

Selections from Hebrews 2 - 4

New American Standard Version

2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*.

2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.^{3:1} Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

4:11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This “passage” contains sections from four chapters, along with brief excerpts from the intermediate texts. What do you learn about the human nature of the incarnate Jesus? What effect does the surrounding context have?

...He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary...

Observation (What does it say?):
What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):
After observing the passage:

- What is the logic of this extended passage?
- Why is the full humanity of Jesus important?
- Why does the writer not mention the virgin birth in asserting that Jesus was without sin?
- Why are these sections on Jesus’ humanity sandwiched between severe warnings?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What aspects of your “humanness” are included when you think of Jesus?
- What aspects of your “humanness” don’t seem to fit when you think of Jesus?
- How does this passage affect you regarding the struggles you have?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

- *Did Jesus have a fallen human nature? Is there a difference between a fallen nature and original sin?*
- *Consider the following. Which do you understand to be true? Does it make any difference?*
A. It was possible for Jesus not to sin.
B. It was not possible for Jesus to sin.
C. All of the above.
D. None of the above.
- *“God cannot be tempted by evil” (James 1:13). Jesus “has been tempted in all things” Hebrews 4:15). How do those fit together in Jesus as both God and man?*

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
 J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**