

Before we continue with Chapter 2, I want to return to the first 4 verses that we covered last week. The foundational principles in these verses is critical to our overall understanding of this wonderful book.

Hebrews 2:1-4 **Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.** (2) For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, (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*, (4) God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

I need to show another translation :

Hebrews 2:1 (KJV) 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.**

In most translations, the idea is that we might 'drift away', in others, the idea is that we would allow the 'things which we heard' to slip away – or more literally, 'all the things we heard to leak out' as the Greek implies.

In either case, something is moving away from the things we heard: either we are or the truths themselves are.

So, the author is saying we need to strongly cling to the Truth we have heard. And by 'strongly cling' the idea also includes "applying ourselves to the truth"...Perhaps this is what James meant about having faith without works...if it's all in your head, nothing good can come of it...except to perhaps delude ourselves into thinking we're ok.

SO, the POINT is, if the 'word' spoken of through angels had such an impact and was in force for so long, how much more important is this "great salvation" brought to us by God Himself while on earth and not angelic messengers.

If the 'Law', given to Moses in the company of angels proved so steadfast and through it every sin received its just reward, how much MORE should we give "earnest heed" what was spoken by our LORD Jesus who IS the LORD God and not just another created being?

AND! What was being offered? "A GREAT SALVATION"! And how was this confirmed? GOD Himself bore witness with "both with signs and wonders, with various miracles".

Before the crucifixion Jesus proved His Messiahship by performing miracles that the ancient scholars said only the Messiah could perform.

Matthew 15:30-31 NKJV Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them

the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. (31) So the multitude marveled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

And don't forget the casting out of evil spirits and especially the raising of the dead!

But what might be considered the greatest sign and wonder, Jesus rose from the dead in a glorified body.

And having finished the book of Acts, we recently learned of all the miracles, signs and wonders that followed His resurrection and ascension as well as the giving of the Holy Spirit with the gifts He distributed according to His Will.

I want to make sure that the impact of one verse sinks in:

(Hebrews 2:3 NKJV) **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*,

For the true believer, the message is: **You have already escaped! You have overcome by knowing that He has overcome the world!**

John 3:18 NKJV "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:24 NKJV "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Romans 8:1 NKJV *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Before Jesus secured our salvation on the Cross and we chose to believe the truth of His resurrection, He warned:

Luk 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

And Paul also warned:

Rom 2:3 And do you think this, **O man**, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

[1Th 5:3](#) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Who is being warned here? Those who have either rejected the grace of God and His atoning sacrifice or those who say they are "Christians" without having any personal profession or testimony, for example, my parents were Christians and we always attended church. And the Jews were no different:

[Matthew 3:7-9 NKJV](#) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (8) Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, (9) **and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'** For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

And while this drifting away is directed at those 'in name only' believers, the admonition can be applied to us – not for a loss of salvation but a diminishing of our relationship with Jesus; Yes, He loves us and yes, He's done everything possible to prove that love to us. But what of us? Have we been ignoring our First Love?

Here are some examples of "drifting" or taking our relationships lightly. But first we need to understand that these things start slowly, sometimes even unconsciously, and continue over a long time.

1. We start skipping the assembly of the brothers and sisters of God, i.e., church.
2. Our hearts slowly but increasingly become cold towards Jesus, to His love He so demonstrated on the Cross.
3. We become **overly absorbed** with the things of this world: the news, politics, entertainment (**constant preoccupation**)
4. We start to doubt the coming of our LORD, first to take us home and then to judge the world.
5. We start getting uncomfortable with the coming judgment as more and more people we love and are "good folk", reject Christ.
6. When we close our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit's conviction and exhortations to return to the One You loved at first.

These and others are just something to consider in OUR lives; I must confess that neither am I immune to drifting away.

This is NOT about behavior and rules but much more about keeping our heart steadfastly set on His Heart; **How?** The WORD must be in at the forefront of our priorities and it must be done with prayer and worship of THE WORD, Jesus. And please believe me, "I don't feel like it" isn't a good excuse to neglect the Word, your devotions, your prayers, your praise or worship! It's not an excuse! It's a red flag!

So, let's continue with verse 5...

Remember, in Chapter 1 we learned about Jesus as the Son of God, and God the Son, who is so much higher than the angels, worshipped by them whom He created. And being God, He has all the attributes of God: omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent to name a few.

