but anyone who disobeyed it got their just punishment. How much more will this be true if they neglect a salvation that is mediated by the Son? Neglect = having an attitude of indifference.

This is people who have salvation in their possession, but are neglecting it, have become indifferent to it. (Greek meaning = ‘to have no care or concern for it’ or ‘become apathetic to their salvation’).

God does not tolerate believers becoming apathetic to their salvation.
The fact that the readers are thinking about returning (going back) into the Levitical system shows that they are indifferent to their salvation. That’s why the author writes, ‘How can anyone escape if they ignore a salvation mediated through the Son?’

It will mean discipline in this life (according to Hebrews 12:5-11) and it will certainly mean physical death in the coming judgement. If a Believer develops a complete indifference to the salvation that they have received, and is indifferent in carrying out the demands of the faith, then he/she will receive divine discipline.

The warning is against putting themselves in a position that requires discipline.

Under the Law, divine discipline came upon the nation of Israel as the Covenant People of God. But the readers are Children of God under Grace, so divine discipline comes upon individual believers who continue in a state of disobedience.

THEREFORE, they must give heed to the revelation given by the Son. Why? Because He is superior to the angels.

Disobedience does not result in the loss of spiritual salvation; disobedience will mean the loss of physical life.

**How do I know if I am Drifting?**

I want to talk about drifting for a minute. Drifting is the sin of our day. How many people do we know who have just drifted away from Christ and His Church? How many ministers and workers for the Kingdom have just let it slip – no longer involved or passionate about Jesus? When trouble has come, the things of Christ are left far behind. Like the writer in Revelation to the Ephesian Church, ‘Yet, I hold this against you, you have forsaken your first love.’ (Revelation 2:4)

Drifting away in our faith is a grave danger for every believer. How do we recognize when we are drifting? Here are a few indicators. **I am drifting when ...**

- My sense of wonder about God & His Son begins to wane;
- My awareness of the nearness of God has become ancient history;
- I no longer confess my sins to God and others;
- My desire & love for God’s Word has significantly declined;
- The realities of heaven & hell seem distant and unreal;
- Prayer, studying the Bible and fellowshipping with other Christians is more of a duty than a delight;
• The Lord’s table is dull and the preaching is boring;
• I become autonomous, rather than dependent upon other believers;
• I lack joy & gratitude for all that God has done for me;
• I have ceased growing in faith, hope & love;
• I am looking for something more outside of Christ.

There are two ways to wreck a car.
• Drive it fast and straight into a wall (bang).
• Just don’t maintain it … it will slowly over time grind to a halt.

Marshall’s warning → Being in close proximity to the Gospel or other Christians doesn't save you. Knowing about Jesus is not enough. Don’t be among those who knew about Jesus but never trusted their eternal future into His hands. We are to confess our sins and trust in Jesus … NOW!

The writer to the Hebrews urges us to take the Word of God seriously. The greatest reward for a preacher is to hear his congregation talking about the message over morning tea, and meditating on it in their homes through the week. Hungry to learn more, examining themselves, acting on what they have heard this week. Praying.

I pray that we will beware the danger of drifting away from Christ in our own lives, and pay closer attention to that which God has revealed to us through His Son Jesus. Don’t let your Facebook time be more than your Jesus time.

**Superiority of the Gospel to the Mosaic Law**

The writer shows the superiority of the Gospel to the Mosaic Law in 3 ways:
1. It was spoken through the LORD – declared by the Son – not an angel
2. It was authenticated by the Apostles (those who heard Him speak the Word)
3. It’s truthfulness was authenticated through signs & wonders, power & gifts – divine authentication.

   SIGNS – miracles that reveal a divine purpose & bear witness of a person’s claims
   WONDERS – attract attention & cause amazement
   GIFTS – divine enablements.

One of the misconceptions in the Book of Acts is that ALL believers were doing all kinds of miracles/signs/wonders. That’s not true. The only ones who performed miracles were the Apostles (or those who were appointed to do so by the Apostles by the laying on of hands).

So, in verse 4, the author is clearly saying that these signs, wonders etc. were done by eyewitnesses (those who heard Him), not by the next generation of Believers.
These gifts (of the Holy Spirit) were given ‘according to the will of God’ – because God gets to decide who gets which gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). They are given sovereignly by God.

