

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

12: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 7

WAOY Tuesday 01/13/09

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.

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 saw that when God spoke through the prophets and through Moses, through angels, dreams, visions, and through all the various ways in which God *used* to communicate with Man, He was speaking to Man about His one and only Son... the Darling of the Trinity, the Fullness of God, and the Express Image of God's own Person... Jesus the Christ. So everything that the prophets spoke, in some way, and with various degrees of clarity, always pointed the way to Jesus. That is why Dr. Luke wrote in **Luke 24** to tell us of how Jesus explained the purpose of the Old Testament Scriptures with the two men he met on the Road to Emmaus after His Resurrection. In verse twenty-seven he writes:

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

God spoke in the various and sundry ways in time past to the fathers, by the prophets, in order to tell us about Who He was and what He wanted us to do. Therefore, if we are to know anything at all about God, it will be because God Himself reveals it to us. You see, we cannot ascend up to God, but God *can* condescend down to us, and He has. We cannot, by ourselves, understand God any more than an insect that we hold in our hand can understand us. Nor can we as humans condescend down to the level of an insect and make ourselves known to it. But God *can* condescend and God *has* condescended, and because He condescended, He has communicated with us on a level that we can understand.

You see, God became a Man and entered into our natural “box” and imposed Himself into our lives, and inserted Himself into Creation, and for the first time, God became part of the Creation that He made. He did this to tell us about Himself more fully and more completely and more perfectly than He did even through His own prophets. And this way of speaking to us now through His Son is far superior than the way God spoke in times past through the prophets, because now God doesn’t use the lips of sinful man to Reveal Himself. No, now God uses Himself.

You see, dear friends, even though the Prophets were all great men, they were all in fact frail, fleshly, and sinful men. They were not perfect. They needed Grace just like we do, and they needed forgiveness just like we do. The prophets were saved by Grace through Faith just like we are, and what they said was great and true and wonderful, but it was far inferior to what God now speaks through His Son.

Christianity is superior to every other religion on earth and in history because Christianity alone teaches that God Himself burst into Man’s natural “box” in the form of Jesus Christ, and showed us and told us about Himself. God wrapping Himself in human flesh and condescending into Man’s world and revealing Himself to Man about Himself is the single most important event in all of human history. All of God speaking to Man before Jesus was simply to prepare Man for when Jesus would come. So everything that the prophets said and everything that the fathers saw and heard and did was to prepare Man to see, meet, and hear Jesus.

So I ask you today, do you hear Jesus? Do you listen to Jesus? Are you listening to Jesus?

Now, what we must understand is that God used the Old Testament Prophets as instruments to reveal a *portion* of Himself to Man. Notice how the writer of Hebrews tells us how God spoke in verse one (KJV): *1 “...In sundry times and divers manners...”*

The writer says that God spoke in *polumeroos* and *polutropoos*. These two Greek words are very interesting. Respectively they mean, “in many portions” (as of books) and “in many different manners”. There are many Books in the Old Testament, thirty-nine to be exact. And in all of those *polumeroos*, and through all those *polutropoos*, God spoke to men. Sometimes He spoke in a vision; sometimes He spoke by a parable. God uses natural events all the time in the Old Testament to bring forth a spiritual truth. God spoke through types and symbols in the Old Testament, but it is always God that is speaking.

So here in verse one, what the writer of **Hebrews** is telling us is that the *polutropoos* - the many ways that God used to speak to Man - is the various ways that God spoke through the writers of the thirty-nine Old Testament Books. God used these men to write the Law of God in the first five Books; God used the Old Testament writers to pen down historical narratives like **Kings** and **Chronicles** and **Samuel**. He used these men to write the poetry and wisdom Books, like **The Psalms** and **Proverbs**. Then God anointed His own Prophets to give us both the “fore” telling and the “forth” telling of the Word of God.

You see, the various ways in which God spoke to Man in the thirty-nine Old Testament Books is an example of His own Sovereignty. God Almighty did not limit Himself to using just one type of speech, but He was varied in His communication with Man. This is why He uses all the various names and titles for Himself throughout the Old Testament. He is showing bits and pieces to many different people over a long period of time, so that collectively we all will see and hear and know Jesus Christ.

God used thirty-one different writers, over 1,400 years, on three continents - many of whom never met each other - but all were moved upon by the same Holy Ghost to write down the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of the living God. The writing and compiling and preservation of the Old Testament is a miracle that should thrill your

soul. And if I was an unbeliever, the fact that we even have an Old Testament... and to see the seamless way that it all fits together, and to look at how God moved to preserve it for thousands of years through wars and exiles and persecutions... and how meticulously it was copied over and over, from one generation to the other, would be enough to convince me that it is the Word of God. Truly God has had to blind the hearts of the Jews, or every Jew on earth would follow Jesus.

