

And This Will We Do, If God Permits

An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**

Chapter 2: God Speaks Now through Jesus

Hebrews 1:1&2

13: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 8

WAOY Wednesday 01/14/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the superior way that God speaks to Man under the New Covenant by looking at **Hebrews 1:1&2**. Let's read those verses again together:

Hebrews 1:1&2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Now, we are continuing to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** is discussing here in these two verses by looking at the various ways that God used to speak to Man, under the First Covenant or the Old Covenant, versus the much more superior way that God speaks to Man through the New Covenant. The writer of **Hebrews** is saying here that all throughout the Old Covenant, God spoke to the Fathers *by* or *through* the specially-chosen and specially-gifted men called "The Prophets". And the way that the Prophets communicated the Revelation of God to the Fathers was by and through the Thirty-Nine Books of the Old Testament.

I realize that many today honestly believe that people were running around even back in the Old Testament and hearing from God, and receiving information from God, and prophesying all the time. But that is absolutely not the case. It wasn't true during the Old Testament times; it wasn't true during the New Testament times; and it isn't true today. God speaking to Man has *always* been rare and unique and special, and in every case where Divine Revelation was given in either

the Old or New Covenants, it was given for the express purpose of either the Prophets or the Apostles writing it down so that we can have a reliable, trustworthy, and complete copy of all that God has revealed to Man. Outside of the General Revelation that we find in Creation itself, it is very important for us to know today that there is not any Divine Revelation that exists *outside* of the Sixty-Six Books of the Holy Bible. *None. Zero.* God has spoken all that He is ever going to speak to Man, and all that God spoke was faithfully and fully recorded for us and is found today in the Holy Bible.

In fact, that is what the Sixty-Six Books of the Holy Bible are. They are the “Canon of Scripture”, or the Rule or Measurement of the Christian Faith. What it means to be saved and how to live holy and godly lives has all been revealed to Man by the Holy Spirit and recorded for us to read, study, know, love, obey, and defend. Throughout the centuries, various people rose up and said that they had heard from God. These people made the claim that God had revealed additional information to them. Some said that God spoke audibly to them; others said that angels came and showed them things; while still others said that the Holy Spirit had revealed new revelation. But what we *must* know, dear friends, is that without any exception, those people were rejected by the true Prophets of God in the Old Testament, and by the true Apostles of the Lord in the New Testament, as being false prophets, heretics, and apostates.

After the death of John, people continued to lay claim to hearing new information from God that was not found in Scripture. Periodically a new batch of self-appointed and unaccountable “prophets” and “seers” and “apostles” rose up who made the claim that they too had heard from God. And they wrote books and they went around and taught their new revelations and propel flocked after them.

But as you can easily see for yourself simply by studying Church History, all of these people - 100% of these people - were all exposed as being liars and false, and they were unanimously rejected and expelled from the Christian Church. The man who championed the concept of *human free will* and who single-handedly invented Secular Humanism late in the third and early in the fourth centuries, (a man named Pelagius), said that God spoke new revelation to him. He was confronted by Augustine and denounced from Scripture as being a heretic, and was excommunicated from the Christian Church over 1,700

years ago. And yet his false teaching is more popular today, and you can hear bits and pieces of the ancient Pelagian heresy being regularly taught by some of the biggest and most famous preachers on television.

Arius, the Fourth Century heretic, laid claim to being able to hear directly from God outside of Scripture. He also taught that Jesus was not God. And Arius was exposed as being false and removed from the Church; and yet in the Nineteenth Century, a Baptist preacher uncovered his ancient writings and today the false religion of Jehovah's Witness is continuing to spread the lie all over the world that Jesus is Michael the archangel, and was not God.

Also, in the Eighteenth Century, a man named Joseph Smith said that God and Jesus *both* appeared to him and gave him the location of specially-inscribed golden tablets, on which was supernaturally written the *real* Gospel. He said that he was given the power by God to translate those tablets into English; and from that we have The Book of Mormon, which is a combination of historical distortions and outright fabrications.

Even Muhammad - the demon-possessed pedophile and the founder of Islam - said that in his epileptic comas that God spoke directly to him audibly, and in dreams, and through angels, and he said that God gave him additional Revelation that was not found in Scripture. And it is from these so-called *revelations* from God that the world has been given the horror called The Koran... the source by which mothers can celebrate their children blowing themselves up.

And do you know what all these false teachers have in common? All of them, without exception, reject the Bible. They all say that the Bible is wrong and that God has raised them up to fix it. You can go from the Judaizers of Paul's day, to the Gnostic mystics of John's day, to the Pelagians, and to the Arians, to the Modalists and the Socinians who deny the Trinity... to the modern cultists who teach that Jesus was not sinless... but without exception these people all agree that the Bible is wrong and they are here to correct the Holy, Infallible, Inerrant Word of the living God.

