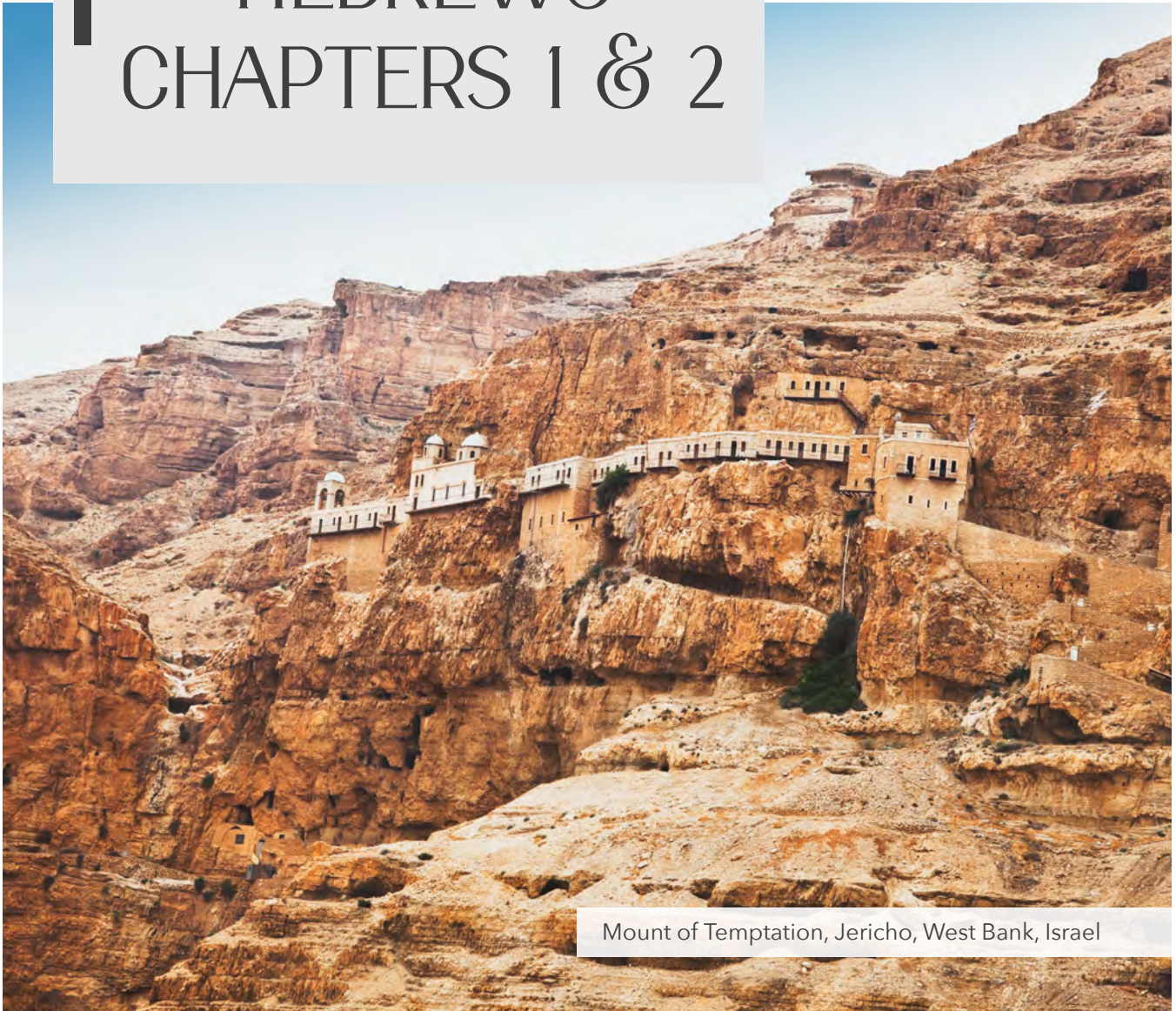


WEEK 2

HEBREWS CHAPTERS 1 & 2



Mount of Temptation, Jericho, West Bank, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER MESSAGE

This week, we are looking at the book of Hebrews, chapters one and two. These chapters focus on Jesus' supremacy over all angels and even the law that God gave to His people. His greatness reigns over these two powers because He is God and Savior of all. There is no being, celestial or not, that is not under His authority. There is no law that His salvation does not rule. Ultimately, this truth points to the fact that **no former way that the Lord spoke to His people is greater than the message that Jesus Christ Himself brings.**

Consider the greatness of the message of Christ as you study Hebrews chapters one and two this week.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-4, GENESIS 1:1-2, JOHN 1:1-3, 14, MATTHEW 17:1-5

CHRIST: THE EQUAL OF GOD

Hebrews is a unique book, not only in the New Testament but in the entirety of scripture. As we've read, the author of this book is a mystery, which brings about its own intrigue. Moreover, the book is so compelling because the subject matter is dense and impactful to all who take the time to read and understand it. This week, we are looking at chapters one and two of Hebrews, which focus on the great supremacy of Christ, specifically over angels and the Torah (law).

