

These Last Days; Hebrews 1:1-4

I. Supremacy

- A. The letter to the Hebrews was written to encourage Christians in a time of trial.
- B. It does so by focusing on the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ.
- C. While God spoke in the past “many times and in many ways,” he has now spoken to us “by his Son,” Jesus Christ, who is the “exact imprint” of God’s nature and who “upholds the universe by the word of his power” (1:1–3).
- D. Jesus is our savior; we should not neglect the salvation He offers us
- E. The author of this letter is unknown and scholars think that it was written in the late 60s A.D. probably just before the fall of Jerusalem

II. Many Times and Ways

- A. Hebrews 1:1; Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
- B. The writer attests to the validity, or divine nature of the Old Testament Scriptures
- C. He refers to the writers as prophets
 - 1. The Jews believed that prophets wrote Scripture. This is why the Jews labeled the historical books of Joshua through Kings as the “former prophets.”
 - 2. Therefore, this phrase does not refer to the OT prophets only, but to all the OT writers.
 - 3. Moses even calls himself a prophet
 - 4. Deuteronomy 18:15; “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
- D. Two different formal systems (dispensations) through the OT
 - 1. Patriarchal - God spoke directly to the heads of the households who then told their families.
 - a) Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel)
 - b) But the prophets start with Moses, since he authored the first books of Scripture
 - 2. Mosaic Law - the Law given to Moses by God on Mount Horeb, for the Israelites
 - a) God spoke to Israel through Moses and Aaron
 - b) God spoke to other nations through their kings
 - (1) Nebuchadnezzar and his dreams
 - (2) Pharaoh Neco and his battle
 - (3) 2 Chronicles 35:20–22; 20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to meet him. 21 But he sent envoys to him, saying, “What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you.” 22 Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo.
 - (4) The Assyrian King and his task to take Israel into captivity
 - (5) Babylon’s task to bring judgement on Assyria
- E. The thrust of this statement, though, is not to prove the OT or its authors, but to show His Son as the Messiah

III. His Son

- A. Hebrews 1:2; 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.

- B. Instead of using an intermediary, like the heads of the households, kings of peoples, or Moses and the High Priests, He Himself, comes in the form of man and speaks to all of us directly.
 - C. "By the prophets" and "by the Son"
 - 1. "There is an obvious contrast between the two means of revelation. One was a servant and one is a family member. The first was only partial but the second is full and complete" Bob Utley
 - 2. We should understand that there is this same contrast between the covenants as well
 - 3. Hebrews 8:7–13; 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. 8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.
 - 4. "The old system was communicated through many persons, the new through the Son alone; and a proper understanding of that epic truth will dispel forever any notion that there could be any prophet, leader, or any other type of seer in the Christian dispensation, with a valid message from God. For God to communicate to mankind through any such persons would be a reversion to the old system." Coffman
 - 5. Jude 3; Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
 - D. Christ, the Messiah, His Son is the One who revealed this covenant to us, not anyone else!
 - 1. Colossians 1:15–17; 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.
 - 2. In verses 1-2 we see then end of prophecy (foretelling the future) and the fully and completely revealed covenant in which we stand today
 - 3. God no longer speaks to us in prophets, but has spoken to us through His Son!
- IV. Divinity
- A. Hebrews 1:3–4; 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.
 - B. Let's make no mistake about the divinity of Jesus
 - C. "Exact imprint"
 - 1. This is where we get the word "character"

2. Jesus' character is God's character... exactly
 3. John 14:6–10; 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." 8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
- D. The inspired Hebrew writer then uses a series of Psalms to make his point
1. Hebrews 1:5-13
 - a) Psalm 2:7
 - b) Psalm 89:26-27
 - c) Psalm 97:7
 - d) Psalm 104:4
 - e) Psalm 45:6-7
 - f) Psalm 102:25-27
 - g) Psalm 110:1
 2. The writers makes the point, these were not said about angels, but about His Son, The divine Savior and God
 3. John 17:5; And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
 4. John 20:27–28; 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- E. The writer wants to make sure there is no question in anyone's mind about Jesus' divinity
- V. Jesus is God
- A. The Old Covenant with its prophets has been "nailed to the cross"
 - B. The Divine God and Savior, Jesus the Christ has revealed the new covenant to us
 - C. Mark 9:7; And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."
 - D. Will you listen to Him?