Hebrews 2:1

- Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
 - Therefore --- because God has spoken through his Son, who
 is superior in all respects (as shown in Chapter 1).
 - we must pay closer attention to what we have heard
 - Matthew 7:26: And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
 - Matthew 13:14-15: 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' (Isaiah 6:9-10)

- Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
 - Lest we drift away from it
 - we must pay closer attention to what we have heard
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 - Matthew 13:14-15: 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. 15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' (Isaiah 6:9-10)

- Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.
 - THE BASIS "Therefore"
 - THE EXHORTATION "We must give the more earnest heed"
 - THE DANGER "Lest we drift away"
 - THE REASON "If the word spoken through angels proved steadfast...how shall we escape if we neglect...?" (Hebrews 2:2-3)

Hebrews 2:2-4

- —2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,
- -3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,
- —4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- the message declared by angels proved to be reliable
 - Galatians 3:19: Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.
 - Acts 7:52-53: <u>52</u> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <u>53</u> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

- and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,
 - The man who gathered sticks on the Sabbath was stoned. Num. 15:32-36
 - When they offered strange fire, Nabab and Abihu were destroyed by fire. Lev. 10:1-2
 - The young man who blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed was to be stoned. Lev. 24:11-14
 - Achan and all his family were destroyed. Joshua 7:24-25
 - The young prophet who believed a lie. 1 Kings 13:15-24
 - Uzza was struck dead when he touched the ark. 1 Chron. 13:1-10
 - King Uzziah was smitten with leprosy. 2 Chron. 26:16-20

- how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?
 - If men were thus severely punished for violating the word spoken by angels, certainly, we will not escape if we fail to obey that which was spoken by the Son of God.
 - Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 - 1 Peter 1:12: It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

- It was declared
 - First spoken by the Lord.
 - Confirmed by those who heard Him.
 - God also bore witness
 - by signs and wonders and various miracles
 - by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will
 - Acts 2:22-23: 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words:
 Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with
 mighty works and wonders and signs that God did
 through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—
 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite
 plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed
 by the hands of lawless men.

Hebrews 2:5-9

- 5 Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.
- 6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?
 - Psalm 8:1-9
- You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor,
- 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." 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.
- 9 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.

- not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking
 - Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world the ways of the present world
 - Hebrews 6:4-5 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come ...
 - 2 Peter 3:11-13 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 - Hebrews 11:13-16 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

- not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking
 - He has been speaking of "such a great salvation", and will later speak of a "better country"
 - The declaration of the gospel is for the benefit of man, not of angels.
 - Differing interpretations have been made of verses 5-8.
 - If the world to come is not subjected to angels, to whom is it subjected?

- putting everything in subjection under his feet."
 - Matthew 28:18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25-28 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.
 - Ephesian 1:22-23 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- Joshua 10:22-24
 - 22 Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave."
 - 23 And they did so, and brought those five kings out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.
 - 24 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua,
 Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the
 chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him,
 "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings."
 Then they came near and put their feet on their necks.

- "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?
 - Use of the definite article "the son of man" is unique to the N.T.
 - The use of "the son of man" in this verse has been debated and discussed for many years.
 - Hebrews 2:9 --- Jesus is named.
 - Perhaps to show the humanity of Jesus whereas "son of God" shows his divinity.
 - O. T. usage usually denotes simply a human being.
 - » 93 times in Ezekiel
 - » Ezekiel 2:1, 3, 6, 8 --- Ezekiel called son of man

- "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?
 - Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man
 - Matthew 11:19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say ...
 - Matthew 16:13 "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
 - Matthew 16:27-28 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. 28 Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
 - Matthew 26:2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."
 - Matthew 26:24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

- You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ...
 - Philippians 2:5-8 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- The foregoing things plus three additional points lead me to understand that it is Jesus, the son of man, who is mentioned in these verses.
 - We see Jesus named in verse 9.
 - It is Jesus' supremacy that is being presented.
 - "such a great salvation" is brought by Jesus; man cannot save himself; angels did not offer salvation.

