

Hebrews 1-2 – 28 April 2024

“Better Than Angels Made Lower Than Man”

Introduction

*Though the author is much disputed, it's very likely Paul – writing to Hebrews abroad, his style would be very different than writing to Gentiles

*This letter was written in the late 60s, for there's no mention of the Temple's destruction in 70

*Also mentions Timothy's prison release

*Clement was already quoted this book by 95AD

Read Vs 1-2a

1. God's Word, before Christ came to us, was as the prophets of God were lead of God to write
2. They received God's Word piecemeal
3. They received God's Word in 'divers manners' including visions, dreams, burning bushes, etc.
4. But the **final** Word has come thru Jesus Christ
 - a. “In these last days” meaning the entire Church age, indicates that Jesus is the last word
 - b. Receiving in 'divers manners' is done now that we've received the final Word from Jesus

Read Vs 2b

1. Jesus, the Creator Trinity in the beginning, overcame all to become inheritor of all things
2. Jesus made all in the beginning & will receive all in the end, but what happened in between?
 - a. That's verse 3

Read Vs 3

1. Jesus, God Himself, descended to cleanse us of our sins at the cross, earning inheritance of all
2. Jesus is the glory of God – Read John 1:14
3. He completed the work so He sat
 - a. Only time we see Him stand is to receive a believer home like Stephen
 - b. Right hand is the place of honor (Benjamin)

*Intent of the letter is clearly to show how Christ Jesus is superior to every part of Judaism

*Chap 1&2 begin a talk of Jesus among angels & men

So today, we'll see why Christ is superior to angels and why He descends to be lower than man

1st, 4 reasons Christ is superior to angels (1:4-2:4)

#1 – B/c Christ did the work of the cross (Vs 1:4)

Read Vs 4

1. The finished work of Christ on the cross has made Christ superior in person to even angels
2. This is proved in that He sat at God's right hand – the place of the heir to the throne
 - a. Salome asked that Jesus would grant James & John to sit at his right hand in the Kingdom
 - b. Jesus said way to that position is difficult

#2 – B/c Christ's in father son relationship (Vs 1:5)

Read Vs 5

1. Paul will use the already established Word of God to prove his point to a Jewish audience
2. Angels don't have father son relationship w/ God as God promised that His Messiah would
 - a. Angels called 'Sons of God' in sense that anything that comes directly from God is a son
 - b. But angels aren't in that relation w/ God

#3 – B/c Christ is worshipped by angels (Vs 1:6-7)

Read Vs 6-7

1. Angels are subservient to Jesus
2. No better place to see angels worship Jesus than in Rev 5 before the throne of God
3. They are God's messengers and serving spirits

#4 – B/c Christ is enthroned forever (Vs 1:8-14)

Read Vs 8-9

1. The Son has a throne of righteousness above all others forever

Read Vs 10-12

1. This quote from Psm 102 just mentions God, not the Son or Messiah
 - a. It's clear Paul isn't trying to prove Jesus is God, He's assumed we know Jesus is God
 - b. Therefore, he applies these verses to Jesus
2. He's saying the Son is forever and eternal – that is certainly above all angels

Read Vs 13-14

1. This is from Psa 110 spoken from God to Jesus, not to any angel
2. Jesus used Psa 110 to show Messiah is the Lord AND Son of David both
3. Angels are here to serve us thru the battle, while Christ sits enthroned until judgement time

Therefore, press hard into God's Word (2:1-4)

Read Vs 1

1. Jesus's Words that we've heard (faith comes by hearing) are preeminently important to receive more than angels or men
 - a. Read Gal 1:8 – if we or an angel preach...
 - b. Don't get distracted with false secret knowledge of men
2. If not intentionally focused on a steady diet of receiving God's Word what happens...we drift
 - a. What's it take to drift?
 - b. Not doing something bad, but just not continuing in what is good

3. How do we prevent drifting?
 - a. Give the “more earnest heed” – Hold in our minds superabundantly
 - b. Do we have that relationship w/ God’s Word?

Read Vs 2-4

1. Mosaic Law was provided to Moses by angels from God – also attested to in Act 7:53 by Stephen
 - a. That’s a confident way to receive a message
 - b. Zacharias was struck dumb for not believing an angel
2. But the way we’ve received the Word from Jesus is the most compelling
 - a. It was spoken directly by the Lord Jesus
 - b. It was spread by direct ear and eyewitnesses
 - c. It was attested to by miracles
 - d. It was attested to by the power of the H.S.
3. The clear & public presentation of Jesus’s Word in incontrovertible

2nd & finally, here's 4 reasons Christ descended below angels and even men (2:5-18)

#1 – To taste death for us, yet innocent (Vs 2:5-9)

Read Vs 5-8a

1. Paul is quoting this Psalm to prove that Jesus is a man and it's ultimately a man that has all things put under his control, not an angel
2. Our father Adam was given all things yet forfeited it all in the Garden – it will once again be a man, not angel that earns it back

Read Vs 8b-9

1. Jesus as a man, won back our freedom from Satan by tasting death for us—yet innocent, He lives

#2 – To suffer, ushering in salvation (Vs 2:10-11)

Read Vs 10-11

1. It was fitting to have Jesus suffer authoring in or ushering in salvation

- a. Adam having choice brought the chance to love but also brought sin and death
 - b. That rebellion needed paid for to make things right
2. Notice vs 11 He did this suffering as a man & in place of man

#3 – To unashamedly become our brother (Vs 2:12-13)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Jesus wasn't just man by being born as one, He was man by taking on man's problem rallying all people unto Himself
 - a. Quite amazing that He would come to us as a brother & not be ashamed!

#4 – To cure us of fear and death (Vs 2:14-16)

Read Vs 14-16

1. Thru His identification with us as a man Himself, He cured our great problem & fear, death

2. How could Jesus gain this authority?
 - a. God owned all & freely gave it to Adam
 - b. Adam forfeited all to Satan upon obedience
 - c. Satan held power until Jesus came and lived perfect not falling victim to Satan's power
 - d. Rev 5 shows a great seen as Jesus takes back control of the world at the throne of God
3. Now, like vs 15, we can live w/o fear of death
 - a. We don't live in light of death to come
 - b. We live in light of eternal life to come

Therefore, He can identify with us (2:17-18)

Read Vs 17-18

1. Becoming a man is what makes Jesus the Great Intercessor – He can perfectly identify w/ man
 - a. He comes from the position of knowing & experiencing it for real
2. See, Jesus is merciful & faithful as intercessor
 - a. Merciful b/c He knows what we go thru
 - b. Faithful b/c He is already proved Himself by taking the effort to come here

3. There can be no better High Priest intercessor than the one that is higher than angels yet condescended to people of low estate like us

Conclusion

So Christ is superior to angels and yet He descended to people of low estate like us

1. **He's superior to angels for His work on the cross and we see His relationship w/ the Father**
 - a. Jesus deserves worship from all things
 - b. Jesus is truly God Himself
 - c. So press into knowing this great God thru His Word
2. **Jesus descended into mankind to paid the death we owed ushering in our salvation**
 - a. What grace that He's not ashamed to identify with us
 - b. What grace that He's removed fear of death
 - c. Now He ever lives to be our High Priest!