GOD SPEAKS

**DATE: 6/12/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 1:1,2a**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Hebrews is one of the Most Important books in the Bible we will ever study

It has been said that it is the best commentary on the OT

In the OT we have the priests, the offering & sacrifices, and the law

- The Book of Hebrews throws light on these activities, and explains the meaning behind them

- The Book of Hebrews shows that they were all established to Picture and Represent the Lord Jesus Christ

- The theme of the NT is the Lord Jesus

- But the Book of Hebrews tells us that Christ is the theme of the OT also

**Ill.** W. A. Criswell's great sermon, “The Scarlet Thread Through the Bible” (said to have taken him 4 hrs. to preach!)

In reality, the whole Bible is about Jesus

From **Genesis 1:1** to **Revelation 22:21**, the theme of the Scriptures is the Lord Jesus Christ

If you took Jesus out of the OT, we’d never understand it

The Book of Hebrews fulfills many purposes,

But the most important is to show Jesus in the OT

When we see Him in the NT, He is the fulfillment of the OT

- In the OT Jesus is Concealed

- In the New He is Revealed

- In the OT Jesus is Anticipated

- In the New He is Acknowledged

- In the OT Jesus is Pictured

- In the New He is Present

- In the OT Jesus is Contained

- In the New He is Explained

Jesus said in **John 5:39 –**

***“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me”***

The *Scriptures* that Jesus was referring to are the OT

The word ***“testify”*** simply means to *bear witness*

Jesus was saying that the OT *bears witness* to Himself

Now, one might read the OT and ask –

*“Where does it talk about Jesus? I can’t find His name mentioned a single time”*

The Book of Hebrews explains that Jesus is -

- Proclaimed in every Sacrificial Offering

- Portrayed in every Priestly Activity

- He was the great object represented in the Tabernacle and Temple

The Book of Hebrews helps us to see …

All that happened in the OT, was pointing to the Lord Jesus, who is manifested in the NT

This is one of the reasons why the Book of Hebrews is an important book to study

Without this, the Law of Moses would never have been fully understood, nor God’s design in giving it

We would never completely understand the OT if it were not for the Book of Hebrews

At the very outset of the Bible we are told that God Speaks

In **Genesis 1:3** we read - ***“And God said”***

In the opening words of the Book of Hebrews we are told -

*How* He Speaks

In **vs. 1, 2** we find the words ***“spake”***and ***“spoken”***

They are different forms of the same word, and they simply mean *“to talk,* or *to tell something”*

The writer of Hebrews is not just telling us that God can speak (has the ability too)

But that, when He Speaks, He’s trying to Tell us Something

Something very important!

I’ve met people who can talk, but never said anything

When God speaks, He’s not just rattling on

When He Speaks, His words are of the utmost importance

He is saying something—something that we need to hear

When the writer of Hebrews tells us that ***“God… Spake”***

He is placing great importance on, not just that God Speaks …

But also on What He Says, When He Speaks

In this first lesson let’s look at 3 Great Truths about …

***“GOD SPEAKING”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see that -

**I. GOD SPEAKS “CONTINUALLY”**

When we speak, we are revealing our Thoughts, our Desires, our Plans, etc.

Our words are …

*A Medium of Manifestation –*

I have in my mind a thought, but you will never know that thought until I give it words

Only then does my thought become known

*A Means of Communication –*

By the means of words I transmit information to others

By words I express myself, make known my desires and will

When *God Speaks* it is a Revelation of Himself

His Words are a Medium of Manifestation and a Means of Communication

It is by What God Says about Himself, that …

We know Him, Who He is, and What He does

We can also know His Will, Commands, and Purposes,

… All by What He says

This Revelation of Himself, by His Spoken Word, has been Continuous

**A. God Spoke in the ‘Past’**

**v. 1** says that God ***“spake in time past”***

The writer is relating to the Times in history that God has Spoken

When God stepped out of eternity in **Genesis 1:1**

It wasn’t long before we find Him Speaking …

**v.3 -** ***“And God said…”***

He Spoke and throughout the ages He has Continued to Speak

Each time He Spoke, He has Made Himself Known …

Revealing more about Himself, about His Will and about His Ways

We call this Progressive Revelation

(We’ll talk more about this in a minute)

The words ***“time past”*** specifically refers to the ages contained within the OT

Throughout the OT we find God Speaking

Over and over, you find the words –

***“God said”,*** ***“God spake”*** or ***“thus sayest the LORD”***

History is *His-Story*, the story of God Speaking!

