

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 2

### Hebrews 2:5-3:6: A Better Adam

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.”.*

– Hebrews 2:6-8 ESV

- **So great a salvation...**

τηλικοῦτος (*tēlikoutos*) – great, mighty, so great a size

Our salvation is...

- ...beyond comparison
- ...unequaled in magnitude
- ...unrivaled in significance
- ...immeasurable in scope
- ...without parallel in outcom

*I bow my knees before the Father...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, and to know the love of Christ that **surpasses knowledge**, that you may be **filled** with all the **fullness** of God..* – Ephesians 3:14, 16-19 ESV

- **Experiential** versus **theoretical** knowledge

- A knowing based on **intimacy**, not **intimation**
- **Actual** and not **hypothetical**
- **Concrete** and not **conceptual**

“God is love” versus “I am loved by God”

*Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since **the message declared by angels** proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? – Hebrews 2:1-3 NLT*

- ...the message declared by angels...

- This is a reference to the Mosaic Law
  - The giving of the law at Mount Sinai was accompanied by angelic host

*“The Lord came from Sinai and revealed himself to Israel from Seir. He appeared in splendor from Mount Paran, and **came forth with ten thousand holy ones**. With his right hand he gave a fiery law to them.” – Deuteronomy 33:2 NET*

*Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the descendant to whom the promise had been made. **It was administered through angels by an intermediary.** – Galatians 3:19 NET*

- The “message” administered by angels dealt with sin
  - ~ It provided God’s code of conduct
  - ~ It defined what righteousness looked like
  - ~ It required perfect obedience
  - ~ And it proved to be reliable

*...every transgression or disobedience received **a just retribution**... – Hebrews 2:2 ESV*

*...the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. **The law simply shows us how sinful we are.** – Romans 8:19-20 NLT*

*Why, then, was the law given? **It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins.** But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. – Galatians 3:19 NLT*

~ The law was designed...

- ...to **define** righteousness but not **produce** it
- ...to **convict** but not **empower**
- ...to **expose** sin but not **forgive** it
- ...to make holiness **tangible**, not **achievable**
- ...to **disprove** works, not **reward** them
- ...to reveal man’s need for a **Savior**

Listen to the words of Stephen:

*“You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you! Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One – the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. You deliberately disobeyed God’s law, even though you received it from the hands of angels.” – Acts 7:51-53 NLT*

- **Jesus: Adam 2.0**

*For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,*

*“What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?  
You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
putting everything in subjection under his feet.” – Hebrews 2:5-8 ESV*

- The author continues to stress Jesus’ superiority
  - He’s better than the prophets (1:1-2)
  - He’s better than the angels (1:3-14)
  - He’s even a better version of Adam (2:5-8)
- The author quotes from Psalm 8

*...what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet... – Psalm 8:4-6 ESV*

- This is a reference to the creation of man

*“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” – Genesis 1:26 ESV*

- Man was the pinnacle of God’s creation

*God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27 ESV*

- Man was to serve as a co-regent with God

*Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. – Hebrews 2:8 ESV*

- Adam fell from his lofty position
  - He sinned and was cursed
  - He forfeited his dominion
  - He lost his right to rule
  - And cursed his descendants

*...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... – Romans 5:12 ESV*

*...many died through one man's trespass... – Romans 5:15 ESV*

*...the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation... – Romans 5:16 ESV*

*...because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man... – Romans 5:17 ESV*

*Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the **one man's disobedience** the many were made sinners, so by the **one man's obedience** the many will be made righteous. – Romans 5:18-19 ESV*

- Jesus was the better Adam

*But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, **namely 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 ESV*

*For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive **the abundance of grace** and **the free gift of righteousness** reign in life through **the one man Jesus Christ**. – Romans 5:17 ESV*

- The first Adam was **given life** but **brought death**
- The last Adam was **put to death** but **brought life**

*Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being” the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. – 1 Corinthians 15:45 ESV*

- **Back to the Beginning**

- To the genesis of their problem: **Sin**
- The source of their solution: **A Savior**
- And the means of their salvation: **His suffering**

*For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. – Hebrews 2:10 ESV*

- Their **great salvation** required **great suffering**
  - On Jesus' part, not theirs
  - He had to humble Himself by becoming a man
  - He had to endure pain and rejection
  - He had to suffer death

*...though he [Jesus] was in the form of God, [He] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. – Philippians 2:7-8 ESV*

- **The humanity of Jesus**

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God... – Hebrews 2:14-17 ESV*

- It was necessary for Jesus to become a man
- The penalty for mankind's sin was death
- A sacrifice was required
- And animal sacrifices were insufficient

*For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. – Hebrews 10:1-4 ESV*

- He became one of us so He could die for us

*God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God. – Romans 4:24-25 NLT*

- **Take a long, hard look at Jesus**

*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses— as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. – Hebrews 3:1-3 ESV*

- He's the last Adam
- He's the life-giving Spirit
- He's our apostle ("sent one")
- He's our faithful High Priest
- He's the law-keeper, not just the law-giver
- And He's worthy of glory

