

“God Has Spoken”
Hebrews 1:1-3
11/9/25
Message 1

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “God Has Spoken”
- **Share How we came to Hebrews**
 - **Hebrews is the last NT book I have left to teach –**
 - After this by the grace of God I have taught the entire NT
 - **A few years back I started praying about doing Hebrews**
 - I sensed the Lord put a stop to it...
 - **The Reason –**
 - I had not TAUGHT the Pentateuch / Torah = LAW
 - Read and Study BUT not Taught
 - Pentateuch / Torah are
 - The First 5 books of the Bible
 - Genesis Exodus Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
 - Reason Why The
 - It would be good to have a good understanding of those books Especially Leviticus before you teach Hebrews
 - If you don't understand the LAW – Hebrews will be hard to understand
 - **Now After being led to other places in God's Word**

- The time is right to teach this wonderful book

- **Backdrop / Context**

- **1. Author**

- **A lot of People have been suggested**

- Those who have been mentioned

- **Apollos**

- Some have said Apollos because the Greek is eloquent
- Apollos was considered eloquent

- **Barnabas**

- Paul's traveling companion during the early missionary journeys.
- Barnabas was a Levite (Acts 4:36) and hence would have had good knowledge of the Jewish sacrificial system.
- The ancient historian Tertullian (died 240 AD) quoted from Hebrews and said it was written by Barnabas

- **Others...**

- Clement of Rome
- Priscilla, Aquila
- Luke
- Philip

- Peter
- Silas
- The list goes on and on...

- **Apostle Paul**

- Support Against Paul

- No Opening
 - No salutation
 - The letter simply begins with the assertion that Jesus, the Son of God
 - Some sort of personal salutation from Paul appears in all of his letters.
 - The overall composition and style
 - Is different from Paul other writings
 - Hebrews is a very complex
 - Paul stated that he purposely did not speak with a commanding vocabulary (1 Corinthians 1:17; 2:1; 2 Corinthians 11:6).
 - OT Quotes
 - In other letters, Paul either quotes the Masoretic Text (the original Hebrew) or paraphrases it.
 - All of the quotes in this epistle are taken out of the Septuagint (the Greek Old

Testament), which is inconsistent with Paul's usage.

- Paul claimed to receive his revelations directly from the Lord Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:23; Galatians 1:12).
 - The writer of Hebrews specifically says that he was taught by an apostle (Hebrews 2:3).
- Support For Paul
 - The letter closes with the words
 - “Grace be with you all” (Hebrews 13:25)
 - Which is the same closing found in each of Paul's known letters
 - Church tradition teaches that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews,
 - Up until the 1800s that issue was closed.
 - Clement of Alexandria (150-214 AD) and he stated that Paul wrote the book
 - 3rd Council of Carthage (397 AD) lists Hebrews as written by Paul
 - Council of Hippo (419 AD) – mentions 14 epistles of Paul which would include the book of Hebrews
 - Fragment called Papyrus 46 – 3rd century AD (200's) mentions that Paul wrote this book

- Reference to Timothy
 - Hebrews 13:22-25
 - It would be odd for Timothy to be associated with someone else
- A compelling argument from Scripture itself.
 - Remember that Peter wrote to the Hebrews (1 Peter 1:1)

2 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

*15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, **has written to you,***

- The theology presented in Hebrews is consistent with Paul's.
 - What I can say for SURE
 - God DID wrote it
 - But my strong opinion is Paul
 - **2. Written to**
 - **The title given this Book**
 - “To The Hebrews”
 - **The Jews / Jewish Christians**
 - The ALL Hebrews People
 - BUT specifically Christian Jews
 - Who were being Persecuted for their faith!

