

## Hebrews 2:1-9 – Obey the Son

Jesus is superior to the angels. He is the heir of all things. The world was created through him and it is upheld by him. He is the exact imprint of God's nature. He made purification for sins. He sits at the right hand of God. The angels worship the Son and are God's ministers and servants. The Son rules forever and all enemies are put under his feet. The Son is eternal. The doctrine of chapter 1 is followed by a warning and exhortation in the beginning of chapter 2.

### Read Hebrews 2:1-4.

Verse 1 starts with "therefore" or "because of this". This points us back to chapter one. Because the Son is superior to angels, how were the recipients exhorted to respond? The word for "drift away" only occurs once in the New Testament. According to BDAG, the word is "in imagery of flowing water ('flow by'), be washed away, drift away". (2:1)

In verse 2, what was "the message declared by angels"? Was it the Old Testament law or was it the message given when angels appeared to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and others? I believe the second half of the verse strongly tips the scales to one side. This is the answer to the question "why spend so much time on the superiority of God's Son to angels. "The way we used to do things" had a very strong pull on many Jewish Christians. (2:2)

In verses 3, I believe there is an implied "just retribution". "How shall we escape a just retribution"? What would cause them to receive a just retribution? The word "neglect" ("ignore" NIV) occurs four times in the New Testament. BDAG translated the word in Hebrews 2:3 as "disregard". How does someone neglect God's great salvation? (2:3)

This great salvation was "declared at first by the Lord"? Then the Gospel was attested ("confirmed" KJV, NASB, NIV) "to us" by those who heard. Notice that it does not say "to you" but "to us". Did the writer of Hebrews hear the Gospel directly from Jesus or did he hear it from Jesus' first disciples? This is why many rule out Paul as the author of Hebrews. Paul always maintained that he heard the Gospel directly from Jesus, by revelation. See Galatians 1:11-12. (2:3)

In verse 4, how else was the Gospel confirmed? (2:4)

### Read Hebrews 2:5-9.

Verse 5 refers back to 1:13 which is a quote from Psalm 110:1. Why do you think the point was stressed that God subjected the coming world to the Son and not to angels? Chapters 1 and 2 have a focus on angels but angels are not mentioned in chapters 3 through 11. What is “the world to come”? (2:5)

Verse 6 begins with “it has been testified somewhere” (ESV). KJV has “but one in a certain place testified”. NASB has “someone has testified somewhere”. NIV has “there is a place where someone has testified”. This makes it sound like the author did not know where the passage came from. Some commentators think that this was just the author’s way of not mentioning the human authors of Scripture. His emphasis was that it was God’s word. (2:6)

What Old Testament verses were quoted in verses 6-8? See Psalm 8:4-6. It may look a little different in your English version of the Old Testament. It is word for word in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, although the first half of Psalm 8:6 was left out of the quote. The English, which reflects the Hebrew text, has “a little lower than the heavenly beings” (ESV). KJV and NIV have “angels”. NASB has “God”. Do you think that Psalm 8 is about humans in general or is it specifically about Jesus Christ? God did give humans dominion over creation. See Genesis 1:26-28. (2:6-8)

Most commentators understand Psalm 8 to be primarily about mankind and secondarily about Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of Psalm 8. In verse 8, the author commented that nothing was left out of the subjection of all things under his feet. The author then noted that currently we do not see all things subject to him. Some commentators understand this as stating that God’s original command was to put all things subject to mankind but then sin changed things. Because of sin, all things are not now subject to mankind. In verse 9, the resolution to this tension was given. See Paul’s quotes of Psalm 8:6 in 1 Corinthians 15:27 and Ephesians 1:22. (2:8)

Once the Psalm 8 quote finished in verse 2:8, the writer of Hebrews expounded on Psalm 8:5-6 beginning with verse 6. He said that we don’t now see the fulfillment of Psalm 8:6. He then went back to Psalm 8:5, verse 2:7 in Hebrews. He said that we don’t see all things subject now but we do see something based on Psalm 8:5 / Heb. 2:7. What do we now see? According to verse 2:9, when was Jesus made, for a little while, lower than the angels? When was Jesus crowned with glory and honor? (2:7-9)

One might say that we do not now see all things subject under Jesus’ feet, but Psalm 8:6 ties to Psalm 110:1. We know that God will subject all things under Jesus’ feet, including his enemies. It involves the “now but not yet”. It is true now but it will have its ultimate fulfillment at the second coming of Christ.