Verses one through four begin this study by looking at the magnitude that is Christ, and that this magnitude is not only greater than any celestial being, like angels (more to come from that in tomorrow's reading), and the law, but Christ is also equal in power and authority with God. Verse three most clearly makes the case of the superiority of Christ: *"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command."*

The entirety of verses one through four, as well as chapters one through ten, echoes the message of chapter one, verse three, that the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the expression of His character. He is equal to no other than God, because He is God. We need to understand this. Verses one through four remind us: Jesus is the way the Lord is speaking to us (v. 2), everything we long for comes through the Son (v. 2), everything we know came through the Son, who was with God in creation (v. 2), all power is Christ's (v. 3), and He has used this power to bring our salvation (v. 3). **Of course He is greater than the angels, He is God!**

REFLECTION

Today's reading and commentary may seem evident to a believer. Of course Jesus is our salvation and equal with God. Of course our lives are better with Him, and there is nothing greater, but here's the challenge to reflect upon: **do I live this way?**

Do I live as if there is nothing greater, more powerful, more compelling than Christ? What about the power of finances and debt? What about the power of my work and security? What about the power of my gratifications?

Today, reflect on what holds the seat of greatest power in your life. Be honest about what this is. After you take some time to face this truth, go back once more and read, write down, or memorize verse 3. *"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command."* Reflect on this and let it become a seed of truth in your heart and mind. The entire purpose of the book of Hebrews is found in verse three. It is meant to change our lives.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-14

CHRIST: GREATER THAN ANY OTHER MESSAGE

One of the more confusing focuses of chapter one of Hebrews is the author's emphasis on angels and Christ being above them. Why do we need so much clarification that Christ is greater than the angels? For one, there is a belief that the audience for the book of Hebrews was potentially wrestling with the hierarchy of power and glory attributed to Christ versus the powerful celestial workers of God's army, angels. This harkens back to a Jewish Hebrew belief that, in Deuteronomy 33:2, when Moses is presented with the law of God, it was delivered to him by an angel.

Carrying from that understanding, the second reason, for the clarification that Jesus is greater than the angels, is to point to the fact that **Jesus is superior to all of the former ways God has revealed Himself**. That is a very, very big claim. Think back to the ways God has revealed Himself in the past: a burning bush to Moses (Exodus 3), a still small voice to Elijah (1 Kings 19), a heavenly vision to Isaiah (Isaiah 6), a scandal through Hosea (Hosea 1:2), a vision of ripe fruit to Amos (Amos 8:1), the angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-27). These miraculous and attention-grabbing methods of communication are ones we still look back on with awe and wonder, but what the author of Hebrews rightfully claims is that Jesus is greater than any of these methods God used to reveal Himself.

The author wraps up this reminder by saying in verse fourteen, *"Therefore, angels are only servants- spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation."* In other words, all of the incredible, powerful, and miraculous ways the Lord revealed Himself were only a means to serve in His most significant revelation of His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the culmination of God's message for mankind.

REFLECTION

All of scripture, all of life, is pointing us back to the greatest message: **Jesus is here and we are free.**

How often do we reflect upon this message, though? More often than not, we let the messages of the world overtake the message of the Lord. The messages of the world are loud, constant, and persuasive. They tell us things like: "You're not enough unless you succeed," or "You'll be happy when you finally get _____." We see it in social media feeds that celebrate curated perfection, in advertisements that sell identity along with products, and in the pressure to prove ourselves through busy schedules and impressive achievements. Even well-meaning voices like teachers, bosses, friends, or culture at large can drown out the voice of Christ when we're not rooted in truth.

But the message of Jesus cuts through all of that: You are already known, already loved, already free—not because of what you've done, but because of who He is and what He has done. Reflect today on the messages that seem to take up the majority of space in your brain. Why those messages? Now, today, try to practice regular reflection on the supreme message of the Lord and His goodness. When the world creeps in with another message, push it out with His message, because it is superior to all.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 2:5-10, PSALM 8:4-6, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:27

CHRIST: THE PERFECT LEADER

What is a leader but one worth following, emulating, and reflecting? There have been countless books written about good leaders and how to be a leader. We care about followers and who to follow, but we need not look any further than the person of Jesus. The author of Hebrews is making this point abundantly clear in chapter two, specifically verses five through ten. Jesus is our greatest leader.