- Being Persecuted they were tempted to leave the faith and go back to the simple Judaism of their past.
- Paul argues masterfully for the supremacy of the Gospel of Christ
 - He exhorts his readers to hold fast to their faith.
 - Hebrews 11
 - How they also faced monumental pressure and doubt, but chose to believe God and pressed through the obstacles in faith.
- **Jewish Christians**
 - Also People entrenched in a **religious tradition**
 - It would be hard for some to give them up
 - Illustration
 - Like Some Catholics struggle
- **Date**
 - **We know the 2nd Temple (renovated by Herod)**
 - Was still standing with its sacrificial system still in operation
 - So the book had to be written before 70 AD
 - When the temple was destroyed by Rome
 - **Note Hebrews 13:23**

Hebrews 13:23 (NKJV)

23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

- Timothy had just been released from prison (13:23)
- That means persecution was becoming severe (10:32–39; 12:4; 13:3).
- These details suggest a date for the epistle around AD 67–69.
- Some have suggested even early dates AD 49

○ **Outline**

▪ **A SUPERIOR PERSON—CHRIST—Chapters 1–6**

- Better than the prophets—1:1–3
- Better than the angels—1:4–2:18
 - (Exhortation: drifting from the Word, 2:1–4)
- Better than Moses—3:1–4:13
 - (Exhortation: doubting the Word, 3:7–4:13)
- Better than Aaron—4:14–6:20
 - (Exhortation: dullness toward the Word, 5:11–6:20)

▪ **A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD—MELCHIZEDEK—Chapters 7–10**

- A superior order—7
- A superior covenant—8
- A superior sanctuary—9
- A superior sacrifice—10
 - (Exhortation: despising the Word—10:26–39)

▪ **A SUPERIOR PRINCIPLE—FAITH—Chapters 11–13**

- The great examples of faith—11
- The endurance of faith—chastening—12
 - (Exhortation: defying the Word—12:14–29)
- Closing practical exhortations—13

▪ **This book is divided into two sections naturally...**

- The break is at chapter 10 between verse 18 and 19
 - All the way from chapter 1:1 to 10:18
 - Is all about the person and work of the Messiah
 - It's what you would call a "doctrinal section"
 - Revealing to us about the glory and majesty of Jesus
 - In chapter 10:19 and on
 - It's all practical exhortation
- **Keys to Hebrews**
 - **Connecting the Testaments**
 - Some people think the Old Testament is irrelevant.
 - YET - The entire book of Hebrews is built upon the clear foundation of the Old Testament.
 - You aren't going to understand the book of Hebrews if you don't understand the Old Testament.
 - You will find that you aren't going to have a proper understanding of the New Testament unless you have a proper understanding of the Old Testament.
 - **The Superiority of Jesus**
 - One of the key words of Hebrews is BETTER
 - Jesus is BETTER in every area

- And right off the bat we learn that He's better than the prophets

- **Now to our Text – We will look at 2 POWERFUL WAYS God Has Spoken**

- How God Spoke In The Past v. 1
- How God Speaks Today vv. 2-3

How God Spoke In The Past v. 1

- **1. The Manner In Which He Spoke v. 1a**

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

- **1. God**
 - This is how the book begins – GOD
 - 1. There is no attempt to prove God's existence
 - Scripture assumes we learn of God's existence and some of His attributes from nature (Psalm 19:1-4 and Romans 1:20).
 - The writer of the Hebrews knew that God existed and that He spoke to man.
 - 2. So since there is NO mention of the author
 - The TRUE Author - Only God
- **2. Various Times**
 - **Not all revelation was given at once!**
 - It was given at different times throughout history

- There was New Revelation that was given in the NT
 - The Rapture
 - Jews and Gentiles would be made into one Body
- Just a simple point
 - That God made His revelation known at different times

- **3. Various Ways**

- **God has used**

- Visions
 - Dreams
 - Tablets
 - Miracles
 - Direct oral communication
 - This is some of the ways God spoke in time past

- **2 Ways to Consider**

- **1. God Has Spoken Through Creation**

Psalm 19:1–4 (NKJV)

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

Romans 1:20–21 (NKJV)

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- The existence of creation itself
 - Demands the eternal existence of an all-powerful God.
 - Every human being who has ever lived, regardless of where or when, has always been able to look up into the skies and see the signature of God.

