

And This Will We Do, If God Permits

An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**

Chapter 2: God Speaks Now through Jesus

Hebrews 1:1&2

11: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 6

WAOY Monday 01/12/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the superior way that God speaks to Man under the New Covenant by looking at **Hebrews 1:1&2**. So let's read those verses together.

Hebrews 1:1&2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Now we are continuing to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** is discussing here in these two verses, by looking at the various ways that God used to speak to Man under the First Covenant, or the Old Covenant, versus the much more superior way that God speaks to Man through the New Covenant. And last time we were talking about the two sources of Divine Revelation. I want to continue in that vein again today. As I told you last time, the Bible teaches that there are two ways or two sources of Divine Revelation. These are the two methods by which God reveals Himself to Mankind. The first type of Revelation is what is called "General Revelation". General Revelation is God's own Creation itself.

And last time we were introduced to the second type of Revelation, and that is what is called "Special" or "Specific Revelation" which is the sixty-six Books of the Holy Bible. And last time we were going over what the Bible means when it says in **2 Timothy 3:16&17**:

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

And we saw last time how by using the word “inspiration”, the Apostle Paul was saying that Scripture is the most unique body of Words that the world has ever known... in that they are the only Words that were exhaled or *breathed out* by God. And we saw how that by extension, inspiration also means that Scripture is Inerrant, Infallible, Authoritative, Relevant, and Eternal. Now here is how we tie all this together with what the writer of **Hebrews** is talking about.

It pleased God to bring the focus of all that He has done in Creation and all that He is in Eternity into the Person of Jesus Christ; and thus it is the highest form of love *to* God and the highest form of worship *of* God, and the highest form of respect *for* God, and the highest form of adoration and honor for all of God’s Creation - especially Man - for all of us to bow before Christ and to confess Him as Lord.

And *since* this is true - and it *is* true - then everything that God has spoken from **Genesis** to **The Revelation** in the “Special Revelation” that we call the Scriptures or the Holy Bible, then everything that God has spoken from **Genesis** to **The Revelation**, and everything that God has done in His marvelous Creation - from the creation of Light to the forming of Man - points all of us to Christ. And it speaks to us of Christ and tells us of Christ, so that we may hear and see, know and love, honor and adore, worship and follow, and obey Christ, all to the glory of God the Father.

The writer of **Hebrews** tells us that although God spoke in various ways in time past, He is also speaking to us *today*. The writer of **Hebrews** clearly affirms that Almighty God speaks to Man. He declares that God communicates to Man, not haphazardly, not once in a while, but in various ways and at different times. Contrast the various ways that God speaks to Man with the fact that idols are called “dumb” (in that they cannot speak), nor can they communicate with man at all.

Psalms 115:4-8

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold,

The work of man’s hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but they cannot speak;

They have eyes, but they cannot see;

⁶ They have ears, but they cannot hear;

**They have noses, but they cannot smell;
7 They have hands, but they cannot feel;
They have feet, but they cannot walk;
They cannot make a sound with their throat.
8 Those who make them will become like them,
Everyone who trusts in them.**

Habakkuk 2:18-20

**18 “What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it,
Or an image, a teacher of falsehood?
For its maker trusts in his own handiwork
When he fashions speechless idols.
19 “Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, ‘Awake!’
To a mute stone, ‘Arise!’
And that is *your* teacher?
Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,
And there is no breath at all inside it.
20 “But the Lord is in His holy temple.
Let all the earth be silent before Him.”**

The ancient philosophers are all dead, and they speak no more. The godless evolutionists are dead, and they speak no more. But God continues to speak and we have heard His Voice. In the first chapter of Genesis alone, God spoke twelve times during the six days of Creation. And the very first attack by the devil against Man was over what God had *said*. Please read with me **Genesis 3:1**:

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from *any* tree of the garden’?”

Satan put doubt into Eve’s heart about what God had said, and that began a chain reaction that eventually brought forth the fall of the human race. In just the first four chapters of Genesis,

- God spoke to the other Persons of the Trinity.
- God spoke to Creation.
- God spoke to Adam.

- God spoke to Eve.
- God spoke to the serpent.
- God spoke to Cain.

