**Lesson Two**

[**Hebrews 2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV)

1) Last week in lesson 1 we learned that nowhere in the book of Hebrews does it tell us how to "get saved" – "by grace through faith."

On the other hand it is a book written to believers about how to successfully and victoriously live by faith, pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call** of God in Christ Jesus. This goal and prize is the reward of being able to *"lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."* And that is to rule and reign as a co-heir with Him in the age to come. That is our goal.

2) Abraham was the first to be called "Hebrew." "Abram the Hebrew" ([Genesis 14:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.13&t=NKJV)). The word Hebrew is taken from the Hebrew word *"eber"* which means to cross over.

3) Abraham was a Hebrew in the sense that he heard God and believed God's promise and "crossed over" (in faith) to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance. Abraham made it to Canaan, the Promised Land, but included in the promise was *"as many descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is by the seashore."* The promise also included *"and in you all families of the earth will be blessed."* Abraham died with his hope fixed on promises he never got to see fulfilled.

Hebrews are sojourners who have no home in this world, but have hope fixed on a future land [future time] that God is preparing. That's Abraham's goal! That should be our goal!

4) Abraham's example teaches us that we, who also are Hebrews (sojourners) in this world, should live our lives with our hope fixed on God's promise of the coming kingdom in which we can be co-heirs, sharing with Christ in His inheritance – ruling and reigning the world with Him. That is The Great Hope and the great motivation that we have as believers to live well our life by faith.

5) Before dealing with [Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV) we learned the book of Hebrews is built around five major admonitions – five warnings – the purpose of which is to make us successful in living by faith and to keep us from drifting away, shrinking back, loosing heart and forfeiting our reward (our inheritance). Hebrews is a motivational book that can transform our lives.

6) Last week we learned what God has to say to Hebrews ([Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV)):

He speaks of His Plan for the Ages, mostly the coming Millennial Age. ([Romans 8:22-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.22-25&t=NKJV))

7) How does He speak? Long ago He spoke to the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and on down the line -- about this plan. To them He spoke through prophets – *"a little here, a little there."* ([Isaiah 28:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+28.13&t=NKJV))

8) But in these last days He has spoken to us through His Son, the heir of all things, through whom He made the universe and "*upholds all things together by the Word of His power*." ([Hebrews 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.3&t=NKJV))

9) God uses seven prophetic scriptures to give us a brief sketch of what this end time scenario is going to be like:

[Psalm 2:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.7-8&t=NKJV) *He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.*

[Psalm 97:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+97.7&t=NKJV) "Worship Him, all you gods" in the Septuagint reads, "Let all God's angels worship him," and it is quoted that way in [Hebrews 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.6&t=NKJV). When God does again bring this first born Son (heir) into the world, all the angels will worship Him.

[Psalm 45:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.6&t=NKJV) speaks of His reign: *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.*

[Psalm 45:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.7&t=NKJV) speaks of Christ's co-heirs, companions in His reign: *Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness* [ruling and joy] *above thy fellows* [companions].

[Psalm 102:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+102.24&t=NKJV) speaks of the New Heaven and Earth, after the first heaven and earth pass away -- *"Lord, you live forever* (Today's English Version [TEV])". *But of Christ the King* (Heir), *His years will not come to an end.* (*cf.* [Hebrews 1:10-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.10-12&t=NKJV))

[Psalm 110:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1&t=NKJV) says The LORD (God) says to my Lord (Jesus Christ): *"Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."*

Finally the writer ends [Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV) by pointing out that angels are all ministering spirits, sent out to render service to **those who inherit salvation**. ([Hebrews 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.14&t=NKJV))

(Note: Those who **inherit salvation** are the same as those who will **reign with Christ** as Companions.)

So Christ has ascended the throne, will soon bring His enemies into subjection and is ready to reign with His many co-heirs / companions / heirs / fellow partakers, *e.g*., **all qualified believers**. Qualified believers are those who follow Hebrews' instructions, preventing disqualification will inherit salvation.

10) It will be much easier for us to understand [Hebrews 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) and the remainder of Hebrews if we consider angels and the three aspects of salvation.

**Angels** – a thumbnail sketch of how I understand the rulership change over the earth:

Lucifer was created before man and had rulership over province earth with many other angels who were subordinate to him.

Lucifer was disqualified when pride was found in him when he attempted to take God's place and rule all the provinces. He led one-third of those angels under his charge in his rebellion against God. ([Ezekiel 28:11-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.11-19&t=NKJV))

God responded by disqualifying him and those angels loyal to him which also brought destruction on his province, earth, leaving it "*without form and void with darkness over the face of the deep*." ([Genesis 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2&t=NKJV))

Later, when God decided to restore the earth and create man to have dominion, there was Satan not wanting to relinquish rulership to man.

