

Date: September 15th, 2026

Hebrews Section: Hebrews 1:1-2:4

Key Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

Main Idea: Jesus is greater than angels

Genre: Letter

Author: Unknown

Audience: Jewish Christians

Setting: Mid-1st Century

Quote of the Week: "The greater the revelation, the greater the sin of neglecting it." - John Owen



Hebrews Preview:

Highlight:

The Book of Hebrews is a New Testament epistle written to a Jewish-Christian audience, emphasizing the superiority of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. Though its author is unknown, Hebrews presents Christ as God's final and ultimate revelation, exploring themes of faith, rest, and His priesthood while showing how the promises and practices of the Old Testament find their fulfillment in Him. Throughout the book, Jesus is revealed as the mediator of a better covenant, and believers are encouraged to hold fast to Him, trust His promises, and find true rest in Him. Hebrews stands out for its theological depth, powerful imagery, and unwavering focus on the supremacy of Christ above all else.

Focus of Hebrews:

- **Purpose:**
 - Jesus Christ is better.
- **Topic/Themes for Hebrews:**
 - **Jesus is Better**
 - Jesus is the Greater:
 - High Priest - Sacrifice - Rest - Assurance
 - Beware of **UNBELIEF**
 - **Jesus is our Confession**
 - Our response to this Truth:
 - Believe in Him - Rest in Him - Have Confidence in Him - Draw Near to Him

Intro question:

What do you know about Hebrews? (NO PEEKING!!!)

Intro

- Author
 - The author of Hebrews is unknown; some believe it is Paul, Barnabas, or some other character not even mentioned in Scripture
 - They knew Timothy
 - They personally knew the recipients of the letter
- Audience
 - Primarily Jewish Christians
 - Deep understanding of Old Testament law and its customs
- Intent/Purpose
 - Jesus Christ is greater than any angel, priest, or Old Covenant passage.
 - Continuity
 - Escalation
 - Fulfillment
- Approach
 - Use Old Testament examples to demonstrate the superiority and sufficiency of Christ.
 - John
 - Acts

Hebrews 1 - Josiah

- The intro to Hebrews is comprised of the first 4 verses. They prime the rest of the book up to argue for the sufficiency and superiority of Jesus, as opposed to returning to Old Testament customs that his audience would return to, as they were Christians fresh out of slavery to the law.
 - Note: Law is not necessarily bad; in this context we are speaking of Mosaic Law, and the bible is clear that the Mosaic law is not flawed; instead, humanity is flawed, and the Mosaic law is not sufficient to save and reunite us to God. That is why this book was written to point them to something greater.
- In verses 1 and 2 we immediately see continuity and escalation. God's message remains the same from the old to the new, yet his medium has changed, and "in these last days" he reveals himself through his Son, Jesus.
 - How does he speak to us through his Son? Merely through words, no, but rather through the whole being of Jesus, because He "is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature"; He is God himself; if that is not greater, nothing is.
- In verse 3, we also see fulfillment: "after making propitiation for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high"; Jesus accomplished what the Law never could accomplish; He washed away all of our iniquities and granted us His holiness so that we may be united with God once again.
 - Jesus not only is better than the Old Testament, but all of the Old Testament was actually pointing to him. The purpose of the Old Testament Law was never to save us; instead, it pointed us to someone who could save us. In fact, that was the whole purpose of the entirety of the Old Testament. Every priest, king, judge, prophet, and sacrifice was a shadow of Jesus; they were all types of what was to come.
- Verse 4 culminates his introduction to the rest of the book by establishing who Jesus is by establishing what he is not. He is not merely an angel or a messenger of God; he is God himself.

