

# 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

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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πῶς	ἡμεῖς	ἐκφευξόμεθα	τηλικαύτης	ἀμελήσαντες		
How	shall we	escape	so great	if we neglect		
G4459	G2249	G1628	G5082	G272		
σωτηρίας	ἥτις	ἀρχὴν	λαβοῦσα	λαλεῖσθαι	διὰ	τοῦ
salvation	which	at the first	began	to be spoken	by	G3588
G4991	G3748	G746	G2983	G2980	G1223	
κυρίου	ὑπὸ	τῶν	ἀκουσάντων	εἰς	ἡμᾶς	ἐβεβαιώθη
the Lord	by	G3588	them that heard	unto	us	and was confirmed
G2962	G5259		G191	G1519	G2248	G950

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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