

deSilva, Hebrews, Session 3, Resources from Notebooklm

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of deSilva, Hebrews, Session 3, Hebrews 2:5-18, Hope and Help in the Son, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. deSilva's lecture analyzes Hebrews 2:5-18, focusing on the author's **Christological interpretation of Psalm 8**. He argues that the passage emphasizes Jesus' suffering and glorification as a model for believers, highlighting Jesus' solidarity with humanity and liberation from the fear of death. **Key themes** include Jesus' role as a high priest and mediator, the hope of future glory, and the overcoming of temptation through faith in Christ. The lecture also explores the **historical context**, comparing the text's Christology with Second Temple Jewish expectations of a priestly Messiah. Finally, it offers **practical applications** for contemporary believers, urging them to trust in Christ's power and overcome fear and temptation.

2. 17-minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. deSilva's, Hebrews, Session 3 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → General Epistles → Hebrews).



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3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. David A. deSilva's lecture on Hebrews 2:5-18:

Briefing Document: Hebrews 2:5-18 - Hope and Help in the Son

Introduction:

This briefing summarizes the key arguments and themes presented in Dr. David A. deSilva's lecture on Hebrews 2:5-18, focusing on the author's use of Psalm 8, the concept of Jesus's suffering as a path to glory, and the implications for the audience's own experiences. The lecture explores how the author of Hebrews uses Christology not only to emphasize the seriousness of heeding the Son's word but also to offer pastoral comfort and hope to a suffering audience.

Main Themes and Ideas:

1. Christological Interpretation of Psalm 8:

- The author of Hebrews offers a Christological interpretation of Psalm 8:4-6, moving away from its traditional reading as a celebration of humanity's place in creation.
- The phrase "Son of man" is key to the author's interpretation, directly linking it to Jesus, who often used that title for himself in the Gospels.
- The author emphasizes a temporal interpretation of the phrase "a little lower than the angels," viewing it as referring to the Son's temporary humiliation during his incarnation, rather than a fixed position in creation.
- The temporary "lower" status through incarnation and death is followed by being "crowned with glory and honor" - tying Jesus's path to that of his followers.
- Quote: *"The Son's incarnation involved temporarily accepting a lower status beneath the angels. But following upon that time, the Son was glorified. You crowned him with glory and honor."*

1. Suffering as a Necessary Path to Glory:

- Jesus's path through suffering to glory is presented as the model for believers. Their current suffering is not a sign of God's disfavor, but a necessary part of their journey toward their divinely appointed destiny.

- God "perfected" Jesus, not by correcting a flaw, but by bringing him to his destined end-point through suffering, specifically referring to his return in glory and installation as High Priest.
- Quote: *"For it was fitting for him... in leading many sons and daughters to glory, to perfect the leader of their salvation through sufferings."*
- This "perfecting" is aligned with how a child matures, or an initiate in ancient mystery religions completes the rites of initiation.

1. Solidarity of the Son with the "Many Sons and Daughters":

- The author emphasizes the solidarity between Jesus and his followers. He identifies with them so completely that he is "not ashamed to call them brothers."
- Scriptural quotes (from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8) are placed on the lips of Jesus to demonstrate this solidarity, highlighting the Son's confession of his relationship with his "brothers and sisters."
- Quote: *"For the one who sanctifies, and those who are in the process of being sanctified, are all from one. For which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, I will announce your name to my brothers."*
- This is tied to stoic ideas of brotherhood but is specifically about the bond with the exalted Son.

1. Liberation from the Fear of Death:

- Jesus's death is portrayed as a victory over the devil, who has the power over death. Through his own death, Jesus has liberated believers from the fear of death.
- Quote: *"In order that, through death, he might destroy the one having power over death, that is, the devil, and release those who all their lives were held liable to slavery by the fear of death."*
- This liberation is seen as empowering believers to face trials without fear, as did the philosophers Socrates or Seneca.
- The fear of death is presented as a debilitating force leading to overachievement, compulsive behavior, and ultimately preventing devotion to God.