Now, this chapter will deal with the Christ as a Man. We need to keep this in mind as we try to understand what's being taught.

Warning: I suspect I will not be able to complete chapter 2 this morning. I'll try to stop at an appropriate place – you know, some verse that will keep you hanging onto the edge of your seat and then BAM, I'm done for this morning!

Hebrews 2:5 NKJV For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

The "**world to come**" is the millennial kingdom of Jesus. Adam Clarke summarized this quite nicely:

That the world to come, meant the days of the Messiah among the Jews, is most evident, ... for the government is on the shoulder of Jesus Christ; he alone has the keys of death and hell; he alone shuts, and no man opens; opens, and no man shuts; ... ; he alone is the Governor of the universe, the Spirit, Soul, Heart, and Head of the Church: all is in his authority, and under subjection to him.

The world to come is known to the Jews as **olam ha'ba**; most Rabbi's, from ancient times on, understood it to be the world under Messiah's reign!

In any case, this authority was NOT given to angels!

(Hebrews 2:6 NKJV) But one 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? **(7 NKJV) 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 NKJV) 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.**

These verses are from Psalm 8 and I think it is good if we all turn and read this together.

Psalms 8:1-9 NKJV To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. 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 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!

The Psalm is, from David's perspective, speaking of man, and in a sense, the first man, Adam who was created in God's image having glory and honor and given dominion over all creation!

But, since ancient times, this has been known of speaking of the Messiah. Most Jewish theologians suspected that Messiah would be a man, and he might have divine qualities. But they put God in a box and thought that God himself would never condescend to become a mere mortal – that is, be born of a woman. This is one of the reasons why Jesus was totally rejected by the Jewish leadership (Rabbi's, Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes):

John 10:30-33 NKJV **I and My Father are one.**" (31) Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. (32) Jesus answered them, "**Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?**" (33) The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, **but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.**"

John 8:57-59 NKJV Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" (58) Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**" (59) Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

And Paul continues the revelation of Who Jesus is when he wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 NKJV (21) For since by man *came* death, **by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.** (22) For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ all shall be made alive.**

This "second Adam" is a life-giving spirit, that is, the One who gives life:

1 Corinthians 15:47 NKJV (47) The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.

“But now we do not yet see all things put under him.”

We are still waiting until all things are put “under His feet”. And when He returns to settle accounts and to establish His Kingdom on earth we too will cry out

“O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth!”

This is Jesus, the Man and the Messiah!

I think we need to stop here because it gets even deeper and deeper as we complete this chapter.

But I want you to understand that Jesus is ALL God and ALL Man. Even on earth He was the God:Man. He wasn't 50% man and 50% God; He wasn't ALL God and then turned that nature off so that He could be ALL Man. If you don't fully understand this, you're in good company because while we can put some words to this, we can never on this side of heaven understand it. I always maintain that if we can understand god, he's not worth understanding....because he wouldn't be the True and Living God. Same goes with the God:Man Jesus; and the same goes for the Godhead; Some things are just not meant to be understood ... we look and we marvel and we are in stunned, awestruck wonder! And, what am I that He would think of me and seeing me as I was, saved me!!!

And once again:

[Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV](#) (9) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, (11) and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen?

Beloved. Only Jesus can truly satisfy every longing of our soul! Only Jesus can transform us! Only Jesus can save to the uttermost. Only Jesus can complete our faith so that He can present us holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His Father's sight.

(Hebrews 2:9 KJV) **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.

Albert Barnes rephrases this verse as “Jesus, on account of the sufferings of death, or in virtue of that, was crowned with glory and honor. His crowning was the result of his condescension and sufferings”.

And Paul also recognized this about Messiah when he wrote to the Philippians:

Philippians 2:8-9 NKJV And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. (9) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

But, let’s not skip over the last part of that verse: that he [that is, the Man Jesus] **by the grace of God should taste death for every man**

Isaiah 53:10-11 NLT But it was the LORD’s good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD’s good plan will prosper in his hands. (11) When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

(Hebrews 2:10 KJV) 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.

