

**Hebrews 1:1-2** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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.

### INTRO:

- “Behold, he comes!” This was the heartfelt cry of **Solomon’s beloved**.
- “Behold, He comes!” This was the triumphant declaration of **Jeremiah**.
- We begin today a season of “**Advent**.” Advent means, “coming.” It is a time of remembering the great anticipation of Christ’s first advent. And our great anticipation of His second advent.
- At **Christmas** time we remember and celebrate the great historical event, the **incarnation**. We celebrate the time when the Son of God Himself came and tabernacled amongst us.
- This was the good news proclaimed, and believed upon since it was first manifested, in seed form, to **Adam and Eve**. “*Behold, He comes!*”
- This is the good news that Christ has now **Himself revealed** in blazing clarity. “*Behold, I have come!*”
- This is the good news of **Hebrews 1:1-2**. “*Behold, He has come.*”

**CONTEXT:** Christ is held forth in Hebrews 1 in His offices as Prophet, Priest, and King. And all drives to the application in chapter 2: Therefore we must pay much closer attention to have we have heard... how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? (Hebrews 2)

### CONTENT:

#### I. IT IS GOD WHO SPEAKS IN BOTH TESTAMENTS

##### I) **FIRST AGENTS:** GOD SPOKE BY THE PROPHETS

i. **THE TIMING:** LONG AGO

ii. **THE METHOD:** AT MANY TIMES (not all at once)

iii. **THE MANNER:** IN MANY WAYS (promises, threatenings, law, dreams, visions, ceremonies, types)

iv. **THE RECIPIENTS:** TO OUR FATHERS

##### II) **FINAL AGENT:** GOD HAS SPOKEN BY HIS SON

i. **THE TIMING:** IN THESE LAST DAYS

ii. **THE RECIPIENTS:** TO US

#### II. ENCOURAGEMENTS TO LISTEN TO THIS SON

##### I) THIS SON IS THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS

i. AND THIS BY WAY OF APPOINTMENT FROM GOD

##### II) THIS SON IS THE ONE THROUGH WHOM GOD CREATED THE WORLD

**DOCTRINE:** that God began to reveal His gospel long ago, but He is pleased to reveal His gospel now, finally and clearly in His own beloved Son.

## I. GOD REVEALED THE GOSPEL LONG AGO

**Hebrews 1:1** Long ago... God spoke to our fathers by the prophets

- He here marks a time that is now past, when God spoke by way of the prophets. And by them, He was revealing His gospel, from the times of Adam to the times of Malachi.

### God revealed the Gospel long ago

- **Adam** knew this gospel, for God Himself had promised him, that [one of his offspring would] bruise the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15), and he proclaimed it to his children
- **Abraham** knew this gospel, for [God Himself preached it to him] (Galatians 3:8), and he proclaimed it to his children
- **Job** knew this gospel, and he proclaimed it to his friends, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.” (Job 19:25)
- **Moses** knew this gospel, for Jesus Himself declares that “[Moses] wrote of me.” (John 5:46)
- **David** knew this gospel, and he declared it in songs of joy that “Blessed are all who take refuge in [the Son].” (Psalm 2:12)
- **Isaiah** knew this gospel, and he proclaimed it to the world, “For to us a child is born” (Isaiah 9:6)
- **Malachi** knew this gospel, and he proclaimed, “Behold, He is coming” (Malachi 3:1)

### God reveals the Gospel now by His Son

- **Hebrews 1:2a** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
- **Hebrews 2:3** [This gospel] was declared at first by the Lord (not for the first time, but plainly and clearly), and it was attested to us by those who heard
- **EXHORTATION** Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard
- **Objection:** But God is still able to speak by the mouth of prophets.
- **Response:** Indeed He is, but He has plainly declared that this way of revealing His will has ceased “long ago.” Sola Scriptura is our rule. For this reason Jude exhorts us to...
- **Jude 1:3** contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

