

Hebrews 2.1-4

It's Easy to get to Hell

Some NEWS Junkies – Must STAY in Touch w/ Latest from HOMELAND

SWITCHED Off News – All BAD! or Feel Good Stories of Rescuing Puppies

DARE Not TURN Off CHANNEL from Heaven – Don't Need VPN > BIBLE

First BROADCASTER was MOSES...

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart”

Deuteronomy 6.4-7

1. Good News from Heaven

a. Trustworthy ANGEL = MESSENGER > Sent with Authority & Integrity

v. 2 the message declared by angels proved to be reliable

Because it is FROM GOD their MESSAGE was RELIABLE

when the Lord came from Sinai ‘at his right hand were angels with him’

Deuteronomy 33.2 Septuagint

the law... it was put in place through angels

Galatians 3.19

We have learned from God the most excellent of our teachings, and the most holy part of our law from angels.

Josephus

WORD of GOD is SUFFICIENT > Enough to Know Him & BE SAVED

Jesus TALKED More about Hell than Heaven > Did Not Want Anyone To Go!

Rich Man in HELL –Calls across Great CHASM to Father Abraham in GLORY

And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers —so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘*They have Moses and the Prophets*; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Luke 16.27-31

b. Threatening EVERY VIOLATION received Just Punishment

v. 2 every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution

OLD Covenant PUNISHMENT for IGNORING Word of ANGEL > DEATH

Often hear GOD OF O.T. is GOD of WRATH > ONE God OT/NT – SAME

I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20.5,6

Almost 20 Crimes in OT COULD Carry DEATH PENALTY

PRIMARY Purpose God's Law Restitution, Rehabilitation, and Atonement

Punishment was Not the Point > Capital Punishment was RARE in ISRAEL

LAW called for JUSTICE & TRUTH – NOT MOB Violence...

- at least two reliable eyewitnesses
- evidence that was neither circumstantial nor self-incriminatory
- testimony from witnesses, *not* family members or personal confession
- proven premeditation before the act of crime

Even with CLARIFICATION and DISCLAIMERS

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10.31

We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

1 Corinthians 10.8-11

Stephen – in his “Sermon to DIE FOR” Warned his Countrymen...

“...you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Acts 7.51-53

2. Even Better News from Heaven

a. Saves

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3.17

RABBINIC Teaching > Argues from LESSER to GREATER

If it is DEADLY to IGNORE Word of an ANGEL

HOW Dare we IGNORE the CREATOR of the ANGELS

Amazing NEWS > LORD of Angels went LOWER than the Angels...

v. 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Hebrews 1.3

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.

Hebrews 2.9

we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God

Hebrews 4.14

he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him Hebrews 5.9

in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation

Hebrews 6.9

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7.25

...Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9.28

CAPSTONE of REVELATION and REDEMPTION is JESUS CHRIST

If the breakers of the law did not go unpunished, certainly despisers of the gospel cannot expect to do so.

P.E. Hughes

b. Sure

When you HEAR Something that SOUNDS Too Good to be TRUE it OFTEN IS

Better be SURE before Sending your Banking Details to Nigeria – when Promise you 10 million dollars – NOTICE that Lots of People got SAME E-MAIL

GOSPEL Promises of FAR GREATER Riches – FREELY given by FAITH

4 Witnesses to DIVINE ORIGIN of Message of Salvation

a. Announced by JESUS > v. 3 It was declared at first by the Lord

“in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” Hebrews 1.2

Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1.15

Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Matthew 9.35

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1.3

b. Attested v. 3 it was attested to us by those who heard > APOSTLES

Apostle John: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our

hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you... 1 John 3.1-3

EYE Witnesses – EAR Witnesses – even TOUCHED the Lord of GLORY
Not just Human Testimony > God CONFIRMED its TRUTH by His POWER

No Question or Doubt about RELIABILITY of Message of Christ
GREAT Minds applied to TRANSMISSION, TRANSLATION, TEACHING of
HOLY SCRIPTURES thru out the Last 3000 Years

Apostle Paul: “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God” 1 Thessalonians 2.13

In and through the Scriptures we see the glory of God. What the apostles saw face-to-face in Jesus Christ they impart to us through the words of Scripture... The glory that they saw in Christ, we can see through their words. The human words of Scripture are seen to be divine the way the human man Jesus was seen to be divine. Not all saw it. But the glory was there. John Piper

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit contributed to the preaching of this great salvation by their human agents the apostles. Tesfaye Kassa, Ethiopia

v. 3 it was attested to us by those who heard > AUTHOR & READERS 2nd Gen.

Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead... For I did not receive it (the gospel) from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1.1,12

Very UNLIKELY this Letter Written by PAUL – 1st Gen Apostle – Saw Jesus

c. Affirmed

v. 3 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles

The Lord announced the word. The ones who proclaim it are a great company.
Psalm 68.11

OUTPOURINGS of MIRACLES Accompany GIVING of REVELATION

Miracles Authenticate God's Message and His Messengers

Paul: "For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles... The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works."
2 Corinthians 12.11,12

Miracles Validated Moses & Prophets / Christ & Apostles

If MIRACLES Confirm Scripture > Not Surprising SO Many Miracles w/ Bible
MIRACLES also Evidence Coming of God's KINGDOM, Declare His GLORY

There is nothing inappropriate in seeking miracles for the proper purposes for which they are given by God: to confirm the truthfulness of the gospel message, to bring help to those in need, to remove hindrances to people's ministries, and to bring glory to God. Miracles still happen, and Christians should avoid two extremes... seeing everything as a miracle and seeing nothing as a miracle.
Wayne Grudem

Not SURPRISED to Hear stories of MIRACLES on Frontiers of Gospel Advance

PERISTROIKA of USSR 1991 – Great Number M's into that Land

People were CURIOUS, OPEN, SEARCHING > Many CONVERTS

Record NUMBERS of MUSLIMS believed in 'ISA / Jesus in Central Asia

Met MANY who TOLD me of MIRACLES that Accompanied PREACHING

Later in 1990's BIBLE Translated into Languages of Central Asia

Team in church I pastored in Almaty > Entire Bible into KAZAKH Language

My Kazakh Christian Friends RARE to See Miracle Today > Have BIBLE

Christian FAITH is WORD based > Believers called to READ & LEARN

What DISAPPOINTED Jesus > People had ABUNDANT Evidence

God's Covenant, Law, Sacrifices, Temple DEMANDED More SIGNS

I think Jesus is Disappointed Today > Our Homelands, Many Churches, Bibles, Ministries > Christians there are DEMANDING More Signs and Miracles Today
Ask God to do MIRACLES that SAVE the Lost who will Glorify His NAME!

The Bible itself shows that our ultimate goal in reading the Bible is that God's infinite worth and beauty would be exalted in the everlasting, white-hot worship of the blood-bought bride of Christ from every people, language, tribe, and nation.
John Piper

d. Authority v. 2 and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will
RISEN Jesus builds Churches > filled w/ Spirit-filled-endowed BELIEVERS
Every BELIEVER is GIFTED (Look at article in Bulletin to help Find Yours!)

Father in Heaven Loves Us – Showers w/ Blessings for Our Good & His Glory
The 'greater works' done by those coming after Jesus point primarily to the new eschatological order established by Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension.
D.A. Carson

1980's Dayna & I teachers in Bishop Tucker Theological College in UGANDA
3 Small SONS wanted to Fix SWING in the Tree for them to PLAY
18 yr old JOHN worked College Farm – Delivered Milk – Came by to Help Me
Fell Out of Tree landed Hard – Took to Local Dr. – then RUBAGA Hospital

At that time READING NEW Book by JOHN WIMBER "Power Healing"
Claimed RAISING the DEAD is Normal for a REAL Healing Ministry
Prayed FERVENTLY – With Tears – FELL doing FAVOR for US!
I have NO DOUBT God CAN Raise the Dead > Believing Prayer for John
Some Teachers say "I did Not have Enough Faith!" That Nigh John DIED

v. 2 and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will
 Miracle Supernatural Event – No Human Explanation – Suspends Natural Order
 Not SOMETHING we can COMMAND or CONTROL > Work of GOD

Paul: “To keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 2 Corinthians 12.7-9

3. This News Must be Heard

a. Deaf

v. 1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard

Word THEREFORE in Bible > LINKING Word – BEFORE and AFTER

When you see THEREFORE you should ASK What is it There For?

CLIMAX of Teaching on ANGELS --- Application of SERMON in Chapter 1

The “So What” – If Jesus better than Angels SO WHAT!

1st of 6 EXHORTATIONS Hebrews > If Jesus is BETTER than you MUST

TODAY People Not Open to EXHORTATIONS – Mind your Own Business!

3 Commandments of Modern Man

1. Be True to Yourself
2. Do what Makes you Happy
3. Nobody has Right to tell Another what is Right and Wrong

What if Someone in GREAT Danger – Life Threatening! Eternity Threatening!
And you KEPT Quiet and they're GONE

Writer of Hebrews LOVES these People TOO Much to KEEP QUIET

...it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing Hebrews 5.11

Monday Morning Studying these Verses and got a SKYPE call from KZ..

