

Hebrews 2:3-4

God's Great Salvation

How shall we escape?

The question is rhetorical, but fair. The place of this passage in the whole is important for us to consider. The messenger has been shown to be greater, hence the message is by inference also greater. Since the salvation of which we speak is so much greater, and the OT way of thinking was itself punished when God deemed it time... but since the far greater has come, if we neglect the greater, there remains no more room for forgiveness. There will be no second chances, no purgatory to purge remaining sin, no re-incarnation, no possible way for us to ever be forgiven if we neglect this ONE great calling...

I. NEGLECTING SALVATION

a. Refusing repentance

b. Stubbornly clinging to fleshly works

- c. Stupidly denying your basic nature and pretending that you just aren't that bad
- d. Pretending religion is enough
- e. Pretending that Christ is NOT enough and that you must add to His work
- f. Stubbornly clinging to the hope that tomorrow will be soon enough

II. GREAT SALVATION

- a. This is the supreme work of all things
- b. Creation calls out the saving name of Jesus
- c. The whole of all time and history declares His supremacy
- d. All works and words point to this
- e. Nothing else can even stand in the bar, nothing else can even make a pretense of meaning or

matter... There is nothing else in all of creation

III. GREAT IN PURPOSE

a. to vindicate God's righteousness

Rom 3.23-26

b. To purify a people, by transforming them from darkness to light

Titus 2.11-14

Ephes 5.8-14

c. To demonstrate His great heart of love

Ephes 1.4-6

IV. GREAT IN SCOPE

a. Far more than simply saving us from hell

- b. The plan is the same, from before time began, before the foundations of the whole creation

Ephes 1

- c. The plan has scope and reward that far surpass this life and pass into eternity

Rev 5.8-14

V. GREAT IN PRICE

- a. Nothing could provide but the blood of Jesus

1Peter 1.18

- b. He Delivered us from the wrath of God

Romans 5.8-9

1 Thess 1:10

c. He did this by enduring the wrath of God on our behalf

Is 53

d. He became flesh and dwelt among us

John 1:18

e. He left heaven

Phil 2.5-8

f. He became subject to the law, fulfilled it and still paid the price for our rebellion

VI. GREAT IN TESTIMONY

a. The plan of God testified by the Son of God

Mark 1:14

b. Witnessed by the law and prophets

1 Peter 1:10-12

Romans 3.21-22

c. Foretold in all of the scripture

Luke 24.27

VII. Great in witness

a. The apostles saw and gave witness to the things they heard and saw

Acts 4.18-20

Acts 22:14-16

1John 1.1-4

b. They gave themselves up for the sake of the testimony

c. They died for the sake of the name

d. They bore every possible pain and sorrow

e. God Himself bore witness

VIII. GREAT IN EVIDENCE

Note that every single thing mentioned here is given to declare the veracity and glory of this great salvation. God did not permit miracles simply for the sake of the show. He does not give power for power's own sake. He gives them all to show Jesus!

a. Signs

Acts 3.1-10

b. Wonders

Acts 2.42-47

c. Miracles

Acts 9.36-43

d. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Acts 14.3

IX. GREAT IN ORIGIN

a. This was all the will of God

Ephes 1.6

b. No one could ever force His hand

c. No one could ever back Him into a corner

d. No one could change or thwart His will

e. The fact that it happened declares that it was the will of God

i. Changeless

Eph 1.9

ii. Timeless

iii. Perfect

iv. Complete

v. Completed!