

Hebrews 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Analysis

The rhetorical question expects the answer: there is no escape. 'Neglect' (Greek 'amelesantes') implies not rejection but indifference or carelessness toward salvation. This is more dangerous than outright rejection because it appears less serious. 'So great salvation' encompasses deliverance from sin's penalty, power, and eventually presence—past, present, and future aspects of redemption.

Historical Context

The warning assumes readers understand salvation's magnitude. In the context of potential apostasy back to Judaism, the author stresses that abandoning Christ means abandoning the only means of salvation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Are there ways you treat the gospel casually rather than with the weight it deserves?

2. How would you describe the greatness of your salvation to someone who has never heard?

Interlinear Text

πῶς ἡμεῖς ἐκφευξόμεθα τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες

How shall we escape so great if we neglect

G4459

G2249

escape

G1628

so great

G5082

if we neglect

G272

σωτηρίας ἥτις ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ

salvation which at the first began to be spoken by G3588

G4991

G3748

G746

began

G2983

to be spoken

G2980

G1223

G3588

κυρίου ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη

the Lord by them that heard unto us and was confirmed

G2962

G5259

G3588

them that heard

G191

unto

G1519

us

G2248

G950

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Romans 2:3 (Parallel theme): And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Hebrews 5:9 (Salvation): And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Hebrews 4:11 (Parallel theme): Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Isaiah 62:11 (Salvation): Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

Acts 4:12 (Salvation): Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Luke 1:2 (Parallel theme): Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Ezekiel 17:15 (Parallel theme): But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?

Revelation 7:10 (Salvation): And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

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