But as beautiful and authoritative and miraculous as the Old Testament is, it is also fragmented and incomplete. It is an ongoing journey. The Revelation of God contained in the Old Testament is what is called “Progressive Revelation”. Progressive Revelation occurs when the subject of what is being revealed becomes clearer as time goes on.

For example, **Genesis** has much Truth - the only Truth about Creation, in fact - but very little about Christ, other than in figures and types. **Exodus** shows a natural example of God’s Plan for spiritual Salvation. **Leviticus** has another portion of truth concerning the shadow of priesthood and sacrifices; the **Psalms** reveals even more truth; **Isaiah** brings forth some more truth, and we see a varied and different picture of the same Lord all the way through to **Malachi**, when the Old Testament stops. Divine Revelation going from the Old Testament to the New is also “progressive”. It goes from prophecy to fulfillment; it goes from promise to obtainment; it goes from shadow to reality... from symbol to substance, from natural to supernatural, from earthly to heavenly, from terrestrial to celestial, from flesh to spirit, and from portion to fullness.

Now, even though she was certainly no theologian, the woman at the well knew that what the Jews had was only partial and that when Jesus came, He would bring to them the fullness of God, so she said in **John 4:25:** ²⁵ **The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”**

This was not just the rantings of a woman that had five husbands or none. No, the entire nation of Palestine had men whose duty it was to decipher the Scriptures to try to make some sense of it all. For example, when the magi came into Jerusalem to worship the Christ Child, Herod called for those men to tell him where the Scriptures said that Messiah would be born.

Now don’t think for a minute that anything in the Old Testament is erroneous. Not at all; the Old Testament is the Word of God, but it is

a *limited* Revelation of God. It tells us of a worldly Sanctuary and the New Testament tells us of a heavenly Sanctuary; the Old Testament gives us a priesthood that is sinful and that dies; the New gives us a priesthood that is sinless and that lives forever. The difference between how God spoke in times past and how God speaks now is not in its *validity* - everything that the Old Testament speaks to us through the Prophets is right - it's just incomplete. But everything that Christ speaks is fully complete

Another aspect that we need to understand is that ever since Jesus came and died and rose again till now, that time frame is known as the "last days". The term "last days" is also called the "Church age" or "the fullness of the Gentiles", or the "fullness of times", in various places in Scripture. It has been the "last days" now for 2,000 years, and it will continue to be the last days until Christ bursts the skies and returns as King and Lord and Master. So every New Testament writer lived in the last days, and we live in the last days too.

Now what God spoke through the men of the Old Testament was in pieces. For example, to Noah it was revealed the part of the world where Messiah would come; to Micah, the specific town where Jesus was to be born; to Daniel, the time of his birth; to Malachi, the forerunner who would come before him; and to Jonah, his Resurrection. And put together, we see Jesus in His Birth, Death, and Resurrection. Every piece of the puzzle, every portion of Revelation from the Old Testament, was true and accurate. Each part related to all the other parts in some wonderful way. And each one related in some way to Jesus. But only in Jesus and through Jesus was everything in the Old Testament brought together and made whole. In Christ, the full revelation of God was complete.

Since the New Testament Revelation of Christ is complete, it is blasphemous to try to change it, or add anything to it, or to take anything away from it. The same God Who spoke to the fathers has now spoken to us. The same God who spoke in time past has now spoken in these last days. The same God Who spoke by the prophets now speaks to us today... but only through His Own Son. God spoke then; but now He still speaks. God spoke then through men who died; now God speaks through His Son, Who lives. God spoke then through men in vague, dark speeches; now God speaks crystal-clear through Jesus. God spoke then through men in various ways; but now God speaks in a singular

and steadfast way through His Son. God spoke then through men who were sinners; now God speaks through His Sinless Lamb that is both Lord and Savior. God has, in these last days, spoken in fullness to us through His Son. It is finished. We now have all the Revelation that God has chosen to give to us. And we have that full and completed Revelation in the sixty-six Books of the Holy Bible.

Our job now is not to try to find some new revelation. Our job is not to try to hear some new thing. Our job is not to discover some new writings, or some golden tablets, or some angelic conversations, or some ancient manuscripts. No, our job *is* to eat this Book, to digest what it means, to rightly divide it, to take it apart and put it back together, to analyze it, study it, learn it, believe it, learn to love it, learn to value it, to comprehend its meaning, and to apply it to our own lives. In the first verse and a half of **Hebrews 1**, the Holy Spirit establishes the preeminence of Jesus Christ over all the Old Testament, over its message and over its messengers. It establishes the priority and the preeminence of Jesus Christ. And that message should be clear to us all; Christ is greater than the prophets. Christ is greater than any revelation in the Old Testament, for He is the embodiment of all that Truth and more. So the only question that I have for you is this: Do you hear Christ? Do you understand Christ? Do you see Christ? Do you follow Christ and do you obey Christ? Do you love Christ, and is Christ your Lord and King, and God and Savior?

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.