

**STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS**  
**A Study of Hebrews 2:1-18**  
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**Introduction – Review**

- The apostle Paul is believed to be the author of the epistle to the Hebrews (**GC 347, 411, 413, 420-421**).
- Timothy was a close ministry associate of Paul, and is mentioned in the book of Hebrews (**Heb. 13:23**), similar to other epistles written by Paul (**2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:2; 1:18; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 2:1; Philemon 1:1**).
- Produced prior to Jerusalem’s destruction in AD 70, this epistle was written to Jewish Christians, and might have also been used as an evangelistic tool to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel message.
- One of the central themes in the book of Hebrews is the “**Jesus is better than . . .**” theme.
- In **Heb. 1:1-14**, Christ is identified as God, Creator, the Son of God, and the one true revelation of what God is like; overall, Jesus is superior to holy angels (“He is better than angels”).

**Hebrews 2 – Reflections on Hebrews 2:1-4**

- Because Christ has a superior nature and position over holy angels, Christians should seriously heed the words of Christ’s salvation delivered by God’s messengers so that they don’t fall away from the truth.
- If the Word of God that had been delivered by holy angels is binding and brings a swift consequence for disobedience (**Acts 7:53**), how shall Christians be released from obedience or escape God’s judgment for violating the Word of Christ, who is better than holy angels?
- Those who receive a greater revelation of light and truth have a greater responsibility and accountability; OT believers had revelations of Christ through types and shadows, while the eyewitnesses of Christ and His apostles had a direct revelation of Christ first-hand, and therefore had a greater accountability.
- The Word of God was confirmed by the eyewitness testimony of His apostolic messengers, most of whom heard and saw Christ in person, as well as manifestations of divine power through the Holy Spirit’s work.
- Faithful believers should embrace the words of Christ and take them to heart in order to be confirmed in their salvation experience, lest they place themselves in danger of slipping and backsliding from the faith.

**Hebrews 2 – Reflections on Hebrews 2:5-8**

- God has not placed holy angels in authority over the heavenly world that Christians look forward to seeing and entering one day; rather, God has placed Christ in a position of authority over this heavenly world.
- God has also not placed human beings over the heavenly world; rather, He has chosen a special Human Being, Jesus Christ, to have power and authority over the heavenly world; although redeemed human beings and holy angels will have special positions in the heavenly world, Christ ultimately rules over all.
- God created sinless human beings (i.e. Adam and Eve) a little lower than angelic beings in nature and stature; He entrusted Adam and Eve, the crowning act of His creation, with authority over planet earth.
- Although Adam and Eve were entrusted as heads of earth, they forfeited their exalted position to Satan when they committed sin; yet, Christ, the second Adam (**Rom. 5:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:45-47**), along with His Church (the second metaphorical “Eve,” **Gen. 3:15**), will re-establish God’s authority over planet earth.
- Once sin and sinners are finally eradicated, Christ will have pre-eminent authority over all of creation.

**Hebrews 2 – Reflections on Hebrews 2:9-13**

- Jesus took on a full and complete human nature, being made a little lower than angelic beings during His incarnation; because He suffered the spiritual equivalent of the collective second death for every human being who has ever lived, He is crowned with honor and glory from God by satisfying the penalty for sin.
- Jesus became a real human being, lived a perfectly sinless life, and satisfied the penalty for sin through His suffering and death on the Cross; this is why Paul referred to Him as the “captain of our salvation.”
- As the “captain of our salvation,” Jesus is able offer salvation to every human being, and the people who respond to His gift of salvation on a daily basis will see the glory of eternity when He returns.

- The One who sanctifies (Christ) and those who are sanctified (the faithful) are unified as one through the humanity of Christ; because He is one with His people, Jesus refers to us as His brethren (**Rom. 8:29**).
- Christ has praised and declared God's holy name to His brethren in the midst of His church.
- Jesus has trusted in God to enable Him to complete the plan of salvation; once this plan is complete, He will present His redeemed children to God the Father, those whom God has given Him to be saved.

### **Hebrews 2 – Reflections on Hebrews 2:14-18**

- Christ partook of flesh and blood as a human being, just as every other person is made of flesh and blood.
- Once again, through His death on the Cross, Jesus has destroyed the power of Satan and death; this death has made deliverance from the spiritual bondage of sin possible for every responsive human being.
- Christ did not take on an angelic nature during His incarnation; rather, once again, He took on a full and complete human nature as the biological seed of Abraham.
- He was made a human being in every way as we are, without surrendering His divine nature; the only difference between our humanity and Christ's humanity is that He never committed sin or had any evil propensities or inclinations to commit sin.
- Christ experienced human nature so that He can sympathize with fallen human beings as far as their struggles with temptation; this experience empowers Him to serve as a merciful and faithful high priest, because He knows first-hand what it is like to be human and experience temptation.
- Because Christ has experienced temptation, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

### **Summary of Hebrews 2:1-18**

- If we lose faith in Christ's salvation and the Word of God, we place ourselves in danger of backsliding from the faith; if we persist in this condition, we will eventually experience the consequences of disobedience.
- As the second Adam, Christ experienced a human nature that is lower than the nature of angelic beings.
- Just as the first Adam had authority over creation prior to his fall, so will Christ have complete authority over creation once sin and sinners are finally eradicated and the great controversy is concluded.
- Christ took on humanity to taste the experience of death for all people; His death on the Cross satisfied the divine penalty for sin and makes salvation available to anyone who chooses to have faith in Him.
- Christ's incarnate experience in human nature enables Him to become one with sanctified believers; He refers to His faithful followers as His brethren, and stands at the head of redeemed humanity.
- Through His faithfulness during the incarnation, Christ has destroyed the power of Satan and death.
- Christ did not experience an angelic nature during the incarnation, but flesh and blood as the biological seed of Abraham; He can relate to temptation, and thus can help fallen human beings who are tempted.
- This relatable humanity empowers Christ to serve as a faithful and merciful high priest for humanity.
- Overall, **Heb. 1:1-14** describes how Christ is better than angelic beings; in like manner, **Heb. 2:1-18** describes how Christ, the second Adam, is better than the first Adam and every other human being.