

Daily Devotions

Hebrews – Week 1

(Vs 7-17) The example of Israel in the wilderness is used to show that some never got into God's rest (Canaan) because of unbelief.

(Vs 18-19) I believe this book is written to convince some hesitant Jewish people of Christ. In fact there are some clear passages calling them to salvation. These two verses surely have a message for a lost man who is working for his salvation. However the application is dual, we as Christians can surely miss what God has for us in the Christian life because we do not believe God. Is your life characterized by Faith or Fear? Ask God to give you faith to trust Him, feed your faith and starve your fear!

Saturday/Sunday (Chapt 4: 1-11)

This chapter is a "conclusion" chapter it is the ending and reinforcing of the aforementioned thoughts.

(Vs 1) This is a verse similar to 2 Cor 13:5. The word to note is "seem" *I.e. Be concerned if you seem to have fallen short in unbelief.*

(Vs 2-3) The message is powerful but needs to be mixed with faith in the hearers.

(Vs 4-8) There are 4 "rests." 1. God's rest after creation 2. Salvation rest. 3. Heaven's rest spoken of by Christ (Vs 8)

(Vs 9-11) The forth "rest" is by faith and it is for "the people of God" now (Vs 9).

This rest is a inner rest that comes from serving the Lord. It is a rest that is entered into by labour. (Vs 11) I think this is what Jesus was referring to in Matthew 11:29. To enter into this rest we must "cease from our works" Vs 10.

Are you serving the Lord? Are you laboring to enter into this rest?

Monday (Hebrews 1:1-14)

The book of Hebrews was written to Hebrews to show that Christ fulfilled the OT patterns. Christ was the final "High Priest"

(Vs 1-3) God in times past and in many different ways spoke to us, but now speaks to us through His Son (See also Acts 1:2) Vs 3 is a prelude to the whole book.... Christ the express image of God purged our sins and is in heaven at the right hand of God!

(Vs 4-9) Christ is superior to the angels, He is not a contemporary of them but the expression of God. Read Vs 8 carefully. What does God call the Son?

(Vs 10- 13) Christ is the Creator but He is greater than the creation, when we compare Christ to the angels we see there is no comparison. (Vs 13) Paul wanted the Hebrews to know that Christ was not a mystic heavenly being but the God of the universe.

(Vs 14) Angels have their place however. They are ministering spirits ministering to "heirs of salvation" If you are saved, God watches over you with angels. This is a real thing, they are not to be worshipped, adorned, but they are the servants of God.

Tuesday (Hebrews 2: 1-8)

(Vs 1-4) This is what a preacher would call a "rabbit trail." It is a warning to "hear and heed" the message. The angels were punished for disobedience (Satan's fallen clan). How shall we escape if we merely hear the message?

(Vs 5-8) The world will ultimately be put under "Christ's feet," but for now we see Him made a "little lower than the angels" (the incarnation into Bethlehem's manger) Vs 8 is **very** important. There

are many people who try to grasp the “incarnation of Christ” (becoming flesh) and make terrible mistakes. For instance: one good man says Jesus probably heard from Joseph and Mary that He was God and grew into His role. Utter nonsense; at no point did Jesus ever not have any part of creation out of His control, He willingly laid aside the prerogatives of His deity, but it still shined through in His miracles. The miracle of the season (and the ages) is God veiled in flesh submitted Himself to every stage of humanity. As a day old baby He knew He was God (Vs 8) Have you thanked Christ for His trek from Bethlehem’s manger to Calvary’s cross?

Wednesday (Hebrews 2:9-18)

The miracle of the ages is Christ the manifestation of God to man, but what do we see? Do we see the triumphant Creator to whom all creation bows?

(Vs 9) We see a suffering servant, made lower than the angels (*remember we have already seen how Christ is greater than the angels*) We see Jesus, God manifest to man walking to Calvary’s cross to taste death for every man.

(Vs 10) Here we see again Christ did not lose His authority, all was still by Him and for Him, but it was proper that He should set this aside to be the “captain” (*Author*) of our salvation and bring many “sons” into glory

(Vs 11) Christ is the “sanctifier” and we are “sanctified” We are one and He is not ashamed to call us “brethren” (Vs 12-13)

(Vs 14-16) Because we are flesh and blood, He took not the nature of the angels, but the seed of Abraham and came to deliver us

(Vs 17-18) What are we left with? A faithful High priest who walked where we walk and knows what we face and understands our infirmities and is able to strengthen us!

Thursday (Chapt 3:1-6)

In the beginning of the book we saw how Christ is above the angels, however we do not see Him as such right now: We see a suffering servant. Now, Paul begins to speak of Christ’s superiority to Moses and in this arena we see Christ as superior.

(Vs 1-6) Moses watched over a “house” (a religious shadow) Christ is the substance of that “religious shadow” (Vs 5-6) Just as Moses was faithful over his “house” so is Christ over His.

(Vs 6) We already read this verse, but it teaches an overlooked truth. We are saved by Faith and that alone. However saving faith will persevere. The persevering is not what saves, but identifies true faith. Look at Hebrews 3:14. (*1 John 2:19, 1 Cor 15:2*)

I have heard it put this way “Perseverance in faith is the best evidence of the sincerity of our faith. “ Faith is misunderstood today; I don’t have faith because I tell you I do. I have faith because it is visible; you can see it. This is the premise of James 2:14-26.

This is why Jesus said “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16-23.) You see in this passage many say “Lord, Lord” but still do iniquity and He does not know them. Not because of their sin but the hypocrisy of their faith. True faith will work. (CF. Titus 1:16, Eph 2:8-10, Hebrews 11)

We have assurance that if we have faith in the Lord that He is faithful over His house (us)

Friday (Chapt 3:7-19)

As we read these verses we read of “rest.” The rest is in the finished work of Christ. (Read Chapt 4:3). Can you imagine if we lived in fear of losing our salvation? You can’t lose eternal life, some falsely believe they have eternal life by mere mental assent to the gospel and they lose this mental assent and fall away, but if you have truly trusted Christ to deliver you from sin and create His righteousness in you..... you have this wonderful spiritual rest.

