

“Jesus is Better than Humanity”

Session 2 – Hebrews 2:1-18

Week 2 Bible Study Method:

Cross Referencing



INTRO

Say It:

Last week, we saw that Jesus is better than prophets, angels, and all creation. This week, the author shows that Jesus is better than all of humanity. He shows them that Jesus does what they cannot. Jesus is better than us. He wants them to know they can trust in Jesus when they are weary from all the persecution and unrest. He is all they need when they are tempted to give in and settle into the culture around them. Like ourselves, they needed encouragement to be intentional about their faith so they wouldn't drift.

Today, we'll practice cross-referencing by allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Since His audience had a Jewish history, the author of Hebrews quotes some Old Testament passages that would have been familiar to them. The author is reframing their understanding to help them see Christ in places where they hadn't noticed Him before. We will examine their Old Testament context, summarize their original meaning, and then see how the author uses them to show that Jesus really is better for them.

SECTION 1 – Hebrews 2:1-4

Read It: Hebrews 2:1-4

Say It:

Hebrews 2 is the first of a few warnings in the book. The author isn't concerned about dramatic rebellion. It's something much more subtle. The author tells them to pay much closer attention *“to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.”* He is also concerned that they might *“ignore such a great salvation”* neglecting their faith.

Discuss It:

- How have you witnessed or experienced “drift” that came from neglect or a lack of intentionality in your own life?

- To keep from “ignoring such a great salvation,” what actions will you take to intentionally pursue your relationship with Jesus?
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SECTION 2 – Hebrews 2:5-9

Say It:

In the next section of Hebrews, the author quotes from Psalm 8, so a good understanding of it will be helpful before we tackle the rest of the Hebrews passage. As we read it, notice all that God intends humans to be.

Read It: Psalm 8:4-8

Say It:

Human beings were created with dignity, purpose, and responsibility. Crowned with glory. Created with purpose. Mankind is given authority over creation . . . yet that purpose would have felt fractured and incomplete to the Jewish people. The next section of Hebrews has the answer though. Let’s read it.

Read It: Hebrews 2:5-9

Say It:

Did you notice the difference between Hebrews and the original text from Psalm 8? The author of Hebrews has taken a passage about all of humanity and applied it to Jesus. These formerly-Jewish people would have been intimately acquainted with the original verses, so this new application would have been surprising. Hebrews 2:7-8 is not talking about humanity in general, but about Jesus. The author uses Psalm 8 to show us how Jesus is the true fulfillment of what humanity was meant to be. He accomplished it all.

Discuss It:

- Hebrews 2:8 says, “*at present we do not see everything subject to him.*” Humanity has fallen short and extended the gap between real life and the vision in Psalm 8 of stewarding creation and representing God. However, in verse 9, Jesus is presented as the answer. Why do you think He came as the fulfillment of humanity rather than as an escape from it?
- How does this reframe success, power, and glory in our culture?

Say It:

Worldview thought: In our modern culture, we tend to either overestimate humanity believing we don’t need God, or we undervalue humanity saying we are just accidents and don’t really matter. Hebrews points to a 3rd way: Humanity is glorious by design, broken by sin, and restored by Jesus, the one who became human. In Him, our destiny is fulfilled.

SECTION 3 – Hebrews 2:10-18

Read It: Hebrews 2:10-18

Discuss It:

- **Create a list of all the things suffering and death accomplish according to verses 10-18.**
- **How should this redefine the ways we view suffering?**
- **In verse 11, Jesus calls believers “brothers and sisters.” Why would this have mattered deeply to persecuted believers? Why does it matter to you?**

Worldview thought: Many worldviews imagine God as removed . . . too holy, too busy, or too abstract to truly understand human weakness, but God chose nearness over distance. When Hebrews 2:17 says Jesus is like us “in every respect,” it means Jesus experienced real limitation, temptation, suffering, and emotional pain, not from a safe distance but from inside the human story.

The Christian claim is radical: God does not observe our pain; He enters it. We don’t approach a detached deity. We trust a High Priest who understands us from lived experience, not theory.

DO IT

- **Anti-Drift Action:**
Choose one intentional act of faith this week that resists spiritual drift (Scripture, confession, worship, community, etc.).
- **Attention Practice:**
Each day this week, reread Hebrews 2:1 and ask yourself, “What am I giving my attention to and how is it shaping me?”
- **Fear Inventory:**
Identify one fear that quietly influences your decisions (loss, rejection, control, failure). Pray Hebrews 2:14–15 over it.

- **Humanity Reminder:**

When you feel weak, tempted, or exhausted this week, intentionally pray, “Jesus, I know you understand this.”

PRAY IT:

Jesus, thank You for stepping into our humanity and carrying what we could not. When we feel weak, afraid, or unfinished, help us fix our eyes on You instead of ourselves. Shape our lives this week around the freedom and purpose You won for us. AMEN.