

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

6: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 1

WAQY Monday 01/05/09

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 look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about how God speaks to Man under the New Covenant, by looking at **Hebrews 1:1&2**. 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, God speaking to Man is one of the most interesting and important and yet controversial subjects in the entire Bible and so, Lord willing, I will be looking very closely at what the writer of **Hebrews** teaches here about this subject over the next several broadcasts.

In our day it is very common to hear people say, "*The Lord spoke to me*" or, "*The Lord showed me this or that*", and I understand what people mean when they say that. But let's take some time to examine just what all this means.

The writer of **Hebrews** opens this magnificent Epistle not by telling us his name, or even by telling us who he is writing this letter to, but he opens this Epistle with a profound and factual statement:

Hebrews 1:1&2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways ("diverse manners" *KJV*),

² in these last days has spoken to us ^[b]in His Son...

So the writer is acknowledging to us that the one, true, living God has indeed spoken to Man through what he calls “divers manners”. Now the word that was translated here into English as *divers* comes from the Greek word *polutropos*, which means *various or many*. So the writer of **Hebrews** is telling us that God has indeed spoken to Man in various and many different ways and methods. For example, the Bible says in **Genesis** that God spoke to Adam as He walked with him through the Garden. Now just *how* God spoke to Adam we will examine later, but we must remember that the *means* by which God communicated with Man changed after Adam sinned and Mankind fell and lost that First Estate with God. And in **Genesis 4**, the Bible says that when Cain tried to worship God on his *own* terms and God rejected Cain’s offering due to the evil in his heart, as a result of the rejected offering, Cain murdered his brother Abel. Abel had worshipped God on *God’s* terms. In verse nine we read that God spoke to Cain to ask him where Able was.

Now of course God didn’t ask Abel that question because God was unaware what had happened. God is Omniscient, so He knows everything about everything. No, this communication between God and Man was designed to expose Cain’s wicked act and bring condemnation upon him. Then in **Genesis 6**, we see where God has communication with Noah in great detail in giving Noah very precise instructions on how to build the Ark and how God was going to destroy the world.

All throughout **Genesis** we can see several instances where God spoke to the other Persons of the Trinity in making decisions and establishing His Own Will and Plan concerning Redemption.

For example, turn with me and read **Genesis 1:26**:

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

God the Father speaks here to God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to make Man in His image and likeness. God, Who is One in Essence, communicates with the second and third Persons of the Trinity in this verse to create Man. All three Persons of the Trinity are present here at the same time many thousands of years before Jesus was born.

And this is just one example why it is so very important, dear friends, for us to correctly understand The Doctrine of the Trinity and not be deceived by false teachings concerning that Godhead.

God is One; that is true. There is a great and powerful Revelation that Moses received from God and wrote down for us in **Deuteronomy 6:4&5**, where he said:

⁴“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And this is absolutely true. Polytheism or the concept that there are many gods - as Buddhists and Hindus and Hare Krishnas and New Age mystics, and other pagan religions teach - is an evil and the wrong approach to understanding God. God is *One*. There is only one true God. All the other gods of the nations are nothing but deaf and dumb and blind idols that cannot hear, and cannot speak, and cannot answer prayers.

But the *way* in which God is One is that he is One in Essence. And in that one single Essence, God is eternally manifested. He is from eternity past to eternity future manifested in the three very distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And here in **Genesis 1:26**, God is not speaking to the angels or to the seraphim or to the cherubim. The One true, living God is speaking among the Persons of the Trinity to make Man in His Own likeness and Image, when God said, **“Let us...”**.

You see, dear friends, angels do not and cannot create anything. Man cannot create anything, and Satan cannot create anything. Only God can create something out of nothing, because only God is the Creator.

So from that fact we know that in this verse, God the Father is not speaking to anyone else besides God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. And as we continue to journey throughout the Old Testament, we see very clearly that God communicated to Man through angels, and by signs and wonders, and by Voices and burning bushes, and by dreams and visions, and by various and many other means... just like the writer of **Hebrews** tells us.

