

Hebrews 1 describes Son of God as:

1. **In contrast to the prophets** – Jesus is the **revelation of God** the Father
2. **In contrast to the angels** who are: **created beings** – **servants** – **worshippers of the Son**
3. The Son of God is: **Creator; Sustainer; Heir of all things**; made **purification for sin**; **sat down** at Father's right hand; is **to be worshipped**

2:1 *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*

1. "For this reason"
 - a. **What reason?**
 - i. Christ's **word is greater** than the word of the prophets
Heb.1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ^{v.2}in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
 - ii. **Christ is greater** than the angels
Heb.1:4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.
2. "must pay **much closer attention** to what we have heard, **lest we drift away**"
 - a. "...pay much closer attention"
 - b. **Somehow we have the idea** that **b/c of God's grace** we **don't have to be diligent**
 - c. It is **not ok** to not know Bible
 - d. We are to **read** it – **study** it – **think** on it – to **pay attention** to what we hear about it"
 - e. It is **not OK** to just read a verse & give it any meaning you want on
 - i. When God says something – it has definite meaning – we are not free to make up any meaning we want!
 - ii. We are **not free** to just live our own way
 - f. "...lest we drift away" (NP)

- g. "...lest we **drift** away"
 - i. It is a picture of being on the **water** & being **carried away** by **current** & not noticing
 - ii. People who **aren't used to fishing** **don't know** when they r drifting
 - iii. The **great danger** in Christendom is **not** rejection of the truth – it is **neglect** of the truth
 - iv. If you know **less Scripture** (principles) than anything else – how can you say it is important to you
 - v. If you **don't know** Scripture – you have ignored the most important thing in the world
 - vi. You have **drifted** away

V.2 For *if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,*

V.3 ²how shall we **escape** if we neglect so great a salvation?..."

1. "if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable" (V.2)

- a. Apparently **angels** were **intermediaries** in the giving of the law
Acts 7:38 "This is the one^(Moses) who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and *who was* with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.
Gal.3:19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made.

2. "every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense"

a. What God said thru angels was **absolute!**

i. Example

Ex.35:2 " For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy *day*, a sabbath of complete rest to the LORD; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

V.3 " You shall not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the sabbath day."

b. It didn't matter what man thought about what God commanded thru angels – the facts stayed the same!

Num.15:32 (NP)

Num.15:32 Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the sabbath day.

V.33 And those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation;

V.35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

V.36 So all the congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him to death with stones, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

V.1 x For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

V.2 x For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,

V.3 ²how shall we **escape** if we neglect so great a salvation? After ¹it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

1. "it was at the first spoken through the Lord"
 - a. This is the first of 5 very sober warnings in book of Hebrews
 - i. **If what angels said was life & death** – and they were just servants
 - ii. **How important are God's words?**
2. "how shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation**"
 - a. I'm going to work **backwards** so this verse can be clearly understood
 - b. Start w/ "**So great a Salvation**"
 - i. **What is** this salvation is he talking about?
 - c. The first thing you think of when you see/hear "salvation" is saved from hell
 - d. That is **not** what he is talking about
 - i. **1st** He is talking to believers
 - ii. **All** 5 warnings are to believers!
 - iii. **2nd** he includes himself when he says "we"
 - iv. We must remember salvation is depicted to us in **3 tenses**
 - v. **(PAST tense)** – You were saved the moment your trusted Christ (**saved from penalty of sin**)
 - vi. **(PRESENT tense)** – You are being saved (sanctified) (**saved from power of sin**)

- vii. **(FUTURE tense)** – Our ultimate salvation (glorification)
(**saved from presence of sin**)
- viii. **“So great a salvation”** is speaking of our **complete salvation**
– the sum total of all that salvation means to us
- ix. **If** you think of **salvation** as only being **saved from hell** – you have an immature understanding of salvation
 - Heb.6:1** 1 Therefore leaving the **elementary teaching** about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
 - V.2 of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
 - V.3 And this we shall do, if God permits.
- x. You **diminish Scripture & your future**
- xi. Our ultimate salvation is huge – it is our **hope**
- xii. Reference to it in Romans
 - Rom.8:17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with Him.
 - 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
 - 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the **revealing of the sons of God**.
 - 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope
 - 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
 - 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.
 - 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
 - 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?
 - 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

