

MEDITATIONS

THE GREATEST

(Hebrews 1:1-2:4)

DAY ONE READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

1. List some ways God spoke in the Old Testament. Why do you think God spoke in so many different ways?
2. List seven things this passage says about the Son. Why does it describe him in such exalted ways?
3. Why is it important that God speaks to his people? Why is it important that the Son is God's last and best word to us?

DAY TWO READING AND QUESTIONS

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
his servants flames of fire."

⁸But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

1. Describe angels. Who are they? What do they do? Why do you think people are so interested in angels?
2. What are the contrasts here between the Son and the angels?
3. Why is it important that Jesus is greater than angels?

DAY THREE READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹⁰He also says,

“In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations
of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

¹¹They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

¹²You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”

¹³To which of the angels did God ever say,
“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet”?

¹⁴Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will
inherit salvation?

1. *What is the role of the Son in creation? Why is this important?
How is it different from the role of angels?*
2. *What does it mean that the Son is at the right hand of the Father?
Why is that important?*
3. *How do angels serve us?*

DAY FOUR READING AND QUESTIONS:

¹We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have
heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For if the message spoken by

angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received
its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we ignore such a great
salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord,
was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it
by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit
distributed according to his will.

1. *What was the message spoken by angels? What happened to those
who disobeyed that message?*
2. *What makes our salvation so great?*
3. *What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation according to this
passage?*

DAY FIVE READING AND QUESTIONS:

Go back and read the entire passage.

1. *What is the point (the “therefore”) of placing so much emphasis on
the Son in this passage?*
2. *What are some ways we and others might ignore our great salva-
tion? What might keep us from ignoring it?*
3. *Are we more likely suddenly to decide we are no longer Christians or
more likely to drift away from what we have heard? What are some
signs of drifting away?*

MEDITATION ON HEBREWS 1:1-2:4

What a great Savior! The Son of God, creator and sustainer of the universe. One who shares God's being and radiates his glory. The Son who purified us from sin by his death, who was raised from the dead, and now sits in the highest place of honor—the right hand of God.

He's even greater than the angels! Angels—powerful beings, bright as the sun, frightening in appearance, messengers of God. But angels are creatures just as we are. The Son is creator. Angels serve us. Every knee bows in service before the Son. What a great Savior!

What a great salvation! The Son completely purifies us from sin. We are free from sin, guilt, and shame once for all. The Son takes broken human creatures and exalts us to be with him at God's right hand.

What a great message! God has given us his last and best word, the Son of God, the word made flesh. God has confirmed his message with miracles, signs, and gifts through his Holy Spirit. No greater Savior. No greater salvation. No greater message.

So how can that message be so ho-hum to us? Jesus is the Son of God. We knew that. He is Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer. That's old hat to us. We take the great salvation for granted. We grow tired of the old, old story. We don't get excited by the message anymore.

We stand in danger. Of drifting. Of ignoring. Of neglecting. God loved us so much that he sent his Son. What more can he do? What more can he say? How much greater a salvation can there be?

"How shall we escape?" The words sound ominous. They sound as if the writer of Hebrews is trying to scare us into obedience. But it is right to scare others if the danger is real. It is. We must not drift, neglect, and ignore the greatest gift of all. The greatest Savior. The greatest salvation. The greatest message.

"Father, this day bring your Son before our eyes. May we know the indescribable depth of your love. May we pay close attention and not drift or ignore."