HEBREWS CHAPTER 2

I. Verses 1-4 Extreme Danger of Neglecting Jesus and the New Covenant

A. Verse 1

1. *"Therefore ..."* because of the Son's identity, history, rank, and His promised inheritance described in chapter 1

2. we must not *"drift away"* from the Apostles' teaching (a boating metaphor parallel to the *"anchor of the soul"* metaphor in Heb. 6:19)

3. especially as we are *"about to inherit the deliverance"* (Heb. 1:14)

B. Verse 2

1. *"the word spoken through messengers"* refers to the giving of the Law of Moses on Mt. Sinai (Deut. 33:2 LXX; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19)

2. Under the Law of Moses, punishment was severe (1 Cor. 10:1-11; Heb. 10:28-29; Jude 1:5)

C. Verse 3

1. How can we escape similar punishment if we "neglect" the message delivered through God's own Son?

2. This implies a uniform standard of justice.

3. Our penalty for neglect is MORE SEVERE because the SON is so much greater than MOSES (Heb. 10:28-29)

D. Verse 4

1. The Law of Moses was accompanied by supernatural signs; the New Covenant was accompanied by Jesus' miracles, supernatural signs, and dispensing spiritual gifts on those directly under the Apostles' preaching (Mark 16:15-18).

2. The 12 Apostles alone were given the unique ability to impart spiritual gifts to others (Acts 8:14-19; Rom. 1:9-11; 2 Tim. 1:6)

II. Verses 5-8 The coming AGE (Christ's Millennial Kingdom)

A. Verse 5

1. The *"world to come"* is Christ's Millennial Kingdom … (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 20:1-4)

2. … *"of which we speak"* (in chapter 1) in which God's *"begotten SON"* is *"King"* of all nations on Mt. Zion and *"Heir"* of the whole earth (Psalm 2:7-9; Heb. 1:2,8-9)

3. It is not under the dominion of God's "messengers / angels"

B. Verse 6-8

1. Quotes Psalm 8:4-6 which interprets Genesis 1:28

2. Man was created "below" God's heavenly messengers in rank

3. Adam was originally appointed to rule the whole earthly dominion, including all animals which were required to obey him.

4. Mankind forfeited his dominion over the earth when Adam sinned

III. Verses 9-10 God's Remedy – Jesus

A. Verse 9

1. JESUS, the 2nd Adam (1 Cor. 15:45-49), has been "crowned with glory and honor" (Psalm 110:1; Phil. 2:6-10) after first having been "made a little lower than the messengers."

2. Jesus made fully human so that He would suffer DEATH like Adam, yet conquer it.

B. Verse 10

1. Jesus, the PROTOTYPE perfect Man, the PIONEER of our rescue from DEATH

2. The 'HEIR' (for whom) of the world, and AGENT (through whom) of creation

3. He had to become 'PERFECTED' through suffering and struggle (Phil. 2:6-10)

4. He is LEADING many (adopted) "sons" to glorification as we FOLLOW Him

IV. Verses 11-13 God's begotten Son became one of us

A. Verse 11

1. Both Jesus & believers are *"all out from one man,"* Adam

B. Verse 12-13

1. We are Jesus' "brothers" (and sisters) proven from:

a. Psalm 22:22

b. Isaiah 8:16-18

V. Verses 14-18 WHY God's Son had to become exactly like us

A. Verse 14

1. Jesus had to become fully human, subject to death, to defeat "death" and the one having the power of death, the devil. (This power is through deception, leading to sin, which leads to death).

B. Verse 15

1. To release us from the "fear of death" (His demonstration of resurrection to immortality)

C. Verse 16

1. No "fear of death" for the heavenly "messengers" (Luke 20:36), but Abraham's seed did fear death.

D. Verse 17

1. Jesus had to be transformed into a human being **IN EVERY WAY**.

a. He "emptied Himself" of His divinity in the incarnation (Phil. 2:6-10).

b. This was necessary so that He could function as a "faithful High Priest" for us, to "atone" (reconcile through pity) for our sins.

E. Verse 18

1. Jesus' own temptations, struggles, and sufferings make Him empathetic towards our weaknesses and failures.