• **2. God Has Spoken Through Conscience**

Romans 2:14–15 (NKJV)

14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **15** who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

- Throughout history, people have known intuitively that there is a God who stands as a righteous Judge over all the earth and they are accountable to Him for how they live.

• **2. The Men To Whom He Spoke v. 1b**

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past **to the fathers by the prophets,**

- **1. To The Fathers - By The Prophets**

▪ Who are they?

- Now according to the Bible, God spoke directly to the following people in Genesis alone:
- Adam & Eve – Genesis 1:28-30
- Adam – Genesis 2:16-17; 3:9, 11, 17-19
- Eve – Genesis 3:13, 16
- Cain – Genesis 4:5-6, 9-12, 15
- Noah – Genesis 6:13-21; 7:1-4; 8:15-17
- Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1, 4-5, 7-8, 13-16, 18-21; 17:1-16, 19-22; 18:13-14, 17-21, 26, 28-33; 22:1-2, 16-18
- Isaac – Genesis 26:2-5
- Jacob – Genesis 28:13-15; 32:26-29; 35:1, 10-13; 46:2-4
- Laban (not a father) – Genesis 31:24, 29
- Joseph – Genesis 41:39
- We could add
 - Moses
 - Aaron
 - Joshua
 - Balaam
 - Samuel
 - David

- Solomon
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Many of the minor prophets
- Hundreds of times we read
 - “Thus says the LORD” or “the word of the LORD came unto me.”
 - So God spoke directly and audibly to people in the past
- Did God talk to just anyone? NO
 - And the Lord told them exactly what to write
 - And that’s how God spoke it time past
- Now God is SAYING
 - As great as all those guys were
 - There is now a greater Person I am, speaking through

How God Speaks Today vv. 2-3

• 1. The Declaration Of Jesus v. 2a

- 1. Last Days v. 2a

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 *has in these last days* spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- **The Jews understood the “last days”**

- To mean the time when Messiah (Christ) would come
 - (Num. 24:14; Jer. 33:14–16; Mic. 5:1, 2; Zech. 9:9, 16)
 - The fulfillment of the messianic prophecies commenced with the advent of the Messiah.
- Since He came, it has been the “Last Days”
 - (1 Cor. 10:11; James 5:8; 1 Pet. 1:20; 4:7; 1 John 2:18).

- **In the Past**

- God gave revelation through His prophets
 - But in these times, beginning with the Messiah’s advent,
 - God spoke the message of redemption through the Son.

- **2. Spoken to us by HIS SON v. 2b**

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 *has in these last days* **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

- **Spoken to us by His Son**

- It isn’t so much that Jesus brought a message from the Father
 - He is a message from the Father.

- The idea is that Jesus is far more than the latest or best prophet.
 - He has revealed something no other prophet could.
 - The VERY Person of God
 - It is God's personality through which the message came.
- The personality of Paul, Peter, John, and other Biblical writers is clear in their writings.
 - Yet in the revelation from Jesus we see the personality of God.

John 14:8–10 (NKJV)

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

• 2. A Sevenfold Description Of Jesus vv. 2c-3

- **1. Appointed Heir v. 2c**

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom **He has appointed heir of all things**, through whom also He made the worlds;

▪ **Heir of all things**

- Heir
 - Greek: *klēronómos*
 - Means: to hold, have in one's power, to distribute.
An heir, or an inheritance

- Everything that exists will ultimately come under the control of the Son of God, the Messiah (Ps. 2:8, 9; 89:27; Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16).
- This “inheritance” is the full extension of the authority which the Father has given to the Son (Dan. 7:13, 14; Matt. 28:18),
- The heir holds the title on the property.
 - Everything in creation belongs to Jesus...

