

Handout #2 Hebrews Lesson 4

St. Augustine's prayer before Scripture study with his students: *Turn we to the Lord God, the Father Almighty, and with pure hearts offer to Him, so far as our meanness can, great and true thanks, with all our hearts praying His exceeding kindness, that of His good pleasure He would deign to hear our prayers, that by His Power He would drive out the enemy from our deeds and thoughts, that He would increase our faith, guide our understandings, give us spiritual thoughts, and lead us to His bliss, through Jesus Christ His Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

If he whom the angels worship consented, out of love for us, to become for a time lower than them, you for your part should endure everything out of love for him. St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on Hebrews, 2.2

The inspired writer of Hebrews moves from professing the Son's divinity and superiority over the angels as the fulfillment of the promise of the Davidic covenant to affirming in chapter two the Son's superiority over angels in His humanity by virtue of:

1. His Incarnation
2. By the saving dimension of His suffering, death, and resurrection, and
3. As the only power and means by which mankind can be redeemed.

Old Testament Scripture quoted or referenced in Hebrews 2:5-3:6 Bold type indicates verses from the passage quoted in Hebrews
Psalm 8:4-6 (LXX 8:4-6): What is man that you remember him or son of man that you watch over him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels, you crowned him with glory and honor, and you established him over the works of your hands, you placed all things in subjection under his feet.
Psalm 22:22: (LXX 21:22) I shall proclaim your name to my brothers, praise you in full assembly (ekklesia = church): ²³ You who fear Yahweh, praise him! All the race (seed) of Jacob, honor him! <i>Revere him, all the race (seed) of Israel!</i>
Isaiah 8:17-18: ¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, seal the instruction in the heart of my disciples. ¹⁷ My trust is in Yahweh who hides his face from the House of Jacob; I put my hope in him. ¹⁸ Look, I and the children whom Yahweh has given me shall become signs and portents in Israel on behalf of Yahweh Sabaoth who dwells on Mount Zion.
Numbers 12:7 (LXX 12:7) ⁶ And he said to them, 'Hear my words: If there should be of you a prophet to the Lord, I will be made known to him in a vision, and in sleep will I speak to him. ⁷ My servant Moses is not so; he is faithful (trustworthy) in all my house. ⁸ I will speak to him mouth to mouth apparently, and not in dark speeches; and he has seen the glory of the Lord...

[The designation LXX indicates the quotation is from the Septuagint. Quotes not designated LXX may also be from the Septuagint but there is not enough variation between the Hebrew and Greek texts to indicate which Biblical text is quoted by the inspired writer]

Handout for Hebrews chapters 2:5-3:6

The inspired writer distinguishes Jesus superiority over Moses by associating Moses with the created order as a part of the “house,” to Jesus, the “builder of the house”, associating Jesus with the Godhead [Hebrews 3:3-6].

Moses	Jesus
Constructed house (vs. 2)	Builder (vs. 3)
Part of created order (vs. 3)	Creator of cosmos (vs. 4)
Servant (vs. 5)	Son (vs. 6)

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Moses and Jesus had similar missions but Jesus is superior to the prophet Moses in His mission:

Moses	Jesus
Moses led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt in the Exodus experience	Jesus is the new Moses who led the New Exodus, delivering mankind from bondage to sin and death
In crossing the Red Sea (Sea of Reeds) the children of Israel were “baptized” unto Moses, leaving a life of slavery behind for a new life of freedom.	In Christian baptism, the Christian receives “new life” in Christ, being freed from a life of slavery to sin and being resurrected to new life in Christ.
Moses gave the Law to the children of Israel at Mt. Sinai	Jesus is the new lawgiver of the New Covenant in His blood
Through Moses God established liturgical worship of the One True God based on the necessity of the shedding of animal blood for the temporary atonement of sins and the reestablishment of divine fellowship with God through the eating of the communion sacrifice.	Through Jesus Christ God revealed Himself in the full revelation of His Trinitarian nature and established liturgical worship based on the on-going sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ for the atonement of sins and the reconciliation with God which reestablishes divine fellowship through the eating of His flesh and blood.
Moses led the children of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land	Jesus leads all Christians on their journey of faith to the Promised Land of heaven
Moses was God’s covenant mediator for the Sinai Covenant	Jesus is God’s covenant mediator of the New Covenant in His Blood.
Moses’ covenant could only offer temporal salvation and the promise of a future redeemer	Jesus’ covenant offers eternal salvation and the promise of a bodily resurrection
Moses was a trustworthy servant	Jesus is the trustworthy Son

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