To wrap up this first section of Chapter 2 – the first 4 verses – in light of the uniqueness of the One who gives the revelation, AND in light of the uniqueness of how it was authenticated, AND how it came to the readers of this epistle, the author warns them to be careful not to neglect this revelation to the point of becoming apathetic or indifferent.

If God did not tolerate indifference to revelation that came through angels, you can guess that He won’t tolerate indifference to revelation that comes through His Son.

**Jesus Humanity: Proof of His Sovereignty (v5-9)**

We learned last week from Hebrews 1 that the Son (Jesus) is superior to the angels. But here we see the other side of the coin, that even in His humanity in some way He is superior to the angels. In Hebrews 1:14 it showed that angels aren’t rulers, they are servants. Now in verse 5 here in Chapter 2 it is pointed out that God did not give authority of the ‘world to come’ to angels. (‘the world to come’ was a common Rabbinic term - means ‘inhabited’ world – which in this case would be the Millennium, or the Messianic Kingdom).  

**In other words, the Messianic Kingdom will not be ruled by an angel.**

In verses 6-8, the writer quotes Psalm 8:5-7, which shows that even though God created man lower than the angels, he gave authority over this earth to Adam.

However, Man lost his right to rule when he sinned. Satan usurped authority over this earth; presently this earth is being ruled by fallen angels – Satan (the prince of this world) and his demons (fallen angels). They rule this earth NOT because God gave it to them, but because they usurped the authority from man when he fell.

God’s original purpose was to create man a little lower than the angels (as far as his being is concerned), BUT be ‘crowned with glory & honour’. God crowned man King of nature and gave him authority over the physical world. He gave sovereignty of this world to man – ‘he put everything under his feet’ - all things under subjection to him.

**Even though God did this, man has never had the opportunity to practice it – Why? Because of the Fall!**
The dominion given to man is not yet fulfilled. It will only be fulfilled in the Millennium through the IDEAL MAN, the Messiah. We see this in verse 8 – ‘Yet, at present, we do not see everything subject to him.’ It hasn’t happened yet – man is not ruling sovereignly over the physical earth. This was lost when he sinned, and because of that, he does not have the power to regain it.

Verse 9 – it was JESUS who regained dominion for man. He will exercise man’s rule over the earth in the Messianic Kingdom. **God’s original goal for Adam will be fulfilled by the Last Adam (Jesus).**

The author uses the name Jesus (his human name) to emphasize His humanity.

There are 5 things that the author wants to teach here:
1. The recipient of Jesus’ humiliation is mankind;
2. The extent of Jesus’ humiliation is that He became lower than the angels;
3. The purpose of Jesus’ humiliation was to ‘taste death for everyone’;
4. The motive of Jesus’ humiliation was the grace of God;
5. The result of His humiliation is that He was eventually crowned with glory & honour (at His Ascension into Heaven). Because of this resurrection, in the future all things will be put in subjection under His feet.

*Take a big breath. I’ve probably given you enough theological stuff to last you a month of Sundays so far … so let’s summarize.*

**Summary of verses 5-9:**
- The sovereignty of planet Earth was promised to man not angels (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Man’s sovereignty (right to rule) was lost because of the Fall. Man still had the title deed, but had no authority to exercise it.
- The Messiah (our Ideal Representative Man) won back man’s sovereignty by defeating Satan at the cross.
- Jesus will eventually exercise this sovereignty in the Messianic Kingdom.
- This was never promised to any angel.
- Even in His humanity (let alone his deity) He is superior to angels. Jesus will rule the world – angels will not.
The 5 ramifications of Jesus’ death:

Jesus won back man’s sovereignty by dying. There are 5 ramifications to His death:

1. He underwent suffering of death – physical agony.
2. He was crowned with glory & honour because of what He accomplished on the cross.
3. He manifested the grace of God by becoming a man to die for every man.
4. He experienced death; He tasted death (appropriated death) for every man
5. It was substitutionary – it was for every man.

Verses 10-18 – The purpose of Jesus’ death

In verses 10-18, the author deals with the purpose of the Messiah’s death. He HAD to die in order ‘to bring many sons to glory’. God didn’t choose angels – He bypassed angels for the plan of salvation! Jesus’ death on the cross was to be the plan. Who would’ve thought - our Saviour had to die!