And the writer of **Hebrews** also gives us insight into another aspect of how God speaks to Man. Look again at **Hebrews 1:1**:

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

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (KJV)

Notice that the writer uses the phrase, “**at sundry times**” (KJV) to give us further information about how God communicated with Man through the years. Now the word that was translated here into English as “**sundry**” comes from the Greek word *polumeros*, which comes from the very same root word that “divers” comes from and basically means *various or by many portions*.

Notice the last part of **Hebrews 1:1**:

1b...spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

As we already discovered, the Bible is clear that God communicated to Man in many different ways throughout the centuries that were included under the First or the Old Covenant. Yet here the writer is saying that God communicated to the fathers in various ways and in many different portions *by the prophets*. Do you see that? The writer limits this communication to the fathers as coming in various ways and in many different portions, *but only through the prophets*. Now why did the writer of **Hebrews** say it like this?

Why didn't the writer of **Hebrews** just say that God spoke to the fathers in various ways and in many different portions? Why didn't he just leave it like that? Why did he add the last part of this verse that these various ways and these many different portions by which God spoke to Man were only *by the prophets*?

Is the writer of **Hebrews** trying to say that God didn't speak to Man through angels? Is he denying that God used dreams and visions and other means to communicate with Man? No, the writer is simply reminding his Jewish readers that the only way that anyone in the first century knew about the divers manners and the sundry ways in which God revealed Himself to the fathers, over the almost four-thousand-year

time span that the Old Covenant covered, was because a group of very unique and chosen men called “the Prophets” faithfully recorded those accounts in the thirty-nine separate Books of the Old Testament. Here is how the Apostle Peter described that miraculous process in **2 Peter 1:20&21**:

²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter of one’s own interpretation*, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Here the Scriptures are called “prophecy”, not in the sense that we think about prophecy today, but simply to associate the inspired words of the Old Covenant with that which came forth from the Prophets.

The Apostle Paul had another interesting description for these unique and special Words when he wrote to Timothy, a young Pastor in the Church at Ephesus, in **2 Timothy 3:16&17**:

¹⁶ All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

So Paul is adding to what Peter said... that all the words of the Bible are special, unique, different, and set apart from any other words of any other book on earth. And that is because the Words of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible are “*inspired*”, meaning they are God-breathed. And by inference, when we say that Scripture is inspired, we are also saying that Scripture is Inerrant, Infallible, Authoritative, Relevant, and Eternal.

So right off of jump street, the writer of Hebrews is directing us to the Words of the Old Testament, the 39 Inspired Books of the Old Testament that were received from God and written down by the Prophets for all to know and love and obey. Now be careful that you note that it was *not* Moses or Samuel or David or Isaiah or Jeremiah or Daniel who was inspired. No, the Bible doesn’t teach that. Moses and the rest of the Old Testament Prophets were “moved upon” or “moved along” by the Holy Spirit. What was inspired or God-breathed was their *words*, not the men themselves. None of the Prophets were infallible. They were all sinners saved by Grace and very fallible... and very

capable of great and terrible sin and error. No, the Bible is very careful to take the emphasis off of the men and place it on the words themselves. It was the Words that God Himself breathed that were inspired, not the men.

Once those various events and Divine Truths were accurately recorded for us by the Prophets, other men called “priests” and “scribes” painstakingly, laboriously, and carefully copied each word. They copied each word over and over for several thousands of years so that today we have accurate and trustworthy copies of the very same Words that God gave to the Prophets, recorded for us in the 39 Books of the Old Testament.

So when we put all of this together, the writer of Hebrews is actually saying to us that God did indeed reveal Himself to Man in times past... as recorded for us by what the Prophets wrote down. And that was great, powerful, and wonderful. But God has spoken to Man and revealed Himself to Man now in a far greater and far more superior way than anything that God did by the Prophets. For now, the writer of Hebrews tells us that God speaks to man through His sinless Righteous Son, Jesus the Christ.

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.