

Hebrews 1: 1-4; “God has Spoken by His Son”, Sermon # 1 in the series
- “Holding Fast our Confession of Christ”, Delivered by
Pastor Paul Rendall on December 11th, 2011,
in the Worship Service.

The Book of Hebrews is a book which teaches us much about the Person and the Work of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that it was written by the Apostle Paul. I believe this mostly because of the reference to “our brother Timothy” which he mentions at the end of this letter. “Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.” We should remember that Timothy was most especially the evangelist-helper to the Apostle Paul. Paul writes this letter from Italy, where he was himself imprisoned at Rome, sometime later. It appears that either Timothy was imprisoned there for a time, or at the very least he was detained with ministerial concerns there. For Paul mentions that he had been “set at liberty”. The Apostle Peter may have been referring to this letter to the Hebrews, as well as the letter to the Romans, when he wrote in 2 Peter 3: 15 – “and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according the wisdom given to him as written to you, as also in all his epistles.” Paul was the “Apostle to the Gentiles”, but still Paul thought that he would write a doctrinal supplement to these same churches that Peter had preached to, so that they would understand more about their faith and why they should not go back to Judaism. In applying this to us here this morning, I thought that it would be fitting to begin preaching a series from this book at this Christmas season, because this first chapter specifically references the Incarnation of our Lord in several places; beginning in verses 1 and 2, which I will preach on this morning. There is continued reference to the Incarnation in verses 3 and 4, which I will preach on next Sunday, Lord willing. And all of these verses concerning the glory of our Christ will lead us in our study up to verse 6, where I will speak to you on Christmas Day about God the Father’s bringing His first-born into the world. May His great name be exalted in, and by, these sermons.

This morning we want to consider how God the Father has spoken to men. Our God is a God who speaks. But He is not a God who has spoken capriciously; that is, that He somehow might speak or act in an impulsive or unpredictable way. Rather, we know from His creation of the World that when He spoke; He spoke wisely. He spoke in an orderly way, and the things of earth and all of the creation came into being. And they came into being according to a wisely ordained plan which He had from all of eternity, which is called His “counsel”, or His decrees. Jeremiah 32, verse 17 says, “Ah, Lord God!” “Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm.” “There is nothing too hard for You.” “You show lovingkindness to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them—the Great, the mighty God,

whose name is the Lord of hosts.” “You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.” As we begin this morning, let us learn from this that if God made the heavens and the earth, that it is not too hard for Him to speak to you who are gathered here this morning to hear the preaching of His glorious written Word. He is great in counsel and mighty in His work. Praise be to His great and Holy name! God has not left us to ourselves and to our own feeble thoughts and opinions of what the meaning of life might be, and what we ought to be doing with our time; our 70 or 80 or so years; here upon the earth. He has spoken to us by His Son. We want to look, 1st of all, at how God spoke to men in times past. Then 2nd, we want to see how God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son. And then 3rd – We want to see that God has spoken and declared that our Lord Jesus Christ, is indeed the heir of all things.

1st – We want to look at how God spoke to men in times past. (verse 1)

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.” When it says, “In times past”, it is referring to the revelation of God which was given by the prophets to “the fathers”, and it was given to them in the times before Christ came. That is; there were certain men who were given direct revelation from God, and these men communicated the very words which came to them from God, to certain of the people of those ancient times. They communicated His Word by direct inspiration of God to “the fathers”. This meant not only Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but it also meant the whole body of the Jewish leaders and people during Old Testament times. Indeed, many of the fathers, themselves, were prophets. Speaking of Abraham in Genesis 10, verse 7, God says to Abimelech, “Restore the man’s wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you, and you shall live.” God spoke to His prophets; men who knew Him and who communicated to people around them, not only things about the future, but also God’s will, when they spoke to others. He spoke to them at various times; the word is “Πολυμερος” (polumeros) in the Greek. It means “in many parts”. The revelation that was given in those Old Testament times was not given all at once; but over a long period of time. They were given from the beginning of the world to the days of Malachi, when prophecy ceased, four hundred years before Christ. It ceased for a time, because the people of Israel; God’s Elect people, were waiting for the Messiah whom the prophets had all prophesied of. The people were waiting for the Son of God; the Lord Jesus Christ. All during this time, there were these portions of truth that were given to some men who were called of God to the office of prophet, and in terms of the future, they often had to do with the Promised Seed who was to come; the Lord Jesus Christ as we shall see in our study in just a few minutes.

God also gave His Word to the fathers in various ways. “πολυτροπος” (polutropos) is the word in the Greek. It means that God did not always choose to reveal His will and His Word in the same way each time, to His prophets. Listen to

Numbers 12: 6-8 – “If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.” “Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.” “I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord.” God spoke to Moses in an audible voice, and as it were, face to face. It was very plain and clear. He spoke to others of the prophets in their dreams and they proclaimed; not only things to come, but also his present will in regard to the obedience of individual people and nations. This is how eventually the Old Testament Scriptures came to be written down. To be a prophet involved a certain and definite call from God Himself, in order to become His servant in the preaching and teaching. The great responsibility of the man called, was the declaration, and explanation of the verbal or the written Word that was given to them by a voice, or in a dream or a vision. This word did not come from themselves, and it did not come from the evil spirits; this prophetic Word was spoken or given by God Himself and His servants the prophets received it and delivered it to the people. It was something that came to them by the Spirit’s delivery of it to them. It was the burden that they bore; it was fire burning in their bones, until they had delivered it faithfully. Their calling was for God to speak through them and by them.

