

HEBREWS 1:1-14
God Has Spoken

Are you a good listener?
When your spouse is speaking?
Or your kids?
Or your parents?
Your counselor / friend?
Your boss?
Your employee?
Your pastor?

Do you tend to tune people out?
Or are you preparing your response and not really listening?

Genuine listening requires humility.

As we become familiar with someone we can stop listening because we think we know what is going to be said

Our listening skills are very important because as Heb 1:1 points out, God SPOKE AND HE IS SPEAKING.

Do we give sufficient weight to what He is saying or do we treat the words of scripture as background noise? OR DO WE SIMPLY IGNORE HIS VOICE ALTOGETHER??

Don't confuse God speaking with the bossy self-important little lady from Lil' Abner
"Mammy Yoakum" –

She liked to sound off on issues and she had an over inflated view of her own authority and once she pronounced on a topic she would end the conversation with the statement...

"I have spoken"



And that was the end of it.

If anyone should have the final "I have spoken" it should be God and God alone. And we should listen. This is where Hebrews begins...

The call of Hebrews is to "remember Jesus" who is superior to everything else.

1God, 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. **3**And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4**having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

5For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?

And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"? (Ps 2; 2 Sam 7; Acts 13:33

6And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, (Deut 32, Ps 97)
"AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

7And of the angels He says, (Ps 104:4)
"WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,
AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

8But of the Son He says, Ps 45:6-7
"YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER,
AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.
9"YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;
THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU
WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."

10And, (Ps 102:25-26)
"YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH,
AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
11THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;
AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,
12AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP;
LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.
BUT YOU ARE THE SAME,
AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."

13But to which of the angels has He ever said, (Ps 110)
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

14Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

This passage speaks to a common question I've encountered over the years..."Why doesn't God reveal Himself in such a way that it is obvious that he exists?"

HE has – LONG AGO through General Revelation and the Prophets. BUT NOW ...
He can't do much more than reveal the exact representation of his nature, can He?
God didn't send an airtight argument. He sent an airtight person – His Son.

Our problems with unbelief are not because God hasn't revealed Himself. Our problems with unbelief exist because we don't have hearts to listen or eyes to see.

God is a speaking God. He takes the initiative. As Francis Schaeffer put it, "He is there and He is not silent".

Some are less inclined to hear and see than others.

EX: French neighbor..3 meetings over a series of weeks and each day he read a portion from the Gospel of Luke. (he was a blank slate never having read the gospels). At the end of the 3rd meeting I asked, "What are your impressions of Jesus?" .

He said, "Jesus not very effective or persuasive as a communicator. He only had 11 followers when he died."

The author of Hebrews has a very different opinion about the Person of Jesus.

Here in first paragraph he front loads what is a summary of his entire sermon/letter. There is this description of Jesus and who he is and then the reference to what he has done. He made purification for sin and he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

God speaks through the SON

King: Christ is the Ultimate Ruler

- **Heir of all things (v.2)** – He is THE HEIR BECAUSE HE IS THE ONLY ETERNAL SON. As believers, we are called sons or daughters of God by virtue of our union with Christ, not based on our own rights.

These words are associated with Psalm 2 (Heb 1:5).

“The heirship of Christ is established with the perspective of redemption: for his inheritance is the innumerable company of the redeemed and the universe renewed by virtue of his triumphant work of reconciliation” – P. E. Hughes Commentary on Hebrews p. 39

- **Creator of all things (v.2)** Here there are echoes of Gen 1; John 1 and Proverbs 8 This speaks to the co-eternal nature of the Son with the Father. Biblically speaking, the phrase “Son of God” means full participation with the Father’s deity.

- **Upholds the universe (v.3)**- God did not create and then back off. He upholds the universe.

THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD IS SPEAKING TO YOU. ARE YOU LISTENING?

Prophet: Christ is the Ultimate Revealer of God

- **Radiance of the glory of God (v.3a)** While it is not a good idea to stare directly at the sun, it does feel good to bask in its radiant heat and feel the warmth.

EX: On Tuesday I went out on our back deck as a read this passage and enjoyed the radiance of the warmth of the sun. That’s what Jesus is for us – the Radiance of God’s glory – John 1:14 14And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth

- **Exact imprint of his nature (v.3a)**

Jesus is the “character” of God – the imprint, engraving, seal – EX: like the imprint of the king’s seal on hot wax. Or the image on a coin.

CHRIST, THE ULTIMATE PROPHET, THE EXACT IMAGE OF THE FATHER IS SPEAKING. ARE YOU LISTENING?

Priest: Christ is the Ultimate Savior from Our Sins

- **Made purifications for sins (v.3b)** This is no small matter. The entire OT system is built around the priests whose job it was to offer sacrifices for sins. Without purification from sin we have no access to God. While that idea seems outdated and primitive to 21st century people, they have their own forms of ritual cleansings and sacrifice.

Those who violate the ever changing cultural norms face public shaming, and even death threats- a modern form of sacrifice. This may continue until they perform the required form of public penance.

The ideas of sin, shame, and sacrificial cleansing are ingrained in the human soul. The desire to prove ourselves and to create a sense of being OK drives the religious and non-religious alike.

EX: **Chariots of Fire – Harold Abrahams** “If I can’t win, I won’t run”; “I’ve known the fear of losing, but now I’m almost too frightened to win.” “And now in one hour’s time, I will be out there

again. I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor; 4 feet wide, with 10 lonely seconds to justify my existence. But will I?"

What are you saying that about??

He carried the burden of having to justify his existence. HOW ABOUT YOU?

Non- believing friend...YOU DO carry that burden. I don't know how you define or measure what it takes to justify your existence, but it's on you. THERE IS GOOD NEWS. It doesn't have to be.

Christian friend – Do you forget the good news and pick up that burden? You don't have to.

Jesus MADE PURIFICATION FOR SINS AND THEN HE SAT DOWN... (PS 110)

- Jesus made purification – (Lev 4-7) and then Sat down on the right hand of God (v.3b)

Implications:

God has given US a clearer, fuller revelation of Himself than he gave the OT prophets!

He has given us a complete cleansing from our sins. The OT priests could only offer the blood of bulls and sheep, but Jesus offered Himself.

And to show that it was full, final, and complete, HE SAT DOWN.

If Jesus is given such honor in heaven then how much more should he be given honor on earth?

To flirt with the Bible while denying the core teaching of the Exceptionalism of Jesus is to promote false teaching.

“I like Jesus, but I'm not sure about the stuff about him being a sacrifice”

“I like Jesus, but the miracles and stuff don't seem important”

“I like Jesus, but his death and resurrection are given too much importance. What really matters is what he taught and his example”

If you strip away his obedience, death, and resurrection, and ascension, then you're left with a Jesus who is merely an example, not a Savior. (That is a different religion, though it may masquerade as Christianity)

Christ, THE ULTIMATE PRIEST, who was both the mediator and the sacrifice is SPEAKING. ARE YOU LISTENING?

SO WHAT?

We can trust Him for forgiveness – purified from our sins (Let us draw near to God.)

We should submit to Him in all things – He is the sovereign creator and sustainer of our lives

We can rely on Him alone for our eternal joy – He is appointed heir of all things, and we are heirs with Him – Romans 8:17

The call of Hebrews and the call of this Table is that Jesus is superior to everything else.

Pray

Steve Jones will lead us in communion

--	--