



METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY
COMMENTARY on HEBREWS: VERSE by VERSE
Study Notes on Chapter Two by *Pastor Jeff Wehr*

Hebrews Chapter Two

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.

Even though the Old Testament was written for our learning, we need to give heed to the revelation of God's Son. If we fail to understand the divinity, humanity, and mission of Jesus, then we will forfeit the ability to understand Scripture aright.

2:2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

We know that God spoke the word to Moses and the prophets, but did you know that angels were present at these appointed times? And we know that the law as given by God is sure, for there was a "just recompense" for "every transgression and disobedience."

2:3 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;

If those in the Old Testament did not escape "the word spoken by angels," then how will we escape any neglect to such a great salvation which was "first" spoken by God's own Son? The answer is, "We will not escape."

2:4 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?

Not only did God's own Son teach and minister among us, but God bore witness of His Son "with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost." There is nothing more that God could have done to convince us of Jesus as the Savior of man.

2:5 For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

Jesus not only created the world as we know it, but He will be King of the world to come. Not only that but all will be in subjection to Him, even the angels.

2:6 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?

When we think of how small man really is in contrast to this vast universe, we are inclined to ask, "Why would God take the time to even visit the human race?" The value of a soul is seen in the cross of Calvary. At infinite cost to Himself, God gave His only begotten Son to die for the rebellious race. This tells us more than anything else how much God thinks about us and cares for us.



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2:7 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:

Even in their perfection, Adam and Eve were made a little lower than the angels. Yet God had crowned the human race by creating them in His image, and did set them to have “dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:28

2:8 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.

It is evident that mankind rules over all of the creatures. Man has made great achievements in the areas of science, even sending a man to the moon. Yet, left to himself, man is powerless to gain self-control over his own sinful nature. He can rule over the animals, but he cannot rule himself. Because of sin, he is subject to death.

2:9 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.

In contrast to man losing his dominion due to sin, Christ has dominion because of His sinlessness. We see that Jesus, the Son of God, took on fallen humanity and was Himself “made a little lower than the angels.”

In our fallen flesh Jesus lived a perfect life in obedience to God’s Ten Commandments. He became our perfect sacrifice for sin, “suffering” the death that we deserve. He tasted “death for every man,” to the fullest extent. In the garden of Gethsemane He drank the bitter cup of all the sins of the world. This is what truly caused the death of God’s dear Son. The full weight of our sins crushed out His life. When He rose again and ascending into heaven, He was “crowned with glory and honor.”

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.

The Captain of our salvation is Jesus, who is our “merciful and faithful high priest,” “able to succor them that are tempted.” Hebrews 2:17, 18. Had Christ come and lived in wealth, peace, and protected from all harm and temptation, then He would have not been “tempted like as we are.” Hebrews 4:15. Too many questions would have arisen if our salvation was not made “perfect through sufferings.” Those tempted with hungry, sickness, and hazards would wonder if Jesus could have successfully endured these things by faith. But Jesus did endure hardship and trials more than all. He is more than familiar with the perils, persecutions, distresses, and discomforts of this life. Therefore, through Him we are more than conquerors no matter the trial.

He who created all things, and “by whom are all things,” became man’s Substitute that He might bring many “sons unto glory.” The Son of God became the Son of man that many might become sons and daughters of God. And it can be equally said that the Father “who created all things by Jesus Christ,” willed the sacrifice of His Son that many might become “sons unto glory.”



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2:11 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,

He that “sanctifieth” is Jesus, and those that are “sanctified” are the “sons unto glory.” Through Christ we are “all of one,” whereby the Father is the Father of us all, for which cause Jesus “is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Christ had come in human flesh to declare the righteousness of His Father’s character, and to “sing praise” unto Him “in the midst of the church,” that many might become part of the family of God. What a loving Son to both His Father and to us, that Christ would leave heaven to help us understand the true nature of the Father and His everlasting kingdom.

2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Jesus trusted His Father implicitly in becoming a man in this fallen world. In our fallen flesh, Jesus showed us how to put trust in our heavenly Father. To show how trustworthy the Father is, He now points to the fruit of His labors—the children of God. He takes no credit for this fruit, but will eight times in His prayer to His Father acknowledge that the Father had given Him these wonderful children. See John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24.

In this verse, His brethren are not described as “sons” but as “children.” Here was another way of pointing to Christ’s humanity. As the father and his children share the same flesh and blood, so Christ became one of us.

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;

As children share in the same flesh and blood, Jesus took upon Himself the same flesh and blood. He “took part” of something that He did not previously possess. He who was fully God became fully man. Paul in writing to the Romans, said, “God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” Romans 8:3. Jesus took upon Himself the great law of heredity. All the hereditary traits that Mary had received after four thousand years of sin, were passed onto Jesus. Yet in the “likeness of our sinful flesh,” Jesus lived a sinless life, “that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.” Romans 8:4.

Jesus did not come in human flesh to show us how God can live in human flesh, but how you and I can live when we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus was born of the Spirit and walked in the Spirit, we can be born of the Spirit and walk in the Spirit.

2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Until men are set free from slavery to their fallen natures, they will always have fear of failure, of the future, and of death. But Christ is able to deliver us from the bondage of sin and death. In Him we may live a life of righteousness and receive the hope of eternal life.



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2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Jesus did not take upon Himself the nature of an angel, but He took upon Himself the flesh and blood of the human race to save man from his sinful condition. It was fallen humanity that Christ came to save and to lift them up out of the pit of sin.

2:17 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.

Because of His concern for man, Jesus became one of us. He subjected Himself to endure all the trials and temptations that men might face, that He might be a “merciful and faithful high priest.” Because He is “merciful” we have hope no matter our transgressions. Yet, He must be a “faithful high priest” who is true to principle. It is His faithfulness to both mercy and justice that makes Him the perfect blend of both. Due to both His mercy and faithfulness we are able to be reconciled back to God. We are both forgiven and cleanse of our sins that we might be in perfect agreement with God.

2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

He suffered for us. He was tempted for us. He suffered under temptation for us. He went through all this to “succor” or to help us in our battle against our sinful natures. Because He lived a sinless life in our sinful flesh, God’s perfect will might be fulfilled in us.

In chapter one, Paul emphasized the divinity of Christ. In chapter two, he has emphasized the humanity of Christ. With these two truths established, Paul then introduced Jesus to us as our “high priest.” It is because Jesus is both God and man that He is our high priest in the heavenly sanctuary. And it is His priestly ministry alone that can both forgive and cleanse us from sin.