

**Hebrews 1:1–3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> 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;<sup>3</sup> 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**

There are two times in the year that you get really weird articles about Jesus, Christmas & Easter. A lot of magazines or documentaries or science & history channels will put something about Jesus out there to draw attention. But this year, one of our volunteers, Jose Pedro, showed me an article from Smithsonian Magazine that really took the award for most creative one yet for me.

\*Read the little known legend of Jesus in Japan until the joke about turning water into sake\*

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-little-known-legend-of-jesus-in-japan-165354242/>

The article continues on and actually gets weirder as it goes, but this just goes to show that everyone wants a piece of Jesus, the question is, do they speak of the real Jesus. That's what our series, Jesus

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

- Though there is no human writer, the divine author is made clear to us in the very first word. The first person mentioned is God.
- The writer places no arguments to prove the existence of God. The implication is that God's existence is clearly revealed and obvious to those who are willing to listen. Nature itself declares His glory and makes Him known! The writer sees it as a fact of life, a truth we must accept, that God exist.
  - *"Deity is not to be explained, but to be adored; and the Sonship of Christ is to be accepted as a truth of revelation, to be apprehended by faith, though it cannot be comprehended by the understanding" - Spurgeon*
- How did God reveal Himself through the prophets? We see many ways such as through parables, historical narratives, prophetic confrontations, dramatic presentations, psalms, proverbs, and many other ways.
- There are several examples in the Old Testament:
  - To Moses He spoke through a burning bush (Exodus 3)
  - To Elijah by a still small voice (1 Kings 19)
  - To Isaiah by a heavenly vision (Isaiah 6)
  - To Hosea by a family crisis (Hosea 1:2)
  - To Amos by a basket of fruit (Amos 8:1)
  - To Daniel through dreams and visions (Daniel 2)
- We could say that God spoke in a spectrum of light in the Old Testament. Various colors going forth to reveal Himself.
- **God has spoken to us, and still does, through CREATION, as the writer so clearly states.**
  - **The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. - Psalm 19:1–4.**
  - **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, - Romans 1:20.**

- **God has also spoken to us through conscience.**
  - **For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law <sup>13</sup> (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; <sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> 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*) <sup>16</sup> in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel - Romans 2:12–16.**
- As we've already seen, God also spoke through the commandments. He spoke to the fathers by the prophets, giving us many books with His laws and commands, and how He interacted with the people through them. The book of Hebrews contains 82 direct or alluded Old Testament references, showing us the value of the Old Testament books.
- The writer isn't surprised that God exist or that God speaks. His surprise is that God even chose to speak to us at all, and in so many ways! That God speaks to us should reveal how much He cares for us. But not only did God speak, He did it in the greatest way possible!

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;**

- We live in the age of Messiah. These are the last days of this earth, though the period has been long by an act of God's grace! Yes, we desire that He return and end all this wickedness, but aren't you glad that Jesus didn't come till after you were saved? Understand that His delay is an act of loving grace, giving opportunity for as many to come to Him as can. Even if the last days last another 1,000 years, or 3,000 years, we must NEVER FORGET that we are in the last days, our final chance to live for His glory.
- Though the writer doesn't directly identify the readers, the context identifies the book as a letter, maybe even a sermon, written to Jewish Christians in the midst of suffering. They were considering turning back to the Old ways, because of intense persecution. The writer of Hebrews makes clear that we can fall away, that believers can make decisions to walk away from Jesus. But the writer is exhorting them, warning them "NO! If you walk away, if you return to old religious practices, they will accomplish nothing!" He tells them that Jesus is greater, He is superior, He is better than anything else, and that there is nothing else that can help them. The whole book of Hebrews is showing us how the New Covenant through the blood of Christ is greater than the Old Covenant of law. How Jesus has fulfilled the law, and brought in this new way through faith, not works, for man to be able to approach God.
- Another interesting fact about Hebrews is that it is written to people with Jewish background, but it breaks down its explanations and ideas of Jesus, His nature, and His role of savior in the mindset of greek philosophers. Its message is Jewish but its analysis is Greek, presenting Jesus as the ultimate reality for all of the books readers. The Jew would understand the Old Testament references and see Jesus is better. The Greek would see the philosophical argument and realize Jesus is the fulfillment of everything he'd been searching for.
- Hebrews exhorts discouraged Christians to continue on strong with Jesus in light of the complete superiority of who Jesus is and what He did for us!
- Here we see the greatest and FINAL way God has spoken, THROUGH HIS SON! Jesus is not the latest or best of the prophets, He is so much more! Jesus isn't purely God's messenger. Jesus is the message, He Himself is the unique, revealed message of God. But it's even more than that!
- Though God had spoken through a spectrum of different colors of light, Jesus is a prism that collected all the lights and concentrated them into one single powerful beam.