V.3 (NP)

V.3 x ²how shall we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation? After ¹it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

3. "how shall we escape if we **neglect** so great a salvation"
 - a. I want to look at word "**Neglect**"
 - b. If we can't escape if we neglect – what does neglect mean?
 - c. "neglect" – word used in
 - 1 Tim.4:14** Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.
 - d. It means to just not pay attention to – doesn't mean to **reject**, become **hostile** toward, just **simply** not pay attention to!
 - e. **V.1** says we can easily "**drift**" quit just paying attention
4. "how shall we **escape**"
 - a. **What** are we **not going to escape from?**
 - b. The definition of "**escape**" helps understanding
 - i. Escape means to **flee a snare or trap**
 - ii. If you neglect Scripture – you can't see the big picture of life & death & eternity
 - iii. You will fall into a snare or trap of not seeing **the real purpose of life**
 - iv. There is retribution for the believer who ignores the biblical instruction
 - Rev.22:12** "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. (the snare / trap is God doesn't judge by world's standards)
 - c. The danger of neglect is proportional to the dignity of the revelation.
 - i. This is the Word of God – not angels
 - d. The **purpose** of the five admonitions found in Hebrews is to encourage all readers to pay attention to God's Word and obey it.
 - e. The writer is **not** telling lost men to get saved – he is encouraging Christians to **pay attention** to the great salvation
 - f. The warning of drifting is a serious warning!!

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

1. "God...bearing witness...by signs...wonders...miracles...gifts of Holy Spirit"
 - a. **More than enough evidence** that God has spoken!

V.5 (NP)

V.5 For *He did not subject **to** angels the world to come*, concerning which we are speaking.

1. "He did not subject to angels the world to come"

- a. There is a world **to come**
- b. "the **world** to come" – means **inhabited** world
- c. Not talking about heaven – talking about the millennial kingdom
- d. There is a millennium (some don't believe in it)

Rev.20:1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"(**much of O.T. is written about the Kingdom**)

e. The start of the Millennium

Zech.14:1 NIV A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

V.2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

V.3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.

V.4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

V.6 On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost.

V.7 It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime--a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light.

V.9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

V.11 It^(Israel) will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure.

V.16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

V.17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.

V.6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?
V.7 " THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAST APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS;

V.8 THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

1. "THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET" (**V.8**)

a. This is a **quote** from **Ps.8**

2. "MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE **ANGELS**"

a. Quoted **Septuagint** – which used word "angel"

Ps.8:4 What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him?
And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him?

5 Yet Thou hast made him a little lower than **God**, And dost crown him with glory and majesty!

6 Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands;
Thou hast put all things under his feet,

- b. It was **written about mankind – before fall**
 - c. This is what Adam & Eve had before sin
 - d. God gave to Adam & Eve complete control of creation even though they were made lower than angels
 - e. Man was ruler over creation – man lost that – Christ got it back
3. “But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him”
- a. For the moment all things are **not** subjected to man or Christ
 - b. But thru Christ – b/c of His finished work on Cross – someday our salvation will be complete **V.9 & 10**
 - c. **Writer of Hebrews saw Christ in Ps.8 - (V.9)**

V.9 But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

V.10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

V.11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

CONCLUSION:

Carl Sagan (astronomer, astrophysicist): “Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.”

God says that is not true!

1. Humanism leaves man empty worthless
 2. Our salvation is not complete yet.
 3. But it is more certain than tomorrow
4. Christianity – lifts man to heights as of yet unknown
- 1 Cor.2:6** Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;
- V.7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom*, which God predestined before the ages to our glory;
- V.8 *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;
- V.9 but just as it is written, " THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND

EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

***These truths exist today for our understanding!**

***The words God has spoken need our attention**

5. That is why we shouldn't spend all our energy worrying about here – the best is yet to come!