1. Jesus as Merciful and Faithful High Priest:

- Jesus's experience of suffering makes him a merciful and faithful High Priest who can understand and help those who are tempted.
- This is established through a recontextualization of Isaiah, emphasizing Jesus's shared experience with humanity.
- The High Priest is presented as a bridge builder or mediator between God and humanity, a role that Jesus fulfills perfectly.
- Quote: *"For in what he suffered, himself being tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted."*
- This is further developed as the priest as a broker of access to God and his blessings.

1. Priestly Messiah Background:

- The lecture notes that the concept of a priestly Messiah was present in some Second Temple Jewish literature, such as the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Testament of Levi.
- While there are similarities between these texts and the priestly Christology of Hebrews, the author of Hebrews is an innovator in highlighting a heavenly high priest, one who intercedes and provides self-sacrifice for sins.
- Quote: *"In these facets, the author of Hebrews shows himself to be quite an innovator in the traditions that he may have inherited from his Jewish heritage."*

Pastoral Implications for the Hearers:

- The audience is urged to keep their focus on Jesus, the central figure of hope and salvation.
- They are encouraged to endure their present lack of honor, knowing that they are destined to share in Jesus's glory.
- They are reminded of the benefits they have received through Jesus's sacrifice, particularly liberation from the fear of death and the assurance of his ongoing support.
- The lecture challenges the hearers to remain steadfast, relying on Jesus's ability to help them overcome temptation and hardship.
- They are reminded that their temptations and trials are not unique, and that Jesus understands their experiences.

- The hearers are called to run to Jesus in times of temptation and testing.

Relevance for Contemporary Discipleship:

- The lecture highlights the importance of keeping faith with Jesus, especially when facing hardships.
- It stresses the availability of Jesus's help in all situations of temptation and testing.
- It challenges listeners to examine how the fear of death might be negatively influencing their lives.
- It invites a reorientation of life toward God's values and purpose, especially when faced with the knowledge that this life is not all there is.

Conclusion:

The lecture on Hebrews 2:5-18 emphasizes the centrality of Jesus in the Christian faith, presenting him as the pioneer of salvation, the merciful high priest, and the ultimate source of hope and liberation. The author of Hebrews uses a Christological reading of Psalm 8 to reassure and encourage the audience, showing that their suffering is not in vain, but a necessary part of their path toward glory. The text challenges contemporary believers to recognize their need for a savior, to turn to Christ in times of need, and to let go of the fear of death.

4. Hebrews Study Guide: 3, Hebrews 2:5-18, Hope and Help in the Son

Hebrews 2:5-18 Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the main purpose of the author's Christological reading of Psalm 8 in Hebrews 2:5-9?
2. How does the author of Hebrews reinterpret the phrase "Son of Man" from Psalm 8, and what significance does this have for his argument?
3. What two possible meanings of the Greek translation of "a little lower" does the author exploit, and how does he use this ambiguity to further his argument?
4. What does it mean for Jesus to be "perfected through sufferings" in Hebrews 2:10, and how does this relate to the experience of his followers?
5. According to Hebrews 2:11-13, what does the author mean by the phrase "all from one" in reference to the relationship between Jesus and his followers, and how does the author use Old Testament quotes to support this connection?
6. How does the author of Hebrews connect the philosophical topic of liberation from the fear of death with the Christian understanding of the cosmic battle between God and Satan?
7. According to Hebrews 2:14-15, how does Jesus' death liberate people from the fear of death, and what are some of the practical implications of this freedom?
8. Why does the author state that Jesus was "obliged in every respect to be made like his brothers and sisters," and how does this connect to his role as high priest?
9. In what way was the expectation of a priestly messiah present in Second Temple Judaism, and what were some of its characteristics?
10. What are three practical implications for a life of discipleship that can be drawn from Hebrews 2:5-18?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The author uses Psalm 8 to establish that Jesus's path through suffering to glory is the path that his followers should expect to travel, demonstrating their current suffering is not an indication of distance from God but instead part of the path to their divinely appointed destiny.
2. The author reinterprets "Son of Man" from Psalm 8 as a title specifically referring to Jesus, which helps him make a Christological reading of the passage and establishes a connection between the psalm text and Jesus's identity.
3. The author of Hebrews uses the ambiguous translation of "a little lower" to suggest that Jesus's submission beneath the angels was temporary rather than spatial, and this creates an incarnational reading of the text, focusing on the sequential events of Jesus's life.
4. Being "perfected through sufferings" refers to Jesus being brought to the end point of his divine purpose, his return in glory to the heavenly realm and his installation as high priest. His suffering is a model for his followers as the path to their own glory.
5. "All from one" refers to the shared divine source of both Jesus and his followers and the author uses Old Testament quotations from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8, to show that Jesus identifies with and expresses solidarity with them, calling them his brothers and sisters.
6. The author joins the philosophical view of a sage overcoming the fear of death with a Christian view of Jesus as victor over Satan, making Jesus's death both a liberation for humanity and a defeat of their spiritual captor.
7. Jesus' death destroys the power of the devil over death and liberates people from the slavery they experience due to fear of death which enables them to make moral choices, live courageously, and not be subverted by things like shame or loss of property.
8. Jesus had to become fully human to be a compassionate and faithful high priest and effectively broker God's favor. By sharing in human experience, Jesus is able to empathize and help those who are tempted and in need.
9. In Second Temple Judaism there was expectation for a priestly Messiah who would officiate rightly. Some looked forward to a priestly leader who would atone for sins and whose teachings would be in line with God's law.