Romans 11:36 (NKJV)

36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Revelation 5:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

- **2. He Made The Worlds v. 2d**

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds;**

▪ **He made the worlds**

- Worlds
 - Greek: Aion
 - Means: Age, referring to an age or time in contrast to kósmos (2889), referring to people or space. Denotes duration or continuance of time, but with great variety

- From which we get our English word “eons.”
- It means that Jesus made more than the material world
- He also made the very ages – history itself is the creation of the Son of God.
- He made and is controlling all time

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Everlasting Father” or perhaps “Father of the ages”
 - He’s the originator and controller of all time
 - He’s not a victim of circumstances
 - Everything in your day He knows all about
- That means all the events in my life... He knows every one of them

Psalms 31:15 (NKJV)

15 My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.

- God’s Got YOU
- **3. The brightness of His glory v. 3a**

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- The brightness of His glory:

- Greek: ***apaúgasma***
- Means:
 - To emit light or splendor, which is from apó (575), from, and augázō (826), to shine.
 - Effulgence, light, or splendor emitted or issuing from a luminous body.
- The word is found only in Heb. 1:3
 - Refers to the person of Jesus Christ. The Son is the effulgence or shining forth of God's glory and the likeness of the Father.
 - Being the effulgence of the eternal light (John 1:4–5), the Lord Jesus must also be Himself eternal
 - Jesus perfectly reflects the majesty of God.
 - Jesus is like a light shining in the darkness
- At the transfiguration
 - Three of the disciples caught a glimpse of that glory.

○ **4. The express image of His person v. 3b**

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

▪ **The express image of His person**

- The idea is of an exact likeness as made by a stamp.
 - Jesus exactly represents God to us.

- The word “image” speaks of that which “stands under”
 - The Representation He Is Of God Himself
 - It refers to an instrument pressed into clay – making an “exact reproduction”
 - You want to know what God is like, then look at Jesus
 - They are both God, not two but one
 - Manifested as Father and as Son and as HS
- Jesus is the exact representation of Who God is

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- **5. Upholding all things by the word of His power v. 3c**

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

▪ **Upholding all things by the word of His power:**

- This includes everything... whole universe

Colossians 1:17 (NKJV)

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

John 1:3 (NKJV)

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

- How powerful is His word?
- He created it all with just His word

- And you know what...this is His Word to us
- **6. Himself purged our sins v. 3d**

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

*3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, **when He had by Himself purged our sins**, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

▪ **He had by HIMSELF – PURGED**

- Purged –
 - Greek: Katharismos –
 - Meaning: A cleansing, purification; a cleansing from the guilt of sins

▪ **Jesus cleansed us from our sins by dying on the cross in our place**

Isaiah 53:5–6 (NKJV)

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- As He hung on the cross,
 - His final words were, Tetelestai “It is finished”.
 - In other words, He paid once and for all for our sins.
- A great exchange took place on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- The innocent (Jesus) was punished as if guilty, that the guilty (me) might be rewarded as if innocent.
- There is forgiveness available with Jesus if you'll come to Him.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- **7. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high v. 3e**

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

▪ **Sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high**

- No priest ever sat down in the tabernacle or the temple
 - Sat down – it is finished!
 - The Priest Was Never Finished
- Jesus work of Redemption is FINISHED
 - Do I need to beg Him to purge my sins again?
 - Nope, He's already done it
 - He wants us to believe it

▪ **At the right hand of the Majesty on high**

- You can't get any higher than that
- His Advocacy
- 1 John 2 says Jesus is my defense attorney

- Satan will accuse, He will defend
- He is always at the right hand of God interceding for us

Closing

- You want to know what Hebrews is about?
 - God say, It's all about My Son...Jesus
 - Jesus is superior

Hebrews 13:20–21 (NKJV)

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead,
that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting
covenant,
21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is
well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and
ever. Amen.