Therefore Satan deceived Eve and brought about the fall and disqualification of man to rule (have dominion) of the earth. ([Genesis 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3&t=NKJV))

Man and the earth were in a fallen state, but God immediately began the salvation which has continued for about 6,000 years. This salvation process is to restore man and the earth to God's original plan and purpose. Man will have dominion!

Now Christ, who was made for a little while lower than the angels for the purpose of redemption and salvation, has now been exalted to the right hand of the Father.

**He is presently in the process of bringing "*many sons to glory*,"** who also will be exalted above the angels to reign as co-heirs with Christ in the coming age (millennial age). **Bringing many sons to glory is a major topic of the book of Hebrews**.

**Salvation** **clarification** – Christians all too frequently restrict the word salvation to the thought of "got saved, going to heaven" or "not saved, going to hell."

But God's salvation / redemption process is extensive. It includes:

**Man's initial salvation** is being born again through belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, **positions man** (spiritually saved) **to be sanctified**.

**Man's on-going salvation** is called sanctification or salvation of the soul. This is a life-long process during which time we "*work out our salvation with fear and trembling*." Paul strongly admonished the Philippians believers to do this ([Philippians 2:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.12-13&t=NKJV)). How do we do this? We gradually learn how to deny ourselves and cooperate with God, who is in us, as He gives us the **desire and power** to do His will ([Colossians 1:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.27&t=NKJV)). This process brings about the salvation of the soul, the results of which will be learned at the judgment seat of Christ ([1 Peter 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV)).

**The Hope, the end goal, the reward** of God's salvation plan for man is to become a coheir with Christ, the Heir of all things. This aspect of salvation is called "**so great salvation**" ([Hebrews 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.3&t=NKJV)).

[1 Corinthians 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.9&t=NKJV) – *but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."*

Call this soul aspect of salvation SO GREAT SALVATION!

(Aside: Gr. **so** **G5082** **great G5082**

tay-lik-oo'-tos, tay-lik-ow'-tay, **so vast - so great - so mighty**.)

[Revelation 16:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.18&t=NKJV) - *And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth,* ***so great*** *an earthquake was it, and so mighty.*

[James 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+3.4&t=NKJV) - *Look at the ships also, though they are* ***so great*** *and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.*

[2 Corinthians 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+1.10&t=NKJV) - *who delivered us from* ***so great*** *a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,*

10) So we have the beginning of salvation, the working out salvation, bringing many sons to glory, and the "Oh So Great" Culmination.

[Hebrews 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.14&t=NKJV) – those who will inherit salvation [soul aspect of salvation].

[Hebrews 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.3&t=NKJV) – so great salvation.

Both [Hebrews 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.14&t=NKJV) and [Hebrews 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.3&t=NKJV) are speaking of the **culmination of salvation, not initial salvation**.

11) [**Hebrews 2:1-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1-4&t=NKJV) **FIRST WARNING:**

[Hebrews 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1&t=NKJV) - *"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it."*

[Hebrews 2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.2&t=NKJV) - *For if the word spoken through angels* [see [Acts 7:53](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.53&t=NKJV), [Galatians 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.19&t=NKJV)] *proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty*,

[Hebrews 2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.3&t=NKJV) - *how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,*

[Hebrews 2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.4&t=NKJV) - *God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.*

12) [**Hebrews 2:1-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1-4&t=NKJV) comprise the first of six admonitions and warnings.

**Admonition**: Pay close attention, don't neglect, to what we have heard concerning so great salvation; make it your focus and hope. Strive to lay hold of that for which you were laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

**Warning**: We shall not escape if we neglect (disregard, make light of, be careless with) so great salvation. There will be just recompense for us just as there was of the Old Testament Saints for their transgressions and disobedience of God's Word ([Deuteronomy 28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+28&t=NKJV)). And because of disobedience and unbelief they did not enter their Promised Land (Canaan). Our just recompense will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ where we will either "*gain reward or suffer loss*."

Concerning God bearing witness to so great salvation with signs and wonders, hear what Hebrews scholar G. H. Lang has to say:

"It did not demand unusual signs and wonders to assure repentant men of the pardon of a gracious God. David, the tax gatherer, the woman at the well and millions more of old and of today, have obtained the bliss of justification by believing the bare Word of God. But the proposal that men should be elevated bodily from the earth, man's natural home, to the heavens above and should share the glory of God Himself and the sovereignty of the universe with the Son of God…..this was so startling, so unimaginable that God confirmed it as His message by exceptional signs, wonders, various powerful workings and especially by distributions of His own Spirit without whose in-working aid it were scarcely possible to grasp the proposal or think it credible."

Jesus speaks of this aspect of salvation, *i.e*., the Kingdom of Heaven, more than twenty times just in the book of Matthew.

