

GOD HAS SPOKEN

HEBREWS 1:1-4

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

-- AW Tozer

A Little Background:

- The author of Hebrews knows his audience has an extensive knowledge of the Old Testament. There is no other New Testament book that has more references to the Old Testament than Hebrews.
- The real danger for this community of faith that is the audience seems to be the temptation to reject Christianity and return to Judaism as they knew it.
- The audience of Hebrews is a group of Jewish Christians (Messianic Jews) living in or around Rome during the mid-'60s AD. This is just before the extreme persecution of the Roman church under Nero.
- Connected to this group of believers was also a group of Jews who were interested in Christianity but had not yet put their faith in Christ.
- “Only God knows” who wrote the book of Hebrews. There are no keys inside the letter itself to lead us to any certainty. And speculation otherwise would simply be that, speculation.
- The message of Hebrews was written almost two thousand years ago, in the Greek language, by an educated person of Jewish descent, in the form of a sermon to a church located in Greco-Roman culture. To say the least, this message is culturally and linguistically a long way from Tuscaloosa, AL.
- To understand what this book speaks to us today, we must first understand what it communicated to the original audience. We must also keep in mind the historical and cultural difference between them and us.
- This is the challenge of the author as he writes to this audience: To encourage a group of discouraged believers drifting from real biblical Christianity.
- Hebrews helps us answer some real questions for our friends and for ourselves: How do I help a friend who is struggling with whether or not to trust Christ? How about the one who claims to be a Christian yet is thinking of walking away from Christianity? Hebrews has some great encouragement for both them and us!

HEBREWS 1:1-4 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² 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. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

God Is Not Silent! (v.1-2)

God spoke many times and in many ways by the prophets.

- **God has never been _____ and _____.**
- **But, God's communication with us now is greater and better because He has spoken to us _____.**
- **Jesus = "heir of all things" = He owns _____ = He can (and does) _____.**
- **Jesus = "also He created the world" = Jesus has _____ been with the Father.**

COLOSSIANS 1:15-19 ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- **God has _____ to His people, and that message centers completely on the person and work of His son, Jesus!**

See Jesus Clearly For Who He Is: (v.3-4)

- **Jesus is the _____ of God's glory...** If you want to understand how great God is, look at Jesus. God's glory is "reflected off of" or "streaming out of" Jesus.
- **Jesus is an _____ of God's nature...** What we see in Jesus helps us know God better because Jesus is an exact imprint of God. Think God is mysterious? Look at Jesus.
- **Jesus _____ the universe by the word of His power...** Everything in the universe is held together by Him.
- **Jesus _____ from sins...** Past tense, finished work. IT IS FINISHED! What Jesus did on the cross made purification for all sins - for all time - for those who will put their faith in Him!
- **Jesus _____ at the right hand of the Majesty on high...** He is the radiance of God's glory, He is the exact representation of God's nature, He upholds all things by the word of His power, He made purification of sins and His earthly work of salvation was complete... So He sat down!
- **Jesus is not an _____. He is higher than the angels...** Jesus is God. The angels are spirit beings created by God to minister to Him and do as He pleases. Jesus IS GOD! Angels are created. Jesus is the Creator!

→ **Jesus is superior to everything. Nothing in all of creation is more important or above Him.**

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