10. A life of discipleship, in light of Hebrews 2:5-18, calls us to keep faith in Jesus, recognize his ever-present ability to help us in temptation and testing, and to embrace freedom from the fear of death so we can invest in the things of God, which offers a life-line out of our pursuits based on fear.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the author's use of Psalm 8 in Hebrews 2:5-9, paying close attention to how he reinterprets the text to support his Christological argument and how it relates to the audience's experience of suffering.
2. Examine the concept of "perfection" in Hebrews 2:10, discussing how it applies to Jesus and how it relates to the author's larger argument about the relationship between suffering and glory for believers.
3. Discuss the significance of the concept of "solidarity" between Jesus and his followers as presented in Hebrews 2:11-13, and explain how the author uses Old Testament quotations to emphasize the close connection between them.
4. Explore the author's treatment of the theme of fear of death in Hebrews 2:14-15. Discuss how the author connects it to broader themes of liberation, courage, and the ultimate purpose of human life and compare this to other philosophical viewpoints.
5. Compare and contrast the portrait of the priestly Messiah in Hebrews 2:16-18 with the expectations for a priestly messiah found in Second Temple Jewish literature and explain how the text challenges us to live a life of discipleship based on Jesus's example.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Christological:** Relating to the study of the nature and person of Jesus Christ.
- **Eulogistic:** Expressing praise or commendation.
- **Syllogism:** A form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed premises.
- **Explicate:** To analyze and explain an idea or principle in detail.
- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, important for understanding how early Christians interpreted the Old Testament.

- **Incarnational:** The theological doctrine that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Messiah:** The promised deliverer of the Jewish people, often associated with a kingly or priestly figure.
- **Doxa:** The Greek word for "glory," referring to the honor and splendor of God.
- **Timeh:** The Greek word for honor.
- **Sanctify:** To set apart or make holy; in this context, it refers to the process of becoming more like God.
- **Hermeneutical:** Relating to the interpretation of texts.
- **Oracle:** A divine communication or revelation.
- **Archireus:** The Greek word for "high priest."
- **Pontifex:** The Latin word for "bridge builder," often used to describe a priest.
- **Mediator:** One who intervenes between two parties, often to reconcile them or facilitate communication.
- **Brokerage:** The act of mediating or arranging an agreement or connection between parties.
- **Belial:** A name for the devil or an evil spirit, used in the Testament of Levi.