*God revealed the gospel long ago, and...*

## II. GOD REVEALED THE GOSPEL BY DEGREES

**Hebrews 1:1** ... at many times... God spoke to our fathers by the prophets

- He here marks a method that is now ceased, that of His progressive revelation. He was by degrees further manifesting His gospel, until the time that He would make it fully known in His Son.
- **1 Peter 1:10-12** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
- **CHILDREN** Have you heard about Moses? Samuel? King David? Elijah? They longed to know what God has revealed to children like you. They would have longed to sit in this room today, to hear the things that I am able to plainly and clearly reveal today.
- **ADULTS** Do you avail yourself of this privilege? Do you search and inquire carefully into the suffering and subsequent glories that have been now clearly revealed in Christ Jesus?
- **1689** This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament;
- To **Adam** was given the gospel in seed form. That the offspring of the woman would bruise the serpents head.
- To **Noah** was given a further manifestation. That this promised offspring would come through him, and God would preserve the world until all of his promises had been fulfilled.
- To **Abraham** a further manifestation. That the promised offspring, the Christ, would come through him, and in this offspring the nations would be blessed.
- To **Moses** a further manifestation. Revealing the nature of Christ's offices as prophet, priest, and king.
- To **David** a further manifestation. That the Christ would sit on his throne forever.
- To the **Prophets**, yet a further manifestation. Showing forth more clearly what the Christ would suffer in order to redeem His people from their sins.
- **But to you!** The same gospel has been revealed finally in its full manifestation, from the lips of God's own Son.

*God revealed the gospel by degrees, and...*

## III. GOD REVEALED THE GOSPEL IN VARIOUS WAYS

**Hebrews 1:1** ... and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets

- He here marks a method that is now complete, that of His revelation by various ways and shadows. By shadows God was revealing His gospel, until the appointed time had come to reveal the substance in full clarity.

### Consider the many ways that God spoke to our fathers

- He revealed this gospel by way of **promises**, to be clung to.
- He revealed this gospel by way of **threatenings**, to spur His people to take their refuge in Christ.
- He revealed this gospel by way of **dreams and visions**, to warn His people lest they drift away from their only hope.
- He revealed this gospel by way of **the law**, to show the people their need of a Surety!
- He revealed this gospel by way of the **ceremonies** and **types**, to show the people what Christ would fulfill.

### Consider these shadows particularly

- **Colossians 2:17** These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
- Every **lamb slain** was revealing the Lamb of God who would make atonement for sin.
- Every **scape goat** led outside of the city revealed the work of Christ to remove the sins of His people.

- Every **first fruit offering** waved in the air revealed Christ, raised from the dead, the firstfruits of our resurrection.
- Every **prophet** held forth the One whose testimony is trustworthy and true.
- Every **priest** held forth the One who ever lives to make intercession for His beloved.
- Every **king** held forth the One who would inherit all things.
- **The suffering of that man after God's own heart** revealed the agonies of Christ in the work of redemption.

### The shadows have been replaced with the substance

- All this has been fulfilled. All these ways of God's revealing His gospel have now ceased. Christ Jesus has now come, and He Himself has proclaimed His gospel once for all.
- **Question:** Have the shadows been replaced by the substance?
- **Conclusion:** Then give no regard to men who "go on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by [their] sensuous mind." Paul declares (in Colossians 2:19), they have relinquished their hold of the Head. They have preferred the old shadows above the Substance to which all of the shadows pointed (so much so that they are willing to counterfeit them). They must not be listened to.

### REVIEW

- God revealed His gospel long ago
- God revealed His gospel by degrees
- God revealed His gospel in various ways

## IV. IN CHRIST, GOD HAS NOW, FINALLY AND CLEARLY REVEALED THE GOSPEL

**Hebrews 1:2a** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

This has already been opened and applied by way of all of the contrast leading up to this statement. Look in your own Bible at Hebrews 2, and see how the apostle himself makes application of this reality.

**I) EXHORTATION** Therefore we must pay *much* closer attention to what we have heard. Beloved, here is your growth in grace. Every day endeavoring to pay *much* closer and closer attention to what we have heard?