Jesus became a man, so that He could die as a man. So that He could provide salvation as a man. No redemption plan was made for fallen angels, only man. The redeemed are superior to fallen angels, that’s why it says in 1 Corinthians 6:3, that a day will come at the Great White Throne Judgement when believers will judge fallen angels. Thus, Jesus provides human salvation, not angelic salvation.

4 Reasons for the Incarnation and the Cross

1. To bring many sons to glory (v10-13)
2. To overcome the Prince of Death (v14)
3. To free the Believer (v15)
4. To help Man (v16-18)

To bring many sons to glory (v10-13)- the first reason for Jesus’ death was to bring believers to a state of glory. Verse 10 mentions that God perfected Jesus by means of suffering. Author of our salvation – it means ‘to rule’ & ‘to lead’. Jesus is our ruler & our leader. He is our salvation-author, the pioneer of our redemption. ‘Perfect through suffering’ – to attain/reach a goal. Jesus’ sufferings attained a desired end/goal. Completing His humanity was by means of His sufferings.

[Who would’ve thought that to make perfect our humanity, that God would use our sufferings? You think!]
It was God’s plan to make our Messiah a man & to suffer these things. Notice it says MANY sons and not ALL sons. Romans 8:28-30 mentions that ALL believers will be glorified. So why the use of the word ‘many’?

Well, the author is writing to the Jews, so in a sense all Jews are sons of God (refer Exodus 4:22-23 – ‘The Lord says that Israel is my first-born son’). However, only those Jews who believe will be glorified. That’s why the term ‘many’ is used here.

Verse 11 talks about Jesus making men holy – He is our Sanctifier as our Messiah (look at Hebrews 10:10 – ‘made holy by Jesus’ once-and-for-all sacrifice’). Both the Sanctifier & the sanctified are made one, and it is this process of sanctification that will lead to the final glorification.

Verse 12-13 – three Old Testament passages are quoted to connect the Messiah’s identity/humanity with man.

Psalm 22:22 (‘I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you!’) – emphasizes the relationship of the Messiah to Israel following the resurrection.

Isaiah 8:17 – Isaiah the Prophet put his trust in the God to deliver Israel. He uses this passage to show that the Father now waits for His enemies to be subdued.

Isaiah 8:18 – Isaiah is saying that he & his two sons are a sign for Israel, pointing out the future relationship of the Son when He comes to claim His own.

All of these point to the fact that Jesus is our Sanctifier for the Remnant. The author of the Book of Hebrews is also addressing the Remnant of his day.

To overcome the Prince of Death (v14) – The second reason why Jesus came in the flesh and the reason for the cross ... was to overcome the Prince of Death. Verse 14 uses the word ‘shared’ (Koinonia – to have in common with). What Jesus had in common with humanity was flesh & blood. God does not have flesh & blood, but He became man to have a common element with man, albeit without the sin of flesh & blood. This didn't replace the deity of God, it was something additional. In addition He took on human nature. He took hold of something that is not natural to His nature. It is not natural to God's nature to have flesh & blood. He added to His divine nature flesh & blood.

So being flesh & blood He could die, and by means of His death, render Satan's power inoperative. Your version might say 'destroy' in verse 14, but the Greek word (kartargeo) does not mean destroy; it means to render inoperative. It’s the same
word used of the Mosaic Law – it wasn’t destroyed, just rendered inoperative when Jesus died. It doesn’t hold any legal authority over the believer anymore. Satan is still roaring around. He still has power. But as far as believers are concerned he has been rendered inoperative. He cannot put a believer to death.

All through the Old Testament Satan did have authority over physical death of believers & unbelievers. Today, he still has authority of unbelievers, BUT he no longer has authority over the death of believers! Why? His power has been rendered inoperative.