- This sets up his argument for the remainder of the chapter.
 - Summary of the introduction(what does this say about Jesus?)
 - **Jesus is the appointed heir of all things as the Son of God (seed promise!!!)**
 - **Jesus was present and active before time and during creation**
 - **Jesus is the ultimate and perfect revelation of the Father**
 - **Jesus is the only acceptable and worthy sacrifice**
 - Jesus>Angels
 - **Why is it important that the author must clarify that Jesus is greater than angels?**
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- This section begins by quoting the Old Testament, which this book frequently pulls from.
 - The Old Testament text being used is Psalm 2:7.
 - Psalm 2 is famously known for being the second half of a larger Psalm, being both Psalm 1 and 2, in which David prophesies about the Son of God.
 - The next section appeals to 2 Samuel 7:14; the context of this verse concerns David, his reign, and his royal dynasty, specifically concerning his heir, Solomon.
 - Later Psalm 104 is alluded to in verse 7. Psalm 104 is a messianic Psalm in which a Messiah is foreseen to be both Priest and King.
 - The next verses quote both Psalm 45 and Psalm 102 in the same sentence.
 - The last Old Testament allusion takes place in verse 13 when the author quotes Psalm 110.
 - As demonstrated, Hebrews is riddled with Old Testament text, and the author masterfully uses these to build his argument for Jesus. Let's unpack what is actually said in these verses.
 - Unlike the angels, Jesus is God's firstborn Son (verses 5-6)
 - **What does it mean that Jesus is "firstborn"?**
 - Through referencing Psalm 2 and 2 Samuel 7, this is explicitly referring to Jesus as God, the chosen Messiah, Son of God; these are titles that no angel can obtain.
 - No one can be worshipped but God.
 - Unlike the angels, Jesus is the anointed King (verses 7-9)
 - 2 quotations are found here: Psalms 45 and 104. The angels are viewed as heavenly servants; Jesus is anointed and has a throne. His reign is boundless physically and eternal.
 - Notice that the author seems to use Old Testament text to demonstrate the Trinity in verse 9, when he quotes Psalm 45 to say "therefore God, your God..."

- Unlike the angels, Jesus serves as the uncreated creator (verses 10-12)
 - Be amazed at our creator, who has forever ruled and cannot change, yet decides to pursue individual relationships with each one of us; what a blessing!
 - He has been facilitating a plan from the beginning of time to unite himself back to us for his glory and our good.
- Unlike the angels, Jesus is the conqueror (verses 13-14)
 - This last one is in a similar vein to Jesus being the heir of all things; everything belongs to Jesus. He has conquered death and is the ultimate sacrifice for sins.

Hebrews 2:1-4

Continuing...

- Chapter 2 of Hebrews is not a separate thought or idea from Chapter 1.
This is quite evident with the opening word “therefore”. A “therefore” entails a conclusion to the previously discussed thought explored in Chapter 1.
 - **1** “Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. **2** For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, **4** while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”
 - This is written for Christians so that they may be reminded to hold fast to Christ and not lose sight of that. God has provided a way of salvation; do not neglect that.
 - What have we heard? THE GOSPEL
 - The CHRISTian life is one lived in unity with Christ
 - Once you lose the centrality of Jesus and His perfect work, you no longer have the Gospel.
 - Hold fast to the truth of the Gospel, and you will not drift.
 - Message declared by angels (verse 2)
 - This is referring to the Mosaic law given to Israel in the OT.
 - God does NOT negotiate with His perfect holy law.
 - God takes this law so serious He sent His only Son to fulfill it.
 - God is perfectly just in punishing perpetrators of this law.
 - Only ONE has upheld this law perfectly.
 - **Question: What are some examples of Israel neglecting the law in the OT? Was there judgment?**
- The argument goes like this: If God, being fully just, was not willing to give any leeway for transgressors neglecting His perfect law, how much worse off are we to neglect this great message of salvation?

Other Helpful Resources:

- He Must Increase Podcast by Connor Shady, Josiah King, and Adam Tredeau (Official Podcast of 3:30)
- Waukesha Bible Church for Hebrews Sermons

Other Reminders:

- Get involved with a church - **Specifically WBC!**
 - Connor and Adam are teaching: 9 AM Class on 1 & 2 Timothy at WBC prior to service.
 - Connor is teaching Galatians on Wednesday Nights at 6 PM at WBC.
 - WBC service is at 10:00 AM every Sunday!
 - Check out our Website: Threethirtyministry.com
 - Join the 3:30 GroupMe or WhatsApp chat to stay up to date on everything 3:30 Ministry.
 - Also check us out on Instagram: @three.thirty.ministries and @three.thirty.mens.ministry
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The Gospel: **We Can't, God Can, Jesus Did!**

- **Sin.** None of us can escape it. Because of it, we are spiritually dead and in need of life. Our debt before God is insurmountable. It is the biggest problem any of us has, since there is nothing we can do ourselves to pay that debt. God's standard is perfection, so no amount of good works or religious activities is enough.
 - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- **But God...** These two words are some of the most powerful words in the Bible. God is merciful and loving. He did what we could never do in and of ourselves. He saved us by grace alone and gave us new life in Christ.
 - 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Jesus saves.** He is God's gift to us. He paid our debt before the Father. And through his death and resurrection, we are raised to eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is only through Christ that we live a life pleasing to God.
 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)