

// INTRO

God & the Scientists

There's an old joke about human arrogance. One day a group of scientists got together and decided that humanity had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point where we can clone people, manipulate atoms, build molecules, fly through space, and do many other miraculous things. So why don't you just go away and mind your own business from now on?"

God listened very patiently and kindly to the man. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well. How about this? Before I go, let's say we have a human-making contest." To which the scientist replied, "Okay, we can handle that!"

"But," God added, "we're going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist nodded, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and picked up a handful of dirt. God wagged a finger at him and said, "Uh, uh, uh. Put that down. You go find your own dirt."

This is a lighthearted way to jump into Hebrews as we are going to spend the next 13 weeks diving deep into **the greatness of Jesus**.

This book, letter, sermon (whatever you believe Hebrews to be)...is all about Jesus!

I want to start with the first four verse of [Hebrews 1](#). This is where we will spend most of our time this morning.

Hebrews 1:1-4 ESV

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Cross References

One study tool that I love to use is cross-references. If you look in your bible, you might see little numbers or letters by certain words, phrases, or whole verses.

These help ties the scriptures back to one another.

Something you will notice in Hebrews is that the book is constantly pulling and connecting to other parts of scripture.

This is wonderful because as the author unpacks the greatness of Jesus, he is doing so from thousands of years of Holy Spirit inspired scriptures.

GOD SPEAKS

Hebrews 1:1 ESV

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

“LONG AGO...”

The book of Hebrews is believed to be written between 60-70 AD; so roughly 30-40 years after Jesus had already ascended back to Heaven.

Keep in mind, that between the end of 2 Chronicles and when the news of Jesus arrives, there was a gap of 400-430 years where God did not speak to his people.

So when the author says, long ago, he means loooooong ago.

“...AT MANY TIMES...”

This shows me that the Lord speaks at numerous times throughout history.

God is a loving Father and will repeat himself as necessary.

The word says he is **slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.**

“...AND IN MANY WAYS...”

We see that God is creative in how he speaks.

So not only is he speaking many times to us but he is delivering the message in as many forms as possible as to reach as many as possible.

We see a literal example of this in [Luke 15](#) when Jesus is talking about when a sinner comes to repentance.

He uses three different parables to reach the audience that he was talking to:

1. The Lost Sheep - **Audience** is the agricultural workers
2. The Lost Coin - **Audience** the women of the culture
3. The Lost Son - **Audience** is parents, owners of property, business owners, and the religious

All of them would've heard at least one parable and connected themselves to the situation and understood how they are to rejoice when a sinner returns to the Lord.

WAYS GOD SPEAKS

[Hosea 12:10](#) - Prophets, Visions, Parables

[Genesis 46:2](#) - Visions in the Night

[Ezekiel 1:1](#) - Visions

[Exodus 33:11](#) - Face to Face

[Numbers 12:8](#) - Directly & Clearly

[Exodus 19 17-25](#) - Visible Revelation

[1 Kings 19:11-12](#) - Still Small Voice

“...BY THE PROPHETS...”

In the past God spoke through his prophets.

A Prophet is a person who lives a set apart life for God and is a mouthpiece for what God is saying. Many times a prophet is bringing a message that realigns a people with the righteousness of God.

In some instances, a prophet may deliver a word of foretelling.

A prophet can bring a word of encouragement that affirms you are on the right path and in alignment with the righteousness of God.

GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS SON

Hebrews 1:2 ESV

² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

“...BY HIS SON...”

Although God has spoken to us in many creative ways through the prophets, in these days, he gave us the ultimate messenger, His Son!

Jesus didn't bring a new message from the Father, he delivered himself to us and he is the fullness of the message.

Jesus is the Gospel!

If we approach this subject incorrectly, we will find ourselves looking at his hand when instead we should be looking at his face, capturing his heart, getting to know Him.

Bob Sorge; *Secrets of the Secret Place*; pg 18 “The closer you get to God the more obedient you need to be. Some choose the level of obedience by where they endeavor to avoid sin and choose righteousness. That was the level where the children of Israel knew God's ACTS lived. Moses however knew God's WAYS. Moses' level of obedience was much higher. The issue for Moses was no longer is this action right or wrong, the issue was what is God's command.”

Now that was in the past, the Jesus came, and some would think that we no longer need the voice of prophets.

After Jesus ascended to heaven, it didn't take long for humanity to continue in their sin.

In [Matt 5:17](#), Jesus says, “17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Jesus came to bring the fulness to these things!

[Ephesians 4:11](#) “11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,”

[1 Corinthians 12:28](#) “28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.”

