

Hebrews 2

V1 The old covenant of Sinai was communicated by angels (according to Jewish tradition – not noted in the OT (although the LXX mentions angels), but it's an intertestamental tradition and reiterated in the NT see Gal 3:19; Acts 7:53), but God's final revelation is communicated by his son and therefore demands more careful attention. We are in danger if we drift away from this.

V2-3 The Sinai covenant had severe sanctions for breaking it, so what will happen to us if we break the new covenant which is given by a greater authority than angels? The great salvation was announced by Christ using the words God had given him to speak – probably these people hadn't heard it from Christ's lips, but it was reported orally by eye witnesses, in the letters of Paul etc

V4 many of the apostles as well as Jesus had performed miracles. The Holy Spirit was not just given to the apostles at Pentecost but to all new believers (Acts 6:5; 7:55; Acts 8:15-17; Acts 10:45; Gal 3:5; 1 Pet 1:12)

V5-9 Humiliation of the Son of Man

Psalm 8:4-6. Christ was made lower than the angels in the incarnation and everything is to be made subject to him. The words were originally applied to humans now to the God-man.

V8b was limited to things on earth concerning man, but Christ is over all the universe (1 Cor 15:27)

V9 Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels in the incarnation is now exalted to the highest level.

V10 Christ's suffering was genuine – he was fully human. Note especially the burden of bearing our sins and separation from the Father. Jesus was always perfect as God, but is now perfect as the God-man he is the perfect saviour.

V11 Jesus is fully Man so he is identified with us as our brother.

V12-13 3 OT quotes

Psalm 22:22. Jesus spoke the opening words of this Psalm on the cross.

Isaiah 8:17 – commit yourself to Yahweh, brings us back to Psalm 22

Isaiah 8:18 But in the Hebrew text they form the first part of a longer sentence: "Behold, I and the children whom Yahweh has given me are signs and portents in Israel from Yahweh of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. That the Son of God's confidence in his Father had been vindicated by his exaltation was not yet a matter of public manifestation; it had been revealed to believers and was proclaimed by them as part of their witness. But the life and witness of these believers—members of the family of Christ—was a token to the world that it had not seen or heard the last of Jesus of Nazareth.

Christians are the children of Christ.

V14 we are the children. The triumphant nature of Christ's death was very difficult for early Jewish Christians (a) their ideas about Messiah, (b) hung on a tree etc

WHAT THE CROSS ACHIEVED

V15 Christ couldn't pay the price for our sins unless he became human. Resurrection not mentioned in Hebrews but implied.