Then for over 1,500 years, we have no record of God speaking at all until He spoke to Noah. After the Flood, God was silent again for another 480 years until He spoke to an idol maker named Abram. God spoke to Abram three times over a 24-year time span, and then was silent again until He appeared to Jacob... and after that God was silent again until He spoke to Moses.

God didn't speak once or twice. God spoke many times in many different ways. But the way in which God spoke in the Old Testament was fragmented. It was not the brilliance of the Sun that God spoke to Man in the Old Testament, but it was the refracted light that shone from behind the clouds. It was still God, but it was hidden.

After Creation, God spoke to Man. God made Himself known to His Creation. He desired that what He had made would know Him, Love Him, Serve Him, Fear Him, Worship Him, Follow Him, and Obey Him. God spoke in dreams, and through angels, and in Person. God spoke audibly, by fire, through a cloud, through visions, in a deep sleep, and through other means. And this brings us to the Old Testament Prophets. The Old Testament Prophets were persons uniquely called by God and supernaturally given God's special messages to pass on to God's chosen people.

At the time these prophets operated on the earth, the Bible - God's special Revelation to Man - had not been compiled nor completed, so God spoke His Word through the lips and writings of these prophets. When the prophets spoke God's Word, they did so in a very special way called "prophecy". These prophecies were divided into two categories: "Fore" telling and "Forth" telling. Both the future prediction (*fore-telling*) of God's Will for Man, and the present proclamation and exhortation of God's Word (*forth-telling*) were done by the prophets. By definition, this made these men individually unique and it made their ministry to be temporary. These unique prophets were so endowed by the Holy Spirit that their words were God's Words. That is why prophetic messages were often prefaced by the phrase, "*Thus saith the Lord*".

The prophets also served another purpose: that of being reformers to Israel's religion and culture. God used these special men to call the chosen people back to pure worship and obedience to God. Although the prophets were critical of the way Jewish worship often degenerated into mere ritual, they were careful to never condemn or attack the original forms of worship that God had given His people.

Contrary to popular opinion, these prophets were not wild revolutionaries nor were they religious anarchists. They were *very* accountable to God for *everything* they did and said. These were highly disciplined, ordered, cautious, and holy men uniquely called and chosen by God to proclaim God's Word. Their ministry was not simply to rebel against the established order. They were called to *purify*, not to destroy... to *reform*, not to replace, the worship of Israel.

The prophets were also deeply concerned about social justice and righteousness. They were the very conscience and the soul of the nation, calling all men to repentance. They also functioned as God's covenantal lawsuit prosecutors. They served holy "subpoenas" on the nation for violating the terms of the Covenant with God. And because of all of this, most of the prophets were despised and hated men. All were feared. The people of God trembled to see them coming, for they knew that these prophets would rebuke their backsliding and expose their luke-warmness. Many prophets were tortured, imprisoned, and even killed by the very people that God had sent them to reform. All during their ministry these chosen prophets of God were ridiculed, rejected, cast out, brushed off and ignored. Periodically, their words were heeded and the entire nation rejoiced as God would honor those who obeyed the prophet's Words.

Prophets spoke with Divine authority because God specifically called and chose them to be His spokesmen. They did not inherit their office, nor were they elected to it. The immediate call from God, coupled with the Holy Spirit's Power, constituted the prophet's credentials.

But there was also another group of men in Israel in those days. These men were called *false* prophets. And these false prophets were a constant problem in Israel. Instead of speaking the Oracles of God, the false prophets related their *own* dreams and their *own* opinions, using words that were not God-breathed but words that came from the mind and heart and mouth of evil men. These false prophets were saying what the people wanted to hear and saying what would pad their own

nests, rather than speaking words that would bring the people to repentance and into a right relationship with God.

The true prophets were frequently and severely persecuted and rejected by their contemporaries for refusing to compromise the proclamation of the whole counsel of God, while many of the false prophet were very much loved, extremely popular, and followed by the masses.

But what did the true Prophets speak? When God spoke through the prophets and through Moses and through angels, what was God saying to Man? God was speaking to Man about His one and only Son... the Darling of the Trinity, the Fullness of God, the Express Image of God's own Person... Jesus the Christ. We must know, dear friends, that everything that the prophets spoke, in some way, and with various clarity, pointed the way to Jesus. And Jesus Himself confirmed that this is true when it says in **Luke 24:27**:

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.