

Hebrews 2:3b-5a

Hebrews 2:3b (NOTES)

- "After it was at the first spoken through the Lord" - since Jesus is a vastly superior messenger of God than any angel, His message (the Gospel) has a greater claim on our conscience. Jesus' Gospel message was validated by His miracle ministry. Jesus claimed to be God and proved it by His miracles. Thus, His message was valid. John 10:38, Acts 2:22
- "it was confirmed to us by those who heard" - Those who heard were the apostles. Those who walked with Jesus while He was on the earth. They saw His miracles. They understood His power to forgive, heal, and save. When they were teaching, preaching, and witnessing, the message was also God's Word, and it was attended by miracles. Thus, to contend with the apostles' message was to contend with God. Acts 14:3, Romans 15:19, 2Corinthians 12:12
- The preaching of God's Word is *God's Word* - that is why we call it *the preaching of the Word*. This is a foundational reason that we accept the NT as God's Word. It was written by men who were given a message by God and delivered that message by the power of His Holy Spirit, who manifest in their ministry of His Word, miracles. We are compelled to accept the NT as God's Word on this basis. Since Jesus and the NT writers referred to or quoted directly from it, we are compelled to accept the OT as God's Word as well.

Hebrews 2:4 (NOTES)

- When Jesus performed miracles, it confirmed His message (the Gospel). When Jesus gave the power of miracles to the apostles, it confirmed the same message when they spoke it. They not only saw Jesus confirm His message with miracles, they experienced it personally - first when Jesus commissioned the seventy. Luke 10:1-24
- "by gifts of the Holy Spirit" - These are those spiritual gifts that were given to the apostles and leaders in the early church. Spiritual gifts include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, administration, apostle, faith, healings, helps, knowledge, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, mercy, prophecy, service, teaching, evangelism, and pastor. some miscellaneous passages mention celibacy, hospitality, martyrdom, missionary, and voluntary poverty. 1Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4
- Spiritual gifts come only to those who are born again. At the time Jesus sent the seventy, none had yet been born again. Thus, they used miracles. He gave the seventy the power to perform miracles to validate their message, but they did not have or employ spiritual gifts until Pentecost (50 days after Passover - the Crucifixion). At Pentecost, God caused people to be born again, and He gave them gifts of His Spirit. By these gifts they/and we continued to spread the message of the Gospel. Spiritual gifts and God's Word are everything we need to spread the Gospel. 2Peter 1:3

- Until Pentecost, only the "seventy," had the power to perform miracles. Then, the number was reduced to just the Apostles (twelve of the seventy) who were given this power, according to the biblical record. Among the seventy given miracle powers was Judas Iscariot, Christ's betrayer.
- Thereafter, the born-again Church (us) carried on the spreading of the Gospel, but they/we were not necessarily validated by attending miracles. Rather, God gave two tools to the Church - first, His written Word in the NT, and second, spiritual gifts. By means of the Word and spiritual gifts, we continue to spread the Gospel message. The written Word of the NT, which was not available when the apostles were ministering, was largely written decades after the cross.
- So, there was a transition of the Gospel ministry - First, Jesus, then the seventy, followed by the twelve apostles, then finally to born-again believers (the Church), who by the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit have been given special dispensations of His Spirit for the building of the Church - strengthening the existing membership and adding to their numbers. 1Corinthians 12:7, 14:12, 26
- The preaching of the Gospel, by ministers or laity, is only effective when the Holy Spirit is present. He gives us the power to present His Gospel because He indwells us. Since He indwells us, He can and does give us dispensations of His Spirit - spiritual gifts. He causes the hearer to become born-again, and the newly born-again member of the Church becomes the next Holy Spirit indwelt, spiritually gifted spreader of the gospel, and so on, and so on.
- "according to His own will" - Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, and it is to be employed in God's service. 1Corinthians 12:1-13

Hebrews 2:5a (NOTES)

- "the world to come" - The new heaven and new earth that will replace this present universe and earth. The new heaven = a new universe. The new earth = a new earth. The present creation will be destroyed because of its corruption, sin, death. It will be replaced by a new creation in which is God's full righteousness. Isaiah 51:6, Zephaniah 1:18, Matthew 24:35, Romans 8:19-22, 2Peter 3:7, 10-13, Revelation 20:11, 21:1, 5
- There will also be a New Jerusalem, which will serve as our concept of heaven. Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16, Revelation 21:10-27
- "For He did not subject to angels the world to come" - God created the universe and everything in it, including angels. Created beings, on their own, cannot reign over the universe. God must reign. But, those whom He has adopted as sons and daughters have become co-heirs with Jesus and will reign with Him. Romans 8:14-17, 2Timothy 2:12, Revelation 3:21, 20:4-6
- Angels have not been adopted into the family of God, are not co-heirs with Christ, and will not reign with Him. As co-heirs who will reign with Christ, we will judge even the angels. 1Corinthians 6:3, Matthew 25:41

- We, beginning with Adam, were made a little lower than the angels in rank. But, at the Parousia (Second Coming of Christ), we will receive glorified bodies and will be glorified with Christ. Then, we will be elevated in rank above the angels.