[Romans 12:6](#) “6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;”

If you have the gift of prophecy, use it!!

“...THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS...”

The author of Hebrews points out that Jesus is the **heir of all things**.

[Psalm 2:8](#) “8 Ask of me, and **I will make the nations your heritage**, and the ends of the earth your possession.”

[Colossians 1:15](#) “15 He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.**”

- the firstborn is the one that receives the greater blessing. The one that is in charge of caring for the family after the dad has passed away.

[John 1:3](#) “3 **All things were made through him**, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

- Jesus is in everything, he owns everything, he has everything.

[Matthew 16:19](#) “19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,...”

- Jesus has the keys to Heaven

[Revelation 1:18](#) “18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

- Jesus has the keys of death

OH, THE GLORY

Hebrews 1:3–4 ESV

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

“...HE IS THE RADIANCE OF THE GLORY OF GOD...”

Radiance: to shine or glow brightly. To display great joy, love, or health.

Think of the sun rising at daybreak. There's light, but when the sun breaks through you can no longer look directly at it.

[John 1:14](#) “14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

[Ezekiel 1:28](#) “28 Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”

- it's eye-catching, attention pulling, puts you in awe

[Exodus 34:35](#) “35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.”

- This is wild and backwards to how we think it should be.
- Moses covered his face to speak with man, and uncovered his face to speak with God.
I'm not talking about putting on a fake persona in front of man, either.

The comparison I get is that Moses' face was glowing like the moon glows from the sun's light. How incredible must the glory of God be, that the reflection must be covered up!

“...[HE IS] THE EXACT IMPRINT OF HIS NATURE...”

[Colossians 1:15](#) “15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#) “4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

[Philippians 2:6](#) “6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,”

[John 1:18](#) “18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”

Jesus is fully God, and yet as approachable as any man we have ever met.

Here's a wild kicker for me...[Romans 8:29](#) “29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

God desires to form us into the image of His son!

God made man from His image, but sin brought about death and destruction and we no longer look as we were intended to look.

What a day that will be when we are returned to our original state!

“...HE UPHOLDS THE UNIVERSE BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER...”

[John 1:3](#) “3 **All things were made through him**, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

[Psalm 33:6](#) “6 **By the word of the Lord the heavens were made**, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”

[1 Corinthians 8:6](#) “6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **through whom are all things and through whom we exist.**”

[Colossians 1:16](#) “16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him.**”

In other words, Jesus has it all under his control. He is never sweating about what is going to happen next.

“...HE SAT DOWN...”

When someone sits down, it is because they are at rest.

[Mark 16:19](#) “19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”

[Psalm 110:1](#) “1 The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.””

THE RIGHT HAND

- speaks of authority or power
- could figuratively be speaking of the “right” (righteous) hand
- the preferred blessing was given by the right hand
- the right hand is a place of honor
- in [Matt 25](#), Jesus tells us that believers will be placed on his right hand when he returns
- **oaths** are made with the right hand

In [Psalm 110](#), the psalm is written as a Chiasm. A Hebrew poem that is written with parallelism. The poem is written in sections like A-B-C-D-C-B-A, with D being the main point of the poem.

[Psalm 110](#) happens to follow this pattern with section D, the main point, being God making an oath. And what is to his right as he is making the oath? His son.

God makes an oath by his son.

Later in Hebrews we will talk about the oath that God makes, but I find this so interesting.

GOD SPEAKS OF THE SON

The author speaks of what God's word has said about the angels, and then compares what the word has said of Jesus, his son.

There is no comparison.

It is obvious that Jesus stands alone and is far superior to any other being.

Hebrews 1:8-9 ESV

⁸ But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

God says:

- Jesus has a throne; the angels do not have thrones
- Jesus' reign has no end; the angels do not have a reign
- Jesus is the anointed one ([Isaiah 61](#)), he is the Christ!

CAN WE SEE HIM?

I read all this, I see all these connections and my heart cries out, “Jesus, can I see you?”

[Matthew 20:33](#) “33 They said to him, “Lord, let our eyes be opened.””

[Matthew 5:8](#) “8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

[Psalm 24:3–4](#) “3 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.”

[Hebrews 12:14](#) “14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

[Revelation 22:4](#) “4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.”

[Luke 10:21–24](#) “21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 22 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” 23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.””

Prayer

Lord, open our eyes to see you rightly. That we may know who you are, capture your heart, learn your ways, and pattern our lives after them. Bring me into alignment with your righteous plan. Lead me in humility, that I may not think of myself more highly than I should. Help me to walk in your ways that lead to everlasting life.