

# Studies in Hebrews

## *Lesson III*

### **Text:** Hebrews 2:1-18 (NIV)

**1** We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. **2** For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, **3** how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. **4** God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

**5** It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. **6** But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? **7** You made him a little<sup>[a]</sup> lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor **8** and put everything under his feet." <sup>[b]</sup> In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. **9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

**10** In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. **12** He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."<sup>[c]</sup> **13** And again, "I will put my trust in him."<sup>[d]</sup> And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."<sup>[e]</sup>

**14** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15** and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. **16** For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. **17** For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for<sup>[f]</sup> the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

#### **Footnotes:**

a. Or him for a little while; also in verse 9 b. Psalm 8:4-6 c. Psalm 22:22 d. Isaiah 8:17  
e. Isaiah 8:18 f. Or and that he might turn aside God's wrath, taking away

# Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Why is it critical to pay attention to what we've been taught about Jesus? (vv. 1-3)
2. How does one recognize a genuine word from the Lord? (vv. 3-4)
3. What is God's plan for angels and redeemed humans in the future? (vv. 5-8)
4. What kind of self-image can we derive from verse 7 and 8?
5. According to verses 9-10, how did Jesus accomplish God's plan of salvation?
6. What relationship do we have to Jesus? (vs. 11) What difference does it make to be a "brother" of Jesus?
7. In verses 12-13, the writer pulls references from the Tanakh (the Old Testament scriptures) to bolster the credibility of his case for Christ. After reading this passage, how should we respond—knowing that we are accepted in God's own family?
8. What was the basic reason behind the incarnation of Christ? In other words, why did he have to come in the flesh? (vv. 14-17)
9. In what way does the suffering of Jesus help those who are suffering today? (vs. 18)