

I. Lesson: Jesus and his Authority Pt. 1 (Heb 2:1-4)

Recap: *In the previous chapter*, the Hebrews writer tried to paint the picture of the identity of Jesus in relation the angels. He made it clear that Jesus is much greater than the angels, they serve him and aid the people of God. The angels do for Jesus what we must do, offer him worship. It is, therefore, appropriate for us to see Jesus as separate and above the angels in the taxonomy of the divine. He is not a created being but the divine creator himself. *In this chapter*, we see why the Hebrews writer went great lengths to establish Jesus's distinctive identity. If Jesus is worshipped by the angels, and Israel was held accountable for judgment for the words given to them through angels, how much more will we be held accountable for what God has said through Jesus. Here, the writer helps us understand the centrality of Jesus for our salvation by focusing on his authority as God's unique Son.

- A. Watch out so you do no drift! (2:1-2)
 - 1. The writer pretty much says, watch out! The members of the congregation were having some difficulty sticking to what they had been taught due, most likely, to persecution. The writer warns them about leaving the faith.
 - 2. The basis of this warning is what Israel did in the past. God told them to be careful in disobeying the messengers of God from heaven, the angels.
 - a. Ex: Gen 19. The angels saved Lot and his family. Disobeying them caused Lot's wife to become a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26).
 - b. Ex: Num 22:22-35. The donkey speaks to Balaam when he sees an angel in the way. Balaam's disobedience could have gotten them both killed.
 - 3. Thus, if we do not pay attention to what we believe, if we are not always checking ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor 13:5), we will find ourselves under God's judgment. We have to watch out because bad doctrine is easier to get in than good doctrine.
- B. Our punishment will be much worse for our disobedience (2:3a)
 - 1. The Hebrews writer argues that Israel suffered great consequences for their disobedience to angels. The church must know that their disobedience to God's Son will merit much worse.
 - 2. The language emphasizes the greatness of our salvation. The early church needed to be reminded that there were no alternatives to what the Lord had given them in Jesus. If they went back on Jesus, there would be no other means of salvation. If we choose something other than Jesus, we have nothing else that can help us, too.
- C. God proved his power so we must believe (2:3b-4)
 - 1. The Hebrews writer concludes this portion of the argument by declaring that the Holy Spirit confirmed the truth of Jesus through the apostles with signs and wonders. God did so then so that people might believe and have no excuse for doubting Jesus.
 - 2. For us, the same remains to be true. God is still confirming his word through signs and wonders so that we might trust in the power of Jesus Christ.