**II) EXAMINATION** Are you endeavoring to pay *much* closer attention to what we have heard? Does your life reflect this? Are you paying *much* closer attention than you were one year ago? Or does your life look much the same?

**III) AWAKENING** Do you profess the name of Christ while you sleep in your duties?

- Are you careful not to neglect the gathering of the saints?
- **Fathers**, are you diligently teaching your household?
- **Ladies**, are you adamant that the Word of God not be reviled by your behavior?
- **Children**, are you resolved to honor your father and mother?
- **Servants**, are you serving your earthly masters as unto the Lord.
- **Masters**, are you giving what is just and fair to those under your charge?
- If you will not pay *much* closer attention, you will drift away!

**IV) WARNING** A just retribution is in store for those who neglect such a great salvation. Kiss the Son! Bend your knee in faith, or else He will shatter you on the day of His wrath.

**V) COMFORT** Beloved, the message declared by God's Son is reliable. He has secured God's promise with His own blood. All who seek their refuge in Him are secure.

*In these last days he has now, finally and clearly revealed the gospel. What is this gospel?*

## V. CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL

**Hebrews 1:2b** whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

The eternal Son of God needed no such appointment. This is spoken of the Son in His incarnation, as He is a mediator. The God-man has been appointed heir of all things.

**I) Consider the wonder of the incarnation:** that a creature, like you and I, might be made heir of all things.

- **OWEN** This, I say, is the spring of the church's glory, comfort, and assurance. It is our head, husband, and elder brother, who is gloriously vested with all this power. Our nearest relation, our best friend, is thus exalted

**II) Consider the purpose of the incarnation:** that the Son became a creature, so that you and I might become co-heirs with Him. A willing people was promised to Him. And He laid down His life to purchase them.

**III) Consider the authority Christ has to do this:** He has been appointed heir of all things!

- As He is heir of all things, He is Lord over all things. And this is most necessary!
- **FLAVEL** Had he not, as our Prophet, opened the way of life and salvation to the children of men, they could never have known it; and if they had clearly known it, except, as their Priest, he had offered up himself, to impetrate and obtain redemption for them, they could not have been redeemed virtually by his blood; and if they had been so redeemed, yet had he not lived in the capacity of a King, to apply this purchase of his blood to them, they could have had no actual, personal benefit by his death; for what he revealed as a Prophet, he purchased as a Priest; and what he so revealed and purchased as a Prophet and Priest, he applies as a King: first subduing the souls of his elect to his spiritual government; then ruling them as his subjects, and ordering all things in the kingdom of Providence for their good.
- **Q.** Do you see how necessary this appointment is for your salvation?
- He is Lord over **all things**, and thereby He can pardon sin, regenerate the dead, grant the right to become children of God, and preserve them to the end.
- He is Lord over **the elect**, they were given to Him from eternity on condition that He purchase them, and this He did.
- He is Lord over **the church**, and He will be with her to the end.
- He is Lord over **all men**, and He assigns to each whatsoever life He pleases, and equips them to execute the same
- He is Lord over **the lords of the earth**, and though they spend themselves to prevent you from reigning with Him, they will bend their knees in the end.
- He is Lord over **angels**, and though Satan prowls like a lion seeking to devour the heirs of the kingdom, Christ has His foot on Satan's head.
- **Beloved, Christ has been appointed heir of all things!**

**IV) Consider the power of Christ to do this:** the One who made the world, is able to make it anew.

**V) Consider the glory of Christ to do this:** Here is the God of Mercy revealed to men and angels.

- **Proverbs 19:11** Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
- **Dear children, and all you burdened sinners**, ascribe your glory to King Jesus by trusting in Him for the forgiveness of your sins. He has been appointed to do this. He has the authority to do it. He has the power to do it. And it greatly glorifies Him to show God's infinite mercy to those who repent.
- Well do we pray, "**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**" (Matthew 6:13)

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**Genesis 3:15** he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

**Genesis 9:8-9** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,

**Galatians 3:8** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

**Job 19:26-27** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

**John 5:46** For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.

**Numbers 24:17** a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

**Jeremiah 23:5** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**Daniel 7:13** “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man,