(((see Barnes notes)))

First, the phrase “For it became him” is better understood as “For it was fitting for him”. The Jewish leaders would scoff at the idea that King Messiah would suffer and live a life of sorrow and affliction. But the author here states that this is exactly “fit and proper” for him to do. The “captain” of our salvation, the Man Jesus, in order to do what he was sent to do, had to live a human life for it was humanity, all of humanity that was in the plan of God. For it was sin-filled humanity, you and I, that deserved the fires of Hell.

“made perfect through sufferings”

This does not mean that he was sinful before and was made holy by his sufferings; nor that he was not in all respects a perfect man before;

For Paul taught:

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV (21) For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

but it means, that by his sufferings he was made "wholly suited" to be a Saviour of people; After all, atonement or salvation or Propitiation (also called expiation), is the act of appeasing or making well-disposed a deity, thus incurring divine favor or avoiding divine retribution) was only effective if there was a blood sacrifice.

(Hebrews 2:11 NKJV) 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, (Hebrews 2:12 NKJV) saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU."

He who sanctifies provides the atonement to those receiving sanctification!

"**all of one**" – both Christ and his followers, are all of the same nature; for as the children were partakers of flesh and blood, i.e. of human nature, he partook of the same, and thus he was qualified to become a sacrifice for man.

And, it follows that the One who saved the other is not ashamed of those He saved and even calls them "brethren".

Psalms 22:14-22 NKJV I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. (15) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. (16) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; (17) I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. (18) They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. (19) But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! (20) Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. (21) Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! **You have answered Me. (22) I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.**

(Hebrews 2:13 NKJV) And again: "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again: "HERE AM I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME."

Psalms 18:2 NKJV The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Isaiah 8:18 NKJV Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! **We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the LORD of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.**

Once again we have to understand the Hebrew mindset. The verses might seem to be taken out of context...but the writer knows that the reader would know the entire context and therefore does not have to give all the verses.

So, the "We are for signs and wonders" may refer to Jesus and His disciples who performed many miracles, signs and wonders. Or even us, who being believers in this Great Messiah, are ourselves "signs and wonders" which point to Him who saves!

Therefore, when we read the 18th Psalm we too must read it with the understanding that it is Messiah it describes, particularly His suffering and death for the Jews first and the Nations as well.

([Hebrews 2:14 NKJV](#)) 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, ([Hebrews 2:15 NKJV](#)) and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Destroyed => *to be rendered entirely useless*

By His death and resurrection He rendered one of the most powerful schemes of the Devil ineffective. How many of us lived in fear of death, not knowing what would happen to us at that final moment. Would we perish into the universe, with no consciousness of ourselves? Would we go to a purgatory-type place where we would pay for the evil things we did and thus go on to heaven? Would we just sleep until God wakes us up for Judgement?

Satan has put these doubts and fear into the heart of man. And Jesus undid all of this heartache and bondage – for those who believe.

It happened to me. Now, I do not fear; I have an overactive imagination that wonders what it will be like and I'm sure that whatever I can imagine will be a gazillion times less than the reality of life with Him.

([Hebrews 2:16 NKJV](#)) For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

Angels need no help; the seed of Abraham needs all the help they can get! They are helpless because they cannot save themselves by any work they perform; they cannot think away God and His expectations for His creation. They cannot believe in something else (the universe, the human spirit or any other so-called deity) and make it true! The fact, the reality, the Truth is that there is a Truth whose name is Jesus and rejecting this Truth you are rejecting God and therefore will spend an eternity without Him.

([Hebrews 2:17 NKJV](#)) 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.

The author introduces Messiah as the 'merciful and faithful High Priest'; For it was the High Priest that carried the blood of the spotless lamb into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for himself and the nation of Israel. The blood would appease God and therefore His wrath would be laid aside.

(Hebrews 2:18 NKJV) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

One of the complaints against God has always been "how can a pure and perfect God understand what I am going thru?" How can He even sympathize let alone empathize with me and my struggles?

So, then He comes into our time and space and becomes a man. He was tempted in the desert and in a sense, tempted in the garden of Gethsemane; He understands! And He renders aid! So, we declare

1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV (13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also **make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear *it*.

But, He understands but does not excuse! He does not dismiss our sin if you say "oh, I'm just human...". No! He forgives ALL our sin based on the sacrifice He made and the blood He shed on the Cross.

Beloved of God, we could spend time discussing the theology of the Perfect God-Man but it would end up as just brain candy and not soul-food. 3xa