DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

In this week's text, <u>Heb 1:1-3</u>, the writer introduces the main theme of the letter: the superiority of Christ. In these opening sentences, the writer shows that what God revealed in a piecemeal and fragmentary way through the prophets, He has revealed finally and consummately through His Son. The pieces of the puzzle scattered throughout the Hebrew Scriptures finally fall together in Jesus.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. The opening sentence leads with two phrases modifying the main thought ("God spoke"). Then another modifying phrase follows the main thought. According to those modifying phrases, in what three ways had God already spoken?
- 2. The second verse begins with the word "but," indicating a contrast. How does v. 2 contrast with v. 1?
- 3. The rest of our text is information about the Son. What are some of the things we are told about the Son?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- In the opening paragraphs of his first letter, Peter briefly explores the curious mindset of the OT prophets who wrote as they looked forward to Jesus (1 Pet 1:10-12). What do we learn about the mindset of the prophets "who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours"?
- 2. This epistle is written to people steeped in centuries of sacred Jewish tradition. How would the writer's opening assertion of the superiority of God's revelation in Christ sound to people who so deeply reverenced the Hebrew Scriptures?

l		
1		
5		
a		
.		
t		
٠.		

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews opens with a challenge to the place of the Hebrew Scriptures in the plan of God: "What we have always known as the word of the prophets," he says, "was piecemeal and fragmentary compared to what God has said to us in Christ."
 - Some of Jesus' opponents the scribes and Pharisees – had a high view of Scripture, yet they were unable to recognize the final and complete Word that God had spoken in Christ. Why did they miss the point so badly?
 - Critics of evangelicalism sometimes accuse us of "bibliolatry," worshiping the Bible. How can we be sure our understanding of the Scripture is properly positioned as God intended, as a means to an end, as a testimony pointing us to Christ?
- 2. There are lots of different versions of "Jesus" in play in our culture. Just browse the religion section at your local bookstore, where you'll find the mystical Jesus, the revolutionary Jesus, the CEO Jesus, and all the other versions and permutations in between.
 - If you came to faith as an adult, your view of Jesus was radically changed. How do you see Jesus differently now than before you believed?
 - If you came to faith as a child, you may have had a cartoonish version of Jesus in mind, a G-rated Jesus who wasn't disruptive and controversial. How do you see Jesus differently now than you did as a child?
 - How has your understanding of Jesus deepened and grown over the years?