“You are a Great Pastor!” Voice of woman Dayna & I Strongly Exhorted!

Challenged her and new husband in church I pastored in KZ

NOT About US – Just 2 Broken Sinners to 2 Others > LOOK TO JESUS!

Not Easy or Fun – For Us or Them – But Healing Fruit can Result > 10 yrs Ago!

Jesus: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2.7,11,17,29,3.6,13,22

NOT Gonna HEAR if you DON'T READ, COME, LISTEN

HOW do You LISTEN to a SERMON?

And all the people gathered *as one man* into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses... So Ezra the priest brought the Law ... he read from it... *from early morning until midday*, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand... Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “*Amen, Amen,*” *lifting up their hands*. And they *bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground*... They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that *the people understood the reading... all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law*. Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And *do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength*.”... And *day by day*, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast *seven days* from Nehemiah 8

b. Drift DARE Say in this ROOM – *Some, maybe Many* – STOPPED Listening
 You can WATCH 2 hour Movie – But cannot Focus 20 Minutes on a Sermon
 If you were Honest w/ Me you'd Admit – Stopped Reading Bible – Long Ago?!

If you are Christian THINKING “I am glad he’s talking to those Non-Xtians”
 Actually, I am TALKING to YOU > Hebrews written to People in CHURCH
 Apparently NOT All the Church was REALLY IN – TRUE Church of Jesus

Jesus declared his word to those who were easily robbed of its message, easily deflected by its adversity, or easily preoccupied by either anxiety or avarice. He also declared it to people who were delighted to accept it, ready to obey it, and eager to believe it. We must have a similar response if we are not to drift along in life without aim and purpose. Raymond Brown

Have Not LOST your Faith? – Come to Church? – Ministry Team? – Faithful?
 Not CRIMINAL – Basically GOOD, Most of the TIME – But you're DRIFTING
 SOWER'S SCATTERED SEED is Eaten by the BIRDS

v. 1 we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away
 This GREAT SALVATION in Jesus > You can IGNORE IT...Now Anyway!
 MORE People out on STREETS – Doing their Thing – Than HERE in Worship

Greek Word here – Describes BOAT allowed to DRIFT Away Aimlessly
 RING that SLIPS OFF a Finger // WATER that LEAKS Out of a Cracked JAR

Holy Spirit REVEALS God's Truth / SATAN ROBS people of God's Truth

If you examined a hundred people who had lost their faith in Christianity. I wonder how many of them would turn out to have been reasoned out of it by honest argument? Do not most people simply drift away? C.S. Lewis

Could get lay on AIR Mattress in some Beaches in Hawaii and just RELAX
 Soon Find Myself – Far out to Sea – Heading to California! – Just Do Nothing

Maybe GOD and His WORD are TOO FAMILIAR?

Remember when 1st got to Beijing – Exciting People, Places > BORED!?

Maybe just TOO BUSY to give GOD any TIME or REAL ATTENTION?

SNOWFLAKE is very TINY > AIR is Full of them they can BURY YOU!

1000 Cares of Each Day COVER the GLORY of God like SNOWDRIFT

Do not neglect the gift you have...

1 Timothy 4.14

Heb. Exhortations & Warnings get Stronger > All Spoken to People on Inside

But if the author is speaking to the Christian community in this text, what does it mean for one to drift from the message of salvation? Does it mean to fall out of fellowship with God, or more seriously to lose salvation?...Can one drift from the message without drifting from God? From the broader context of Hebrews, the answer to this question is a resounding “no!”

George Guthrie

Only KNOW God THRU His MESSAGE – Message TETHERS us to GOD

I do NOT have Heavenly X-Ray Machine > Can't See your HEART before God

NOT Know WHO is FOLLOWER and who is FAKE > God Does, YOU DO!

Seems from this Passage it is EASY to Get to HELL...

NOTHING to It – It's as EASY as DRIFTING, IGNORING, & NEGLECTING

Jesus: “For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7.13,14

I fear the Dark Spectre may come too soon –
or do I mean, too late?

That I should end before I finish
or finish, but not well.

That I should stain your honor, shame your name,
grieve your loving heart.

Few, they tell me, finish well...

Lord, let me get home before dark

Robertson McQuiklin, "Let Me Get Home Before Dark"

Hebrews 2.¹Therefore 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, ⁴while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.