- 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.
 - When will we see everything in subjection to him?
 - John 12:31-33: 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4: 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- When will we see everything in subjection to him?
 - Ephesians 2:1-3: 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
 - Colossians 1:13-14: 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- When will we see everything in subjection to him?
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-26: 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
 - 1 John 5:19: We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Hebrews 2:5-9 (revisited)

- God may have planned for all things to be in subjection to man (Genesis 1:26).
- Sin intervened and man lost his once glorious position.
 - And was sentenced to death
- Verse 9 inserts Jesus as the perfect man
- Jesus tasted death for everyone
 - Jesus gave up his position of deity in order to do this.
- Jesus is now crowned with glory and honor
 - Adam's death was with his glory marred
 - Jesus' glory was not marred by his death
- In verse 10 --- "in bringing many sons to glory"

- Hebrews 2:10-13
- 10 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.
- 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,
- 12 saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."
- 13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

- for whom and by whom all things exist
 - John 1:3: All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 - Colossians 1:16-17: <u>16</u> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <u>17</u> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- In bringing many sons to glory
 - 1 John 3:1: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
 - Romans 9:22-26: 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—24 even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? 25 As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved." 26 "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God."
 - Romans 8:29: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.
 - It was necessary that a sacrifice be made for our sins.
 - God is eternal and cannot die
 - Therefore, God sent his son, who became flesh, suffered, and died for our sins.
 - » Jesus had to become flesh!
 - Hebrews 5:8-10: 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

- Psalm 22:1-31
 - 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death
 - potsherd --- a fragment of broken pottery
 - Job 2:7-8 7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8 And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.
 - 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: (quoted in 2:12)
 - 29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

- should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.
 - Hebrews 10:8-14: 8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
 - Matthew 26:39, 42, 44 --- 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ... 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ... 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.
- Jesus' task of redemption was not complete until He suffered death on the cross.

- he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,
 - Hebrews 10:10 --- And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - All sanctification came through Christ by the will of God
 - We have no other source of sanctification
 - Ephesians 4:6 --- one God and Father of all
 - God acknowledged Jesus as his son
 - We are children of God
 - Therefore, Christ is our brother, which does not diminish his lordship and reign.
 - Romans 8:16-17: <u>16</u> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <u>17</u> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- 14 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,
- 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
- 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
- 17 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, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
- 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood,
 he himself likewise partook of the same things
 - Philippians 2:5-11: 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hebrews 2:14-18 (additional notes)

- Jesus' conception was miraculous
- But he was born the same as you and I
- He was born so that He could, in His human nature, destroy Satan's hold on the human family.
- 2:15 --- deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery

- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things
 - John 1:14: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - Romans 8:3" For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh

- Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things
 - 1 John 4:2-3: 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
 - Gnosticism
 - » The unknowable God was far too pure and perfect to have anything to do with the material universe which was considered evil.
 - » It denies the incarnation of God as the Son. In so doing, it denies the true efficacy of the atonement since, if Jesus is not God, He could not atone for all of mankind and we would still be lost in our sins.
 - 2 John 1:7: For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

- that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil
 - Jesus had to die in order to show his power over death.
 - In order to die, he had to take on a fleshly body.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25-26: <u>25</u> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <u>26</u> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
 - Acts 2:22-24: 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
 - 1 John 3:8: Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-55: <u>54</u> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <u>55</u> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
 - Fear of death has existed since Adam's sin

- surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
 - Redemption is provided for men, not for angels, even though angels are capable of sin.
 - 2 Peter 2:4-10: 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

- surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
 - 1 Timothy 1:15: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
 - Angels are not part of the world, though they have at times appeared to men in the world
 - Galatians 3:29: And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.
 - Abraham's offspring are all who belong to Christ, not limited to blood relatives 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, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
 - Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
 - Hebrews 5:1-2: 1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

- 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, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
 - Hebrews 7:26-28: 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

- because he himself has suffered when tempted,
 he is able to help those who are being tempted.
 - Hebrews 4:14-16: 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- because he himself has suffered when tempted,
 he is able to help those who are being tempted.
 - Hebrews 7:23-25: 23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25
 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 2:14-18 (additional notes)

- Made like his brothers in every respect
 - Every possible avenue of temptation that man faces today Jesus faced it.
- 1 Peter 4:1-2
 - 1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.
- Hebrews 12:1-2
 - 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.