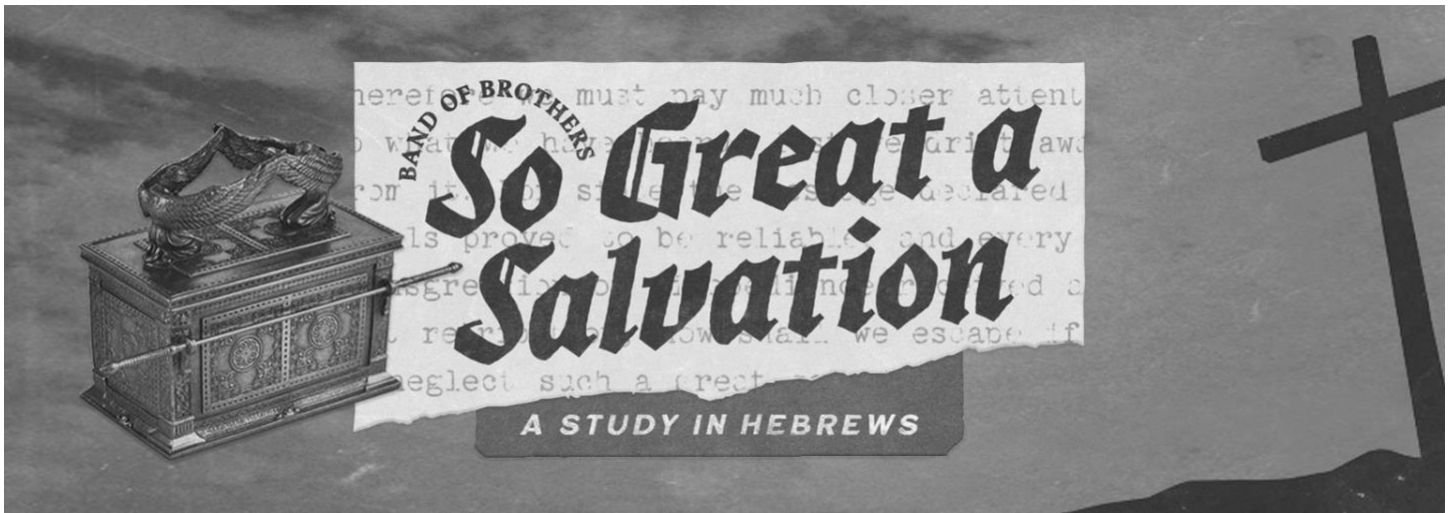
*...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. – Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT*

- **Discussion questions**

How does the world get us to take our eyes off of Jesus and what can we do about it?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:48-49. Why should this passage be a source of encouragement to us?

The author stressed the faithfulness of Moses and Jesus. What does faithfulness look like in our cultural context?



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SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 3 – Hebrews 3:7-4:16: The Danger of Disbelief

In this passage, the author calls his audience to experience the rest that Jesus came to give. He will use the example of the Israelites in the wilderness to drive home the need for obedience and faithfulness. God had offered them the promise of His rest, but it was tied to their willingness to enter and conquer the land of Canaan just as He had commanded them to do. But because they chose to disbelieve and disobey His command, an entire generation of Israelites died in the wilderness. The author uses this fateful event in Israel's past to encourage His believing audience to maintain their faith in God to the end.

- Read Hebrews 3:7-4:16. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Now read pages 21-30 of Ken's Devotionary™ on Hebrews.
- Take a look at 1 Corinthians 10:1-12. In this passage, Paul reminds his readers of their need to know and understand the history of God's chosen people, the Israelites. Even though his audience was made up primarily of Gentiles, Paul wanted them to know about what happened when the Israelites failed to enter God's rest. What lessons can you take away from these verses?

Now, read Hebrews 3:1-13. The author of this letter goes back to Israel's history as well. What lessons does he want his readers to glean from this event in Israel's past?

- Read Hebrews 3:14-19. In what ways do we “harden” our hearts today?

The author stresses that the ones who rebelled were the same ones who “heard.” What is it that they had heard and why does that make their rebellion that much worse?

What was the result of their dismissal of God’s word and their ultimate disobedience?

Look at Matthew 11:28-30. What does Jesus offer us and how does the story of the Israelite’s rebellion tie in?

- Now, look at Hebrews 4:1-13. According to verses 1-7, what is this rest he is talking about? Is it something waiting for us in the future or is it available to us right now? Consider the Matthew 11:28-30 passage when formulating your answer.

Verses 8-13 compare this “rest” we have been offered with the seventh day of rest that God enjoyed after the creation of the universe. Read Genesis 2:1-3. The author is stressing the Sabbath rest of God when speaking of the rest that they have been offered. God was not tired, but simply stopped working because He had completed all He had set out to do. What does this tell us about the “rest” we have been offered? (Keep in mind that these people were Jews who were thinking about a return to Judaism).

- Why are verses 14-16 an apt way to wrap up this discussion on rest? According to the author, what are the keys to experiencing the rest that we have been offered in Christ?

To wrap up your study for this week, read Hebrews 12:1-3. How do these verses support what the author says in verses 14-16 of chapter 4?