Now in spite of history being filled with these so-called prophets, apostles, seers, and divines, who all claim inspiration and all claim to be able to hear and speak directly to God, and who all claim to receive new information from God... and in spite of the unmitigated disasters that these people have wrecked in the lives of millions of people all over

the world for hundreds of years; in spite of all that clear irrefutable evidence, we are bombarded in our day with a whole new crop of self-appointed and unaccountable people who lay claim to the very same fallacies.

Some teach that they are adding new pages to the Bible every year through their continuing revelation, while others will talk at length about the significance between words that are surrounded by *blue* color as opposed to words that are surrounded by *yellow*... while others send pictures of a royal purple pillow with a golden key on it showing that as soon as they come to your city they are going to release the “prophetic anointing”. You can take classes today that will teach you how to interpret dreams and how to give personal prophecies, and some groups have gone so far as to say that they have risen above even needing the Bible at all because they are operating on a higher revelation than what is in the Bible.

In our day, every Tom, Dick, and Harry says that God speaks to them. And they honestly expect you to drop everything you are doing and obey them instantly - without hesitation or question - and that might be easier if only they didn't contradict each other so much. Recently, within a two-week time frame, I had three people sitting in my office all claiming with the utmost of sincerity that they heard from God. All three were claiming to have a Word from God for me, and all were claiming that I needed to do something very specific. And yet each one of them contradicted what the other two said.

How much chaos do we need to have... how many ruined lives... how much damage needs to happen before we come to the conclusion, dear friends, that the Bible and the Bible *alone* is the Word of God, and in spite of how sincere people may be, there is not any difference between those people today who say that God speaks to them and the collection of false teachers and heretics and false apostles throughout history who said the very same thing.

Now in those Thirty-Nine inspired Books of the Old Testament, we see the history of Israel and the Promise of the coming Messiah. The Old Testament record starts with the Creation of the Universe and closes about four hundred years before the first coming of Jesus Christ.

The flow of history through the Old Testament moves along the following lines:

- The Creation of the Universe
- The Fall of Man
- The Judgment Flood over the Earth
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: the Fathers of the Sovereignly-chosen Elected Nation of Israel
- The History of Israel
- The Exile into Egypt
- The Exodus and the Forty-Year Wandering in the Wilderness
- The Conquest of Canaan, which lasted seven years
- The Era of Judges, which lasted 350 years
- The United Kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon, which lasted 110 years
- The Divided Kingdom - Judah and Israel - which lasted 350 years
- The Exile into Babylon, which lasted seventy years
- The Return and Rebuilding of the Nation, which lasted 140 years

The details of this great history are explained in the Thirty-Nine Books which are divided into five major categories.

The Law	(Genesis through Deuteronomy)
The History	(Joshua through Esther)
The Wisdom Books	(Job through the Song of Solomon)
The Major Prophets	(Isaiah through Daniel)
The Minor Prophets	(Hosea through Malachi)

After the completion of the Old Testament with the Book of the Prophet Malachi, there were about 400 years of silence, during which God did not speak or inspire any Scripture. During that time there were no individual miracles, no angelic visitations, and there was no “season of miracles”. That 400-year period of silence was broken with the glorious announcement by the angel Gabriel to Zacharias, that his barren and aged wife Elizabeth was going to miraculously conceive and bear John the Baptist, who would have the honor of being the forerunner to the Messiah.

And it was during that time, and all through the Virgin Conception and birth of Jesus, that angels and dreams and supernatural manifestations came at a very rapid pace... as the greatest miracle that the world has ever known or will ever know came

to pass. God Almighty inserted Himself into His Own Creation and took on flesh, and *Yahweh* became Man in the womb of a virgin and was born as Jesus. So the basic premise of the Thirty-Nine Old Testament Books is that it was in these Books that God's great Promises were given concerning the true Sanctuary and the real Deliverer, and the Heavenly Tabernacle, the eternal Priesthood, the Superior Sacrifice, the city of New Jerusalem, and the glorious King of Israel. This Revelation was given and it was in the Twenty-Seven New Testament Books where those Divine Promises were fulfilled by, and through, and in the Person of Jesus Christ.

So the essence of all that is in the Thirty-Nine Old Testament books is looking forward... looking ahead to the time when the Messiah will bring in the superior, finished, final, and completed Revelation of God in the New Covenant... that will supersede the inferior, incomplete, and beginning Revelation of the Old Covenant. And that is what the writer of Hebrews is saying here; even though God used to speak to the fathers by the prophets, God is no longer doing that because today God is speaking to man *not* through the lips of frail and sinful humans, but God is speaking to Man through His Son.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.