Sometimes people like to quarrel with God over the way that He reveals Himself to men. They do not want a Word from God which is backed by His authority. They want a Word from God which they can modify or change at their pleasure. They sometimes want to become prophets themselves, even though the gift of prophecy has ceased. They want God’s truth to be subject to their evaluation and their opinions of it. But all these are sinful impulses in the fallen hearts of men. Christ our Lord never acted in this way. God has given His Word to be heard and to be obeyed. He gave it to be trusted in, and depended upon, and lived out in all the situations of our life. This is what Christ did. God spoke and Christ lived out the Father’s Word perfectly. It is for us to learn by Christ’s grace to do the same; to learn to receive the truth of God’s Word; to do it and keep it, by the power of Christ. Let me ask you whether you have a good readable copy of the Scriptures? Do you treat this great revelation which God has given to you, with the reverence it deserves. Is it the Holy Bible to you? No other book can claim to be such. No other book can speak to the eternal and everlasting needs of your soul, except the Bible. Therefore, it is for you to receive the preaching of it, because it teaches you your need of Christ. Therefore, it is for you to go away from here meditating upon it day and night. “This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate upon it day and night that you may do according to all that is written therein. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1: 9) God has spoken in His Word in times past to the fathers by the prophets.

2ndly - We want to see how God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son.

These “last days” does not refer to the latter times of this present Church age. It refers to the whole of the New Testament Church age. Jesus Christ’s incarnation; His coming into this world, inaugurated “the last times” in which we currently live. “In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son.” We have seen in our study so far, that God spoke to the fathers; mostly the Jewish men of Old Testament times, in many parts and portions. These revelations of God were eventually written down for the prophets and priests to read and to study for themselves, and then to apply to the people in their teaching. And so through their study of the Old Testament Word, what they were supposed to teach the people; was that God in His Word was speaking concerning His Son, and the Everlasting Kingdom that He would bring in, through the Father sending Him into this world in the incarnation. Isaiah 7: 14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”, which is explained in Matthew 1: 22 as meaning, “God with us.” Michael Card, a contemporary Christian songwriter says it this way in His song, *The Final Word*. “God spoke the Incarnation and then so was born the Son.” “His final word was Jesus, He needed no other one.” “Spoke flesh and blood so He could bleed and make a way Divine.” “And so was born the baby who would die to make it mine.” This is good. The Lord Jesus Christ is God’s final Word. This is what Father was saying when He sent Jesus into Mary’s womb. He was saying that sinful men must have a Savior if they would have eternal life. God spoke, and this is what He was saying that He would do for sinful men; He would send His only begotten Son to die so that sinners believing in Him might be saved. He needs not to say anything more than what He said when He gave Him. But in saying this to you, I must also say that this was only the beginning of what would be spoken by men concerning Jesus Christ; God’s final Word, and the value of what He came to do for us. He would become the ultimate and final Prophet to teach us; the ultimate and final Priest to save us from our sins and intercede for us; and the ultimate and final King, not only for the Jews, but also for all mankind who would come to find the grace to seek Him. He would be our Prophet to come and teach us.

Turn with me over to Deuteronomy Chapter 18, verse 15. Moses says here – “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren.” “Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’” “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good.’” “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.” “And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.” The prophet whom Moses prophesied of, was the Lord Jesus Christ. For Peter quotes this passage in his message given to the people after he had healed a

lame man in Acts 3. It was even amplified by his saying toward the end of his sermon in verse 23: “And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.” “Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.” Now this was how God has chosen to reveal Himself; not only to Old Testament Israel, but to us Gentiles as well.

But if you look up at verse 9, you also find a warning given to them. “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.” “There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritualist, or one who calls up the dead.” “For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. “You shall be blameless before the Lord your God.” “For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.” Let me apply this, in this holy way. Do you want to really come to know God? Then do not be deceived about how God speaks to you, and how you need to be taught by Him. God speaks to you by means of showing you Christ, in His written Word; both Old Testament and New, which Word was given directly to His prophets, and then subsequently, they wrote it down for the Jews. But Jesus came into this fallen world of sin and woe, not only for Jews, but for us Gentiles as well. He came to teach by His words and His life; everything that God wanted you to know about how to know Him and glorify Him. Do you see Jesus as the spoken Word of God? Do you see the Bible in this holy way; as the Word of God which represents Him, and salvation and direction for everything in your life? Is He your prophet to teach you, or do you really think that you know better than God. Do you say that there are other ways to find and to know, and to walk with God? Do you seek for the soothsayers and the diviners, and the philosophers of this world? Or do you seek to have God speak to you through Christ and those whom He has appointed; His Apostles? Satan speaks through diviners and philosophers. And your mind and your heart come to be filled with wrong thinking about life and about God, and about yourself and your own supposed ability to guide yourself. God speaks to you Christ, and what Christ has given to you through His prophets and Apostles in terms of the truth. God has spoken to this world through Christ and through His giving to all who will hear, the final and complete revelation of Himself His will in Jesus. But if you will trust in your own wisdom, or what is even worse, to the false spirituality of Satan, what does God say to you? Isaiah 8, verse 19 says, “And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter, should not a people seek their God?’” “Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?” “To the law and to the testimony!” “If they do not speak according to this word, it is because

there is no light in them!” God speaks to men through His prophetic Word – The Bible. And the Bible itself speaks of Christ, the Son of God who came into this world to bear witness to the truth which God would have you to know.

God has spoken to this fallen world of sinners and told them that in Jesus He has given to us His final word, appointing