The author writes, *"...it was only right that He (God) should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them (mankind) into their salvation."* Of course, Jesus is the greatest leader. He is God and literally became the perfect One of us (man), and yet still suffered in every way that we have, will, and will never have to (the sufferings of Hell).

Jesus came from the Heavenly Father, was born of a common woman. He took on humanity so that we may one day put on eternal divinity. He lived counter to the world, to Jewish tradition, and to government pressures. He never wrote a great book, was never recorded giving a great speech, or led a leadership seminar, yet libraries of the world carry His words, His works, and His example. We still look to His example in every facet of our lives, because **Jesus is the perfect leader our hearts and lives need.**

REFLECTION

Reflect today on who or what you allow to lead you, and ask yourself what might change in your life if you allowed Jesus to be your ultimate leader.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 2:11-18, PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8, JOHN 1:14, HEBREWS 12:2

CHRIST: THE PERFECT MAN

We all love a good plan. We may not like making plans, but when it comes to executing something big or complicated, we love for there to be a detailed plan to lead and guide us along the way. Whether that plan is how to get the most out of your Disney World vacation or how to clean the entire house in a timely manner, a plan makes something difficult or seemingly impossible attainable.

We overlook the magnificence of the complexity and sheer beauty of the executed plan of salvation that Jesus partook in. Hebrews 2:11-18 walks us through the magnitude of this plan. Verse fourteen presents the problem of our need for salvation. We're human. We are "flesh and blood", which is to say, lesser. Lesser than God, lesser than the angels, lesser than our strength or desire to find salvation on our own. How hopeless are we? How hopeless is our situation if left to ourselves and our plans? But praise God, He had the greatest plan humanity will ever know, come down as a man. Why? *"For only as a human being could He (Jesus) die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death."* (v. 14)

Verse fifteen makes it clear, this was the only way for us to be free. Jesus was in *"every respect like us, his brothers and sisters..."* (v. 17). He was just like us minus one incredibly fundamental detail: He achieved the work of complete righteousness. **He was perfect in every way that we, in every way, could not be.** This perfection allowed His perfect plan to work. We are now set free because of His good work.

REFLECTION

Where do you fail? This is a hard question to reflect on, but it is the exact one we need today. Where do you fall short? Where do you keep messing up? Reflect on this. Now, go back and read and write down Hebrews 2:18. These are the words meant to remind our broken hearts that we fail. He knows this about us, but because of His perfection, we are set free from our failure and encouraged forward toward more righteous living. We fail, but He did not. This truth is meant to be a light to our hearts, eyes, hands, and feet to now lean upon His strength when we feel tested, weak, or like failures. Rise as a victorious warrior as you rise with the perfect Savior.

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 2:1-4

DO NOT DRIFT AWAY

Did you notice we skipped something? It wasn't an accident. All week, we have been looking at what Hebrews chapters one and two teach and remind us about Jesus and who He is. Hebrews chapter two, though, opens with an encouragement that is important to look at before ending our week, to not drift away from the Lord, and this truth we have reflected upon.

All week, we have looked at this life-changing, eternity-altering truth that Jesus is greater than anything, any power, or any message that ever came or has come after Him. Our temptation is to allow the things of this world to lead us away from this message, though. David Guzik, in his bible commentary on Hebrews, writes about our temptation to drift this way:

*"The writer had the drifting of a boat in mind, and such drifting happens naturally without an anchor to something solid. If we are not securely set in the truth of the supremacy of Jesus, we will drift into danger with the currents of the world, the flesh, and the devil...It (drifting away) happens easily. **One doesn't have to do anything to drift away.** Departure from the faith usually comes from slow drifting, not a sudden departure.*

"The protection against drifting is to have Christ as once the anchor and rudder of life. The anchor will hold us to the truth, while the rudder will guide us by the truth."

- Griffith Thomas

REFLECTION

Reflect today on what you find to be your greatest current for drifting away from the Lord. What stirs your heart away from God? Why is it this thing that takes you from being anchored to the Lord? After taking some time to think on this, go back and reread Hebrews chapters one and two. Reflect on something you need to anchor to that you read about Jesus this week. Finally, pray and thank the Lord that He has given you this to be anchored to in your life.

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 1 & 2*.

This week, we looked at the first two chapters of Hebrews and specifically how Christ is supreme over all that has been, is, or ever will be. Whether angels, the ways the Lord spoke to us before Him, or the things that seek to drift us away from the Lord, the Lord is supreme over them all.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.