**God Spoke in the ‘Past’**

**B. God Speaks in the ‘Present’**

**v. 2** says that God has ***“in these last days spoken”***

The phrase ***“last days”*** is not a space of time limited to the period just prior to the Lord’s return

But rather, the time beginning with Christ’s Crucifixion *and* His future return

In reality, we have been living in the *last days* since Calvary

The writer is telling us that God still Speaks

He has Spoken in the Past …

And He is still Speaking in the Present

**v. 1 –** also says that He Spoke To the ***“fathers”***

The ***“fathers”*** are the Patriarchs and Prophets of the OT

He Spoke to them, yet continues to Speak to us

God wants us to know Him, just as the ***“fathers”*** knew Him

He wants to make Himself known unto us as intimately as He did to them

It’s encouraging to know that God is still Speaking

In **Exodus 33:11** we read –

***“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh with a friend”***

God desires to speak to us as intimately as He did Moses

**GOD SPEAKS “CONTINUALLY”**

**II. GOD SPEAKS “PROGRESSIVELY”**

After stating that God has Spoken in the Past in **v. 1**

There are 2 phrases that describe HOW God Spoke in the Past

They are the phrases ***“sundry times”*** and ***“divers manners”***

Both of these phrases describe How God Spoke in a Progressive manner

As I said early …

God’s Revelation of Himself has been Progressive

That is, a Continual Building of Truth about Himself

**A. God Spoke in Different ‘Periods’**

The words ***“sundry times”*** literally mean *“in different portions”*

They describe something that is given little by little at various times

God’s Revelation of Himself was not given all at once

For example, the Bible was not delivered from heaven in the form that we know it today—a complete book

It was given to us a piece at a time over different periods of time

**Isaiah 28:13 – *“But the Word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;”***

The OT was written over the course of 1,500 years

It was given to us one book at a time

You have God Speaking in the days of Noah, in the days of Abraham, and in the days of the prophets, etc.

God spoke at ***“sundry times”***

He Spoke Progressively over Time,

Each time revealing a little more about Himself

**God Spoke in Different ‘Periods’**

**B. God Spoke by Different ‘Procedures’**

The phrase ***“divers manners”*** describes the Different Methods by which God has Spoken

1. For example, **v. 1** tells us how God Spoke through the ***“prophets”***

The prophets were God’s spokesmen

They were not Preaching or Proclaiming their own message

They said to the people what God had told them to say - ***“thus sayest the LORD”***

In truth, God was Speaking Through them

The Bible says in **I Peter 1:21 -**

***“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”***

Their words were the Words of God

**2.** At other times God Spoke through Visions and Dreams

Daniel is a good example of this method

**3.** As well, God has Spoken through Parables, Types and Symbols

**4.** Sometimes God Spoke Audibly

As in the cases of Moses and Abraham

**5.** God has spoken by many methods

At Different Times and in Different Ways God has Spoken

Over the course of time, God progressively revealed Himself

He made His Word and Will known unto men

With each Word, God was Building on what He had already said

It is like our learning to read and write

First, we learned the letters (alphabet)

Then we learned to form the letters into groups called words

Then we put those words together and formed sentences

God’s Revelation of Truth started with a lesser degree of light and progressed to a greater degree

Each time God Spoke we learned more about Him

It was, and has been, a Progression of the Truth

**GOD SPEAKS “CONTINUALLY”**

**GOD SPEAKS “PROGRESSIVELY”**

**III. GOD SPEAKS “FINALLY” – v. 2a**

The heart and soul of what the writer is saying in the opening words of the Book of Hebrews is that God’s Revelation has been Completed in the Lord Jesus Christ

We read in the first part of **v. 2** that God –

***“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son”***

**A. The ‘Fulfillment’ of God’s Revelation**

All that God has said in the OT was pointing to His Son

In Jesus, God Speaks to us!

In fact, God’s Revelation of Himself is now complete in Christ

Turn to **John 1:14 …**

As I said earlier, the OT was revealed in pieces

For example –

- To Abraham was revealed The Nation of the Messiah

- To Jacob, The Tribe of the Messiah

- To David and Isaiah, The Family of the Messiah

- To Micah, The Town where the Messiah would be born

- To Daniel, The Time the Messiah would be born

- To Malachi, The Forerunner who would precede and announce the Messiah

The Revelation of the Messiah was in pieces,

And every one of those pieces came together in Jesus Christ

All God has said in the Past, was Fulfilled in His Son

**The ‘Fulfillment’ of God’s Revelation**

**B. The ‘Finality’ of God’s Revelation**

In these *last days* God Speaks through the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

God’s Revelation is complete in Him

There had been Continuance in Revelation

But in Christ, there is Finality

In **v. 1**, the word ***“spake”*** means *“having spoken”*

Suggesting the incomplete nature of the Former Revelation

Whereas the words ***“hath spoken”*** in **v. 2** indicate the Final and Full Revelation in Jesus Christ

In Jesus, the Revelation is -

- Not Fragmentary, but Complete

- Not Partial but Perfect

- Not Preparatory but Ultimate

- In Jesus, God’s Revelation is Final!

The Great Themes of the Book of Hebrews is that Jesus is Better

In these opening verses we see that -

Jesus is Better than the Prophets

The prophets were servants of God

Jesus is Better because He is the Son of God

The prophets spoke progressively

Jesus is the fulfillment of all they said

He is Better!

The writer of Hebrews is telling us that God now Speaks through His Son

If men will not hear the Son, they cannot and will not hear what God is saying

**John 5:24 – *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

**John 8:47 – *“He that is of God heareth God's Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God”***

**John 18:37 – *“Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice”***

**Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

There are religions that reject the Lord Jesus

In doing so, they are rejecting God

For its only through the Lord Jesus that we get to God and hear from God

**John 14:6 – *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

God Speaks Continually and Progressively,

But in Jesus, God has Spoken Finally

**GOD SPEAKS “CONTINUALLY”**

**GOD SPEAKS “PROGRESSIVELY”**

**GOD SPEAKS “FINALLY”**