That’s why when Marshall has to do a Christian’s funeral, it is a real blessing. There is joy & confidence in the Lord and what HE has done on the Cross. One of my favourite verses in all of Scripture is ‘Death, where is your victory, where O death is your sting?’ Satan’s power over the realm of death in a believer’s life has been rendered inoperative by the death of the Messiah, Jesus. (Hallelujah)

There is only one exception – we find it in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 – the case of an excommunicated believer. When a believer is excommunicated, it means that he/she is put back under Satan’s authority as far as their physical life is concerned. Satan can put an excommunicated believer to death. The passage goes on to say that his spirit is still saved, but his physical life is killed by Satan. This is the ONLY exception where Satan has authority over a believer’s death.

To summarize, until Jesus died, Satan’s number one weapon was physical death, but Jesus has taken that away – He has rendered that weapon inoperative.

Jesus the Messiah’s counter-weapon is eternal life (made possible by the means of His death). Satan is still in existence, but believers are not bound/obliged to obey him anymore. So, Jesus is our salvation pioneer, He is our Sanctifier AND He is also our Satan-Conqueror.

**To free the Believer (v15)**- the third reason for the Incarnation & the cross was to FREE the believer. Fear of death enslaves us, but now man is free from the fear of death & from death itself. The believer is no longer ‘punished’ in life with the threat of death. It is now a means by which a believer enters Heaven. Wow, I reckon we might have a different perspective about getting old now!

For the unbeliever death is a punishment, but for the believer, death is not punishment but a way of entering Heaven. Still skeptical? Don’t believe me? Look at Corinthians 15:55 & Philippians 1:21 (‘For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.’ What?? Death is gain!! Why? Entry point into Heaven!!)
To help Man (v16-18) – the fourth/last reason for the Incarnation & the Cross was to help man. Verse 16 – Messiah’s work was not angels, but man. There were angels who fell, but God’s plan didn’t include salvation for them. He only chose to provide salvation to fallen men. To provide salvation, God had to become like the ones he is providing salvation for. That’s why we have Christmas - where Jesus came as a baby born into this world as flesh & blood – for our salvation. That’s why I get sick of Santy Claus and all the rubbish around Christmas. What’s the real meaning? Your salvation and my salvation – so that we won’t need to be afraid of death any man. So that we get a home in heaven, and not rot in Hell. So we might be glorified!

Jesus never became an angel. Why? Because God wasn’t providing salvation for fallen angels. He became a man – flesh & blood – in order to save man. He became human, the seed of Abraham, He came as a Jewish man.

The scope of Jesus’ work (v17) is redemption. Jesus was made a Jewish man for 3 purposes:
1. To become merciful
2. To become faithful in the administration of His priestly functions
3. To become a high priest (only a man could be a priest – Hebrews 5:1)

As a high priest, the Messiah’s role was to ‘make propitiation’. It means to satisfy God’s wrath. Because of Jesus’ death (sacrificial) God was propitiated. God’s wrath against all sin was satisfied, paid for in the blood of the Son for the sins of all people.

The Old Testament concept of the Kinsman-Redeemer is the background for these last few verses. Under the Law of Moses, there were many ways a Jew could get into strife. One of these was to fall into indebtedness to someone beyond the ability to repay that person back naturally what they owed. If you where a Jew under the Law and you found yourself in that position, you only had ONE option left. You had to sell yourself into slavery and work as a slave for six years. In the seventh year you would be released.

However, once you became a slave there were two options open to you. One option was to serve your six years and then be released. The other option was the option of the kinsman-redeemer. If you could locate a kinsman-redeemer, he could release you before your six years were up.

To qualify as a kinsman-redeemer, they had to meet three (3) criteria. First, he had to be a kinsman or blood relative. A stranger would not do. Second, he had to have the price of redemption – he had to have means to be able to repay the relative’s debt.
Third, he had to want to repay it – it wasn’t mandatory upon a kinsman. The kinsman had to be willing to go ahead with it.

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and as a result we are slaves to sin. But the Jews were also enslaved to the curse of the Law, due to their inability to keep the Law.

So Jesus fits all three criteria.

First, he was a kinsman, by becoming flesh & blood as a man. He had a blood-relationship to all humanity. He came as a member of the seed of Abraham – as a Jew.

Second, He had the price of redemption. The price of redemption was innocent blood. Because He was the only Jew who ever lived that kept the Mosaic Law perfectly, Jesus was innocent blood – he had not sinned!

Third, He was willing to pay the debt/price. He said of Himself in John 10:18 – ‘no man takes my life from me, I lay it down of myself’.

