

Hebrews 2: Christ's Superiority to Angels

Hebrews 2.1-18

Notes

Many English Bibles translate "mishapodothian" in verse 2 as "just retribution" (RSV), "just penalty" (NRSV), "just punishment" (NIV). The KJV translates it as "just recompense of reward," which was hedging the bet. The word actually means "reward" and the modern translations are providing not a translation but an interpretation. St. John Chrysostom, who actually spoke Greek as his mother tongue and preached Greek, refers to it as "reward" and makes comment on its supposed irony. His contention is that since this applies to absolutely everyone, "reward" is a perfect word as it describes the positive as well as the negative.

Verse 6 originally reads, "Man," and, "Son of Man," keeping in mind that the original Hebrew was expansive, including all human sexes, *as is the Greek*. The Greek word for the human male is very different from the Greek word used here to describe any human, even if the grammatical gender is masculine and early modern English, which is used in many translations, had only a single word for the species and the male sex of the species.

Questions

1. What is the message declared by the angels compared to the message declared by the Lord?
2. What is, "so great a salvation," as declared by the writer?
3. What does it mean by, "putting everything in subjection under his feet?" What are the implications of this?
4. Discuss, "tasting death for everyone," and what it means to you.
5. What is the basic premise of verses 10-13?
6. Having looked at, "so great a salvation," in question 2, how can Jesus' death destroy death's hold?
7. What does it mean to you, "he is able to help those who are tempted?"