- The writers of the Bible all had their own personalities come through their writings. It was God's message spoken through the personality of Paul, John, Jeremiah, and David. But what makes Jesus so unique is that it is God's message spoken through God's own personality. Jesus revealed God Himself!
- God's message must still be given out today, and God has called us to be the messengers. Though we don't bring a new message or revelation, instead we speak as witnesses, telling others what we have seen and heard. We reveal Jesus the Son of God.
  - **"If men cannot learn about God from the Son, no amount of prophetic voices or actions would convince them" - Guthrie**
- The writer now reveals unique seven descriptions of Jesus that show us He is indeed the better, greater and superior savior. They show His majesty and pre-eminence.
- The first one we see is **Jesus Is the Inheritor**: The Father has committed everything to the Son. He is the HEIR of all things, and that includes you! We are His inheritance. We belong to Him, and we must live as He wishes. But this also describes Jesus' standing over everything else. This word is connected to the word "Firstborn" in Colossians 1:15. Neither of them speak of Jesus as lesser than the Father. Instead, their idea in the Jewish mindset is that He is above all, superior to, ruling over everything else, a position of great authority, not a birth order.
- **Jesus Is the Creator** - In the greek, this the word "Aion", where we get the word "eon" from. What this is saying is that Jesus didn't just create the physical world. The idea is He made the very ages of time, history itself is the creation of the Son of God. Jesus created space, time, and matter. Everything is made by Him. This is a God of immense power and wisdom.

**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**

- **Jesus Is the Radiator** - Jesus is the brightness of the Father's glory. The greek word is **apaugasma**, it means the radiance that shines from a source of light. When Jesus said we are the light of the world, we are reflectors, we shine the light of God through us. But Jesus is not a reflector, He is the radiance of the Father's glory. The same way we don't actually see the Sun, but its rays, so we have never seen the Father, but Jesus shows Him to us.
  - The word **apaugasma** comes from the greek philosopher Philo. He used the Word **apaugasma** to describe the LOGOS! According to Him, the Logos was a being or intelligent mind that ordered the universe. This was the word used by John when he wrote, "in the beginning was the Word...", the Logos. The writer of Hebrews described Jesus in a way that both Jew and Greek could see that majesty He holds!
- **Jesus Is the Representer** - Jesus exactly represents the Father. The word refers to a method in which a stamp was used to imprint an image on a coin. They would imprint the exact image of the emperor on a coin. So Jesus is the exact image, the exact representation of the Father. When you see Jesus interact with people in the Gospels, that is how God the Father would interact with them. When Jesus was asked "show us the Father", He answered "'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?'" (John 14:8-9). Jesus is the exact image of God, because He is God!
- **Jesus Is the Sustainer** - A better word is "maintaining". The idea is Jesus is ACTIVELY sustaining all things. We exist because He sustains us. Jesus demonstrated His power in the Gospels over demons, sickness, & nature all by His Word, but that was just the tip of the iceberg! By His Word, all that exist is maintained...including YOU! All these characteristics reveal Jesus as a being of great power, authority and wisdom!
- **Jesus Is the Purifier** - Jesus is a being of great power and wisdom, but now we see He is also one of great love, mercy and grace, because He purged the guilt and shame of our sins, He removed them and

paid for them. But it goes beyond that, for that phrase "by Himself" carries two ideas: It means through Himself, that is, with His own body, Jesus purged my sins. But it also means He alone purged my sins. He did it Himself, revealing that no one else, not Mary, not a priest or pope, could do it for us, nor could we ourselves accomplish it. He did it Himself. To the Jews wanting to go back to the sacrifices and rituals, this showed Jesus was far superior to the High Priest and Old Testament sacrifices!

- **Jesus Is Our Ruler** - This is a position of majesty and authority, of glory and honor. This position reveals that Jesus is truly above all creation, far above everything else. He is not just a powerful heavenly being like an angel, He is far above them. He is the ruler, the master, the creator! But this position also speaks of His finished work of redemption. In the temple there was no chairs, for the job of the priest was never done, always offering sacrifices for sin. But Jesus sat down, revealing He paid the price for sin once and for all. He is the superior sacrifice, the superior High Priest, the superior messenger. We must choose to follow Him as Lord!

***Is this the Jesus you worship? If not your Jesus is to small!***

***Is this the Jesus you believe in? If not your Jesus is to small!***

***Is this the Jesus you follow and declare your loyalty to? If not your Jesus is to small!***

***If Jesus can create the eons and maintain the very atoms in their place, don't you think He can care and take care of you? Don't you think He can provide for your financial and material needs? Don't you think He can help with your medical concerns, don't you think He can give you hope?***

***If Jesus has such great love to take it upon Himself to purge our sins, don't you think He loves you and will help you?***

This is the Jesus who has already forgiven you by paying the full penalty of Sin at the cross and achieving total and absolute forgiveness. This is the Jesus that is able to save you, by bringing you new life. Will you put your trust in this Jesus?