5. FAQs on DeSilva, Hebrews, Session 3, Hebrews 2:5-18, Hope and Help in the Son, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Hebrews 2:5-18

- **What is the primary focus of Hebrews 2:5-18?**
 - The primary focus of this section of Hebrews is to develop the Christological themes introduced in the first chapter, emphasizing Jesus's path through suffering to glory as a model for believers. The author aims to provide pastoral comfort and hope by highlighting Jesus' solidarity with humanity in their suffering and temptations, assuring them that their struggles are part of God's plan for their ultimate glory. The author also argues for the superiority of Christ to angels, making the case that the coming world is subjected to the Son and not to angels.
- **How does the author of Hebrews interpret Psalm 8, and what is the significance of this interpretation?**
 - The author of Hebrews gives a Christological reading of Psalm 8, applying the phrase "Son of Man" to Jesus. The psalm, which traditionally celebrates humanity's place in creation, is interpreted to refer to Jesus' incarnation, his temporary lowering beneath the angels, his suffering, death, and subsequent glorification. This reading emphasizes that Jesus' path to glory, which included suffering, is the same path that believers are to travel. It also underscores Jesus' role as a pioneer and leader of salvation, who has gone before his followers to pave the way to their divinely appointed destiny.
- **What does the author of Hebrews mean by "perfecting" Jesus through suffering?**
 - The "perfecting" of Jesus through suffering does not imply a deficiency in Jesus, but rather refers to bringing him to the destined end point of his journey – his return to glory in the heavenly realm as the great high priest and mediator. This "perfection" is understood as the completion of his purpose and is not about correcting any inherent flaw in him. It's a process of bringing Jesus to the fullness of his role as the one who leads many sons and daughters to glory by following the path he has already traversed.

- **How does the author of Hebrews emphasize Jesus' solidarity with believers?**
- The author emphasizes Jesus's solidarity with believers through several means, including: sharing in their flesh and blood, not being ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, identifying with them by quoting Psalms and Isaiah, enduring temptations and sufferings in order to better understand and help his followers in their own sufferings, and sacrificing himself to free them from the fear of death. The texts from Psalm 22 and Isaiah are reinterpreted to show Jesus's willingness to identify fully with humanity.
- **Why does the author connect Jesus's death with the liberation from the fear of death?**
- The author connects Jesus' death with liberation from the fear of death by presenting Jesus as one who has conquered the one who holds power over death, the devil. In sharing in their mortality, Jesus makes death itself a conquered foe that no longer needs to hold humanity in fear and bondage. This liberation empowers believers to live courageously, facing external pressures without being subverted by their fear of death. Because death is not the end, believers are freed from living only for this life.
- **What is the significance of Jesus being portrayed as a High Priest in Hebrews 2?**
- The author of Hebrews emphasizes Jesus as a High Priest, a role that sets him apart from other common New Testament portrayals of Jesus as a kingly messiah. As a high priest, Jesus serves as a mediator between God and humanity, connecting people in the earthly realm to the divine realm. His own suffering makes him a sensitive and effective helper, uniquely qualified to sympathize with human trials and temptations. Jesus is presented as a "bridge-builder" who connects humans to God in a way that would otherwise be impossible. This high priesthood will be examined in more depth in the chapters to come.
- **How does Hebrews 2:5-18 challenge believers to live?**
- This passage challenges believers to maintain their faith in Jesus, viewing their current struggles not as a sign of God's displeasure, but as an opportunity to follow in Jesus's footsteps towards glory. It encourages believers to rely on Jesus' help in the face of temptation and testing. Moreover, it calls them to overcome the fear of death, enabling them to pursue a God-centered agenda, marked by righteousness and love, regardless of worldly opposition. It suggests that true honor is found not in earthly status but in fellowship with Jesus.

- **What does this section of Hebrews say about the importance of Jesus in the face of hardship?**
- This section of Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus is a present help in any situation of temptation or testing. He has not only gone through suffering and death himself, but he also knows from personal experience the challenges that believers face. By emphasizing Jesus's willingness to identify with and help humanity, the author seeks to show his listeners that they have every reason to remain steadfast in their faith and trust that Jesus will guide and sustain them through any difficulty. This is not just theoretical – they can and should run to him at any moment and invite him into their challenges and temptations.