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## Lessons from the Book of Hebrews

By Ken Raggio

### **They Shall Wax Old, But Thou, Lord, Art The Same**

The writer of the book of Hebrews eloquently expounded upon the doctrine of the Son of God. Suddenly, he broke from his exposition to magnify God, quoting Psalms 102:25-26. Oh, worship the Lord!

Hebrews 1:10-12 - "Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

### **Will You Escape The "Just Recompense" For Your Sins?**

The penalty for sinning against God is certain death. Fortunately, God incarnated Himself as a man to suffer that death on our behalf. Jesus took the punishment for sinners at Calvary – but only those who obey His call to be born again of the water and of the spirit. Unrepentant sinners have no escape from that death. The substitutionary suffering Jesus did is not available for those who are not "in Christ".

Hebrews 2:3 - "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord?"

### **How Shall We Escape If We Neglect So Great Salvation?**

If you want to be saved, you must initiate the redemptive process, which begins by no other means than repentance. Unless and until you have

confessed your sins before God, and asked His forgiveness, you cannot be saved. That is the very first step. If you neglect repentance, there will be no escape. The New Birth requires Death, Burial, Resurrection: Repentance, Water Baptism, Spirit Baptism.

Hebrews 2:3 - "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?"

### **In The Midst Of The Church Will I Sing Praise Unto Thee**

Jesus Christ, the only-begotten manchild of God, came into the world to manifest His Father, and His Father's name. "I have manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world," John 17:6. "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it," John 17:26. How much more should the Church of the Living God declare the name of Jesus in our constant praises and testimonies?

Hebrews 2:12 - "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."

### **I Will Put My Trust In Him**

Jesus was made a little lower than the angels, inasmuch as a human is lower than an angel. In His flesh-and-blood body, Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin," (Hebrews 4:15). He NEVER yielded to anything but His Father's will. Jesus submitted completely, to the point of tasting death for every man. Jesus exemplified for us how a man can completely trust God with his life. Psalm 18:2 foreshadowed His statement of faith, "my God, my strength, in whom I will trust."

Hebrews 2:13 - "Again, I will put my trust in him."

### **Bruise Satan's Head**

The infinite omnipotent God could have easily annihilated Lucifer instantly for his transgressions. Rather, God chose to defeat him by a mortal - a humiliating defeat, to be sure! God swore to raise a seed of the woman to bruise Satan's head, saying "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head," (Genesis 3:15).

Hebrews 2:14 - "... (Jesus) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

### **Jesus, Our High Priest, Made Intercession For Us**

One of the most important roles that Jesus Christ filled is that of the High Priest. A priest is one who stands between God and men, to plead with God for men, and plead with men for God. Jesus fulfilled the ultimate role of High Priest when He prayed in Gethsemane, "...nevertheless, not my will, but Thine," (Luke 22:42).

Hebrews 2:17 - "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

### **Organic Thought Versus Spirit**

Science is increasingly able to identify channels of thought within the human brain. With Magnetic Resonance Imaging and other procedures, researchers track human thoughts and emotions with some reliability. While this might appear that all human thought and behavior is organic, man is also a living soul. Thoughts and feelings occurring in the spirit dimension cannot be tracked by research tools. Some things are truly known only to God.

Hebrews 4:12 - "...piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit..., and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

### **Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace To Obtain Mercy**

From the day that Moses anointed Aaron to be the High Priest over Israel, the office of the High Priest was established to make atonement for the people before God. The Old Testament priest had nothing but the blood of bulls, goats and other creatures, but Jesus made atonement for us with His own blood. Seeing how our High Priest died for our sins, we can trust that He cares supremely about our plight.

Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

### **Grace Is Better**

God's law defined right and wrong for all mankind. Without God's law, anarchy and chaos would ensue. Nevertheless, nobody can ever keep the law perfectly, and failure prescribes the death sentence. Though it EXPOSES sin, it cannot stop us from doing wrong. The law offers no hope of a remedy. But God showed grace to us in Jesus Christ. Now we do have hope, because He is gracious.

Hebrews 7:19 - "...the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."

### **Death**

What is death? The physical body expires. Then what? About 1.5 billion people believe that the human spirit migrates to either a plant, animal or human reincarnation. But over two billion people adhering to various forms of Christianity reject the reincarnation theory. Martyrs of Islam expect to awake in paradise surrounded by rushing fountains and buxom virgins. Jesus said that when the rich man and Lazarus died, the rich man went straight to hell and Lazarus joined Abraham in paradise.

Hebrews 9:27 - "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

### **The Destiny Of Man**

If we are annihilated when we die, we have little reason to restrain ourselves from uninhibited, indulgent living. If there is no account to be made for the life we live, we might not be dissuaded from riotous excesses. But we will give account. Jesus said, "...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment," (Matthew 12:36). Make no mistake - beyond the grave is either great reward or frightening punishment.

Hebrews 9:27 - "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

## **Church Attendance**

God gave Moses the Tabernacle plan. "But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose... to put his name there, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come," (Deuteronomy 12:5). They brought tithes and offerings, made vows and prayed. Since then, God has always required His people to go to church faithfully. TV preachers won't do.

Hebrews 10:25 - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

## **Backsliding**

Peter warned believers against becoming entangled again with the pollutions of the world from which they came. The end of such is worse than the beginning. It would have been better if they had never known the way of righteousness, than to know and turn from it. He compared it to a dog returning to his own vomit, or a freshly-washed sow to wallowing in the mire. Backslider, beware a bitter end!

Hebrews 10:29 - "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God?"

## **Commitment**

Calvinists argue that once a man is saved, he cannot be lost - if lost, he was never saved. Technically, nobody living is yet saved. We are all still in the fray. Many who said, "Lord, Lord, etc." will be denied. Some, once sanctified, will be punished. Paul consoled himself in his commitment: "He will keep that which I have committed..." Will He keep what is not committed to Him?


Hebrews 10:29 - "Of how much sorer punishment, ...shall he be thought worthy, who hath... counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing...?"

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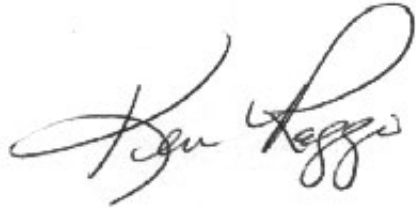
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