13) [**Hebrews 2:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV) - *For He did not subject to angels* ***the world to come****, concerning which we are speaking*. **This clarifies what we are speaking about: the world to come**. It also introduces several verses that tell us man, not angels, is to have rulership of this world to come. The ruler-ship of this present world (age) is Satan. He is the "god of this world" / the "prince of the power of the air." He rules with fallen angels, demons, principalities powers and rulers of darkness.

14) [**Hebrews 2:6-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.6-18&t=NKJV) will explain how God is bringing man into position to rule. The world will not be subject to angels, but will be subject to the glorified Son of Man, Jesus Christ, as well as the many mature sons who He is bringing to glory (will be glorified with Him) and will be like Him in His glorified state.

15) [**Hebrews 2:5-8b**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5-8b&t=NKJV)

[Hebrews 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.5&t=NKJV) - *For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking*.

[Hebrews 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.6&t=NKJV) - *But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?*

[Hebrews 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.7&t=NKJV) - *"YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;*

[Hebrews 2:8a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.8a&t=NKJV) - *YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.*

16) **SOME QUESTIONS**:

What is man?

What is the son of man?

Why do you remember them?

Why are you concerned about them?

[Psalm 8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+8&t=NKJV) - This is a prophetic Psalm and the questions are answered. God says, "Here is why - I'll tell you about man:

MADE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS, and because of "the fall" man has remained lower than the angels.

But look what is planned for man. This is prophesy – plans for the future:

CROWNED with glory and honor.

APPOINTED OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS.

ALL THINGS PUT IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.

17) [**Hebrews 2:8b**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.8b&t=NKJV) - *For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him*. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. We are still talking about man. We do not see him EXALTED and GLORIFIED.

So where are we now? What do we see? Here is what we see:

[Hebrews 2:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.9&t=NKJV) - *But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*

We see a man – we see Jesus Who called Himself "THE SON OF MAN." He was made for a little while lower than the angels. But unlike man, JESUS HAS BEEN CROWNED (EXALTED) with Glory and Honor. While total dominion has not yet been granted, Jesus is AT LAST CROWNED with Glory and Honor. Why?

Because He suffered death. He was made lower than the angels for the very purpose of tasting (experiencing) death for every man. He paid the price for man's redemption. So NOW one man has been glorified, *i.e*., the man Christ Jesus.

But many more are yet to be glorified. Even now in the church age **Jesus Christ is bringing many SONS TO GLORY**.

18) [**Hebrews 2:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.10&t=NKJV) - For it was fitting for Him [God], for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in *bringing* many sons to glory, to perfect the author [leader] of their salvation through sufferings.

Is Jesus not already perfect? Yes, He is perfect as far as being sin free, perfect in character, wisdom, love, etc.

The reason it was fitting for the captain to suffer is the troops also are brought to glory through suffering.

Christians experiencing suffering makes Him more perfect for His role of bringing many sons to glory through suffering.

19) **Suffering precedes glory!**

[Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV) – *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

[2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV) – *If we endure* [suffering] *we shall reign with Him*.

[1 Thessalonians 2:11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+2.11-12&t=NKJV) – Paul says *we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into* ***His own kingdom and glory***. Paul is encouraging these believers to "*press on toward the goal for the prize*."

20) **One writer**, whom I respect, gives this perspective on this subject when he writes, "It is one thing to be a child of God saved forever more. BUT, it is quite another to be a Son of Glory who will ascend the throne with Christ in His Kingdom."

21) [**Hebrews 2:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.11&t=NKJV) - *For both He who sanctifies and those who are* [being] *sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren*,

I believe God is telling us He who sanctifies (the author / captain of our salvation) was brought to glory by suffering and He is pleased [*not ashamed*] to call [as brethren] all who are with endurance in faith suffering through the sanctification process.

22) [**Mark 8:38**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Mark+8.38&t=NKJV) - *"For whoever is ashamed* *of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

23) [**Hebrews 2:12-13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.12-13&t=NKJV) – from the lips of a triumphant Messiah saying,

*"I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN,
IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."
And again,
"I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM."
And again,
"BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME."*

Like an older brother in the circle of younger children, the captain of their salvation can teach them the lessons of faith along the pathway of suffering, as well as exalting the Father.

24) [**Hebrews 2:14-15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.14-15&t=NKJV)

[Hebrews 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.14&t=NKJV) - *Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*

[Hebrews 2:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.15&t=NKJV) - *and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

Jesus sets us free from the fear of death. Satan wields the power of death only if he's successful in inducing people to sin and to come under sin's penalty, which is death.

25) [**Hebrews 2:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.17&t=NKJV) - *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

Jesus has prepared Himself perfectly to be our high priest - an office and ministry covered in [Hebrews 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV); [4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4&t=NKJV). He can perfectly represent man to God, and through His blood make propitiation for our sins.

26) [**Hebrews 2:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.18&t=NKJV) - *For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.*

He fully understands and is able to help us with our temptations.