

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Chapter 2

Warning #1

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how 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.

Redemption through Christ not Angels

⁵For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?

⁷You made him for a little while lower than the
angels;

you have crowned him with glory and honor,

⁸putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Savior had to be human

¹⁰For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹**For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,**

¹²saying,

Lesson 3

The first of several warnings found in Hebrews. Christians must remain faithful to the message they received from Christ lest they turn aside from the Gospel and find perdition (as did the Hebrews in the desert with Moses.)

Psalm 8:4-6 The New Testament repeatedly quotes this Psalm as referring to Jesus as Messiah. This quotation, acknowledges that Mankind is humbler in nature than the Angels, and yet, through exaltation of a “Son of Man”, Mankind will be crowned with glory, honor and dominion.

That Son of Man is _____

Jesus was crowned with glory and honor because of the _____ of _____.

What did Christ accomplish by dying? He tasted death for _____.

NOTE: God’s _____ was the motivating force behind Christ’s death for everyone. (IOW, it was the active work of the _____ in the world, and in mankind, that brought about the dying of Christ Jesus.)

Sanctify = to be made holy

_____ makes holy, _____ are being made holy. See healings)

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation
I will sing your praise.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

For comparison, The New Jerusalem Bible translation is supplied below. It is an example of a good translation of this passage which aids in comprehension.

NJB ¹⁴ Since all the children share the same human nature, he too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could set aside him who held the power of death, namely the devil, ¹⁵ and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself the line of Abraham. ¹⁷ It was essential that he should in this way be made completely like his brothers so that he could become a compassionate and trustworthy high priest for their relationship to God, able to expiate the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For the suffering he himself passed through while being put to the test enables him to help others when they are being put to the test.

V. 12, Psalm 22:22 (The Psalm Jesus quoted while on the Cross)

V. 13, Isaiah 8:17-18; Isaiah speaking to and of his disciples. Isaiah, the most Messianic of Prophets, is used to speak of Christ's connection to his followers.

Paragraph Worth Memorizing

2:14-18

Summary of the Argument

1. Human nature includes the “sharing” of flesh and blood. (Humans are a “social” creature, each of us connected through the flesh we share.)
2. Through the incarnation, the Son took human flesh—took our nature—and became one of us, and therefore subject to death.
3. To destroy death through death
4. Therefore delivering humanity from the bondage of sin (aka the fear of death)
5. He “ _____ ”
like his _____ in
every _____, so that,
6. He might become our merciful and faithful High Priest, in order to
7. Make _____ (or
to expiation)
Propitiation = appeasement of _____
Expiation = make amends or
reparation / _____.
8. Jesus is able to help those who are tempted. Tempted to do what? To commit the original sin. When was Jesus ever tempted to commit the original sin? In the _____ of Gethsemane.

Excursion: v. 16, St. Thomas had much to say about the concepts in this verse.