So in this way Jesus fits the 3 criteria. I said earlier that the scope of the Messiah’s work was redemption. As our Kinsman-Redeemer the conditions have been met and the price has been paid for you & me. God has paid for your sin (every one of them) with the blood of his Son, Jesus. That’s the rescue plan! There was no other way. You & I couldn’t pay the price. We were lost into bondage & slavery.

Why do you think the he Prince of this world wants to destroy the real meaning of Christmas? Because he knows that Jesus coming in the flesh is the plan of salvation for all of humanity. Not just the only plan, but the GREATEST PLAN. Satan knows that his Christmas Goose is cooked if we all understand why God sent his Son into this world as flesh & blood – as a baby.

That’s why JESUS IS SIMPLY THE BEST!!

Are we gettin’ it yet!! See ... the Book of Hebrews is a doddle – simple when you understand it.

Right, let’s finish this Chapter with verse 18. The application of Jesus’ work is not just this amazing HUGE plan of salvation. No ... Jesus’ work is applicable to individual men & women in the conflicts of life. Jesus, like you & me, suffered and was tempted. There are 2 reasons why Jesus can help – He was tempted & He suffered. The Greek meaning here is ‘to run to the cry of’. When believers are in need and cry out, Jesus runs to their aid to help. He runs to assist them when they are being tempted, and in their sufferings.
Jesus is not only the author of our salvation, He is not only the Sanctifier, He is not only the Satan-conqueror, BUT He is also Jesus the Sympathizer. He is able to sympathize with those who are right now being tempted or suffering.

I don’t know about you, but I need to know that the Messiah isn’t just a formula. I need to know that Jesus is personal and knows my needs. It’s like a child who cries out in a crowded noisy room. The Mother can hear the cries of their child. God hears & knows the cries of his children – His sons & daughters – and comes running.

CONCLUSION:

Well, there it is – Hebrews 2. Jesus is simply the best. The warning is given - Don’t drift away from this message that Jesus is everything, better than everything / everyone else.

He is the plan of salvation for mankind. He is the answer and solution to death.

If that be the case, then why would we want to drift/fall away/ignore this great message of salvation?

Perhaps today, you know deep in your heart that you have ‘let your faith slip’, that you feel like it’s just drifted away from the cross a bit. Jesus is ready to help – always has, always will. His work is completed and He is seated on the throne at God’s right hand.

His work is done ... but there is one last thing that Jesus does for you and me – night and day – intercedes for you & me – he prays for you & me and for our salvation in heaven.

Today maybe there is some in our lives that we love who have drifted, just like the readers of the Book of Hebrews, tempted to go back to something else in the past, forgetting about the cross and Jesus. Well, why don’t we pray that God’s Holy Spirit will draw them back close to the heart of God?

I will be away next Sunday. In a fortnight’s time we will look at Chapter 3 of Hebrews. So you have 2 weeks to do the homework – read Hebrews 3.

Next week:  Bill Aland – John 21 – ‘Going fishing with Jesus’

Then in a fortnight:  Hebrews Chapter 3 – The Danger of Disobedience. This is one that no believer wants to miss.
Let’s pray …

Loving and Mighty Father God,
We praise you for Jesus – our Sanctifier, our Salvation- Pioneer, our Satan-Conqueror and our Kinsman-Redeemer. May our cry go up and reach heaven today – Hallelujah for Jesus, whose death on the cross has defeated all sin and death. Father God, we pray today for anyone who has drifted from you, who has neglected this great salvation, and ignored what you have given to us. Forgive us for our apathy and restore us. Prompt us through the work of your Holy Spirit to stay moored to the Cross of Christ.
We pray for loved ones who have stepped away from you – for whatever reason. The Prince of this world is the master of deception and has tricked many on the road to salvation. Father, we stand in the gap today and ask for your mighty hand to reach out and gather them again. Change their heart and bring them back to You. Restore the joy of their salvation and point them in the direction of abundant life.
We ask in the name of Jesus – who is simply the best!
Amen

Closing Song ~ Blessed Assurance
Warning to Pay Attention

1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Jesus Made Fully Human

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?
7 You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor
8 and put everything under their feet.”

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. 12 He says,
“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.