

SERMON OUTLINE

Hebrews 1:1-4 reveals 2 ways that God has spoken.

- I. God spoke by the prophets (v. 1e).
 - A. Long ago (v. 1a)
 - B. At many times (v. 1b).
 - C. In many ways (v. 1c).
 - D. To our fathers (v. 1d).

- II. God has spoken by His Son.
 - A. In these last days (v. 2a).
 - B. By His Son (v. 2b), who is:
 1. Heir (v. 2c).
 2. Creator (v. 2d).
 3. Revealer:
 - a. Of God's glory (v. 3a).
 - b. Of God's nature (v. 3b).
 4. Sustainer (v. 3c).
 5. Sacrificial Savior (v. 3d).
 6. Exalted King (v. 3e).
 7. Better (v. 4).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 12, 2020

Passage: Hebrews 1:3-4

Memory Passage: Hebrews 1:3-4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 1:3-4.** In verse 2-3 we are shown 7 descriptions of Christ. What are the first two, and what did you learn about them when you studied verse 2 last week?
- (b) What is God's "glory?"
- (c) What does the word "radiance" convey, and how is Jesus the "radiance of the glory of God?"
- (d) How is Jesus as the radiance of God's glory speaking more fully than the prophets spoke about God's glory (cf. John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:4-6)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 1:3-4.** Describe God's "nature" (v. 3).
- (b) "Exact imprint" translates the Greek word from which we get our English word "character" and is used for an imprint of a seal (such as on a letter) or a stamp from a die (such as on a coin). In what way is Jesus the "exact imprint" of God's nature?
- (c) In what ways do these 2 descriptions of Jesus function together to reveal God?
- (d) Why would it be important for believing Jews tempted to return to the Old Covenant law to hear that Jesus is "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature?"

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 1:3-4.** "Universe" in 1:3 is the ESV's translation of the Greek word for "all" or "every" (πάντα *panta*) and in the neuter means "all things" (cf. NASB, CSB, NIV, et. al.). Explain how Jesus "upholds all things by the word of his power."
- (b) How does Christ's present work of sustaining relate to His work of creating (v. 2, John 1:1-3)?
- (c) In what way does this sustaining work of Christ reflect the glory of God (see, for instance, Isaiah 40:12-26)?
- (d) Of what would the hearers of Hebrews thought when they heard that Jesus sustains all things "by the word of his power?"

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb 1:3-4.** We will return to this idea often, but for now, explain how Jesus made "purification for sins?"
- (b) How is this description of Christ and His work qualitatively different than the other 6 (cf. Heb. 10:11-12)?
- (c) What does "(sitting) down at the right hand of the majesty on high" say about Jesus' work? His character?
- (d) We will examine verse 4 in more detail next week because it functions as a transition to what follows (finishing 1-4 and introducing 5-14). Explain how it functions as the end of vs. 1-4.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 1:3-4.** Summarize the 7 descriptions of Christ found in Hebrews 1:2-4.
- (b) How do these 7 descriptions of Christ (vs. 2-4) help teach and clarify the doctrine of the Trinity (1 God in 3 Persons)?
- (c) Some theologians see these 7 descriptions through the categories of Christ's offices of Prophet, Priest, and King. Explain how each of these descriptions might describe Jesus as the Final Prophet, Perfect Priest, and Reigning King.
- (d) How would these opening verses of Hebrews help the 1st-century hearers fight the temptation to return to the law?
- (e) In what ways do these 7 descriptions of Christ help strengthen your faith? In what circumstances will remembering them cause you to remain faithful?

DATE: January 12, 2020

PASSAGE: Hebrews 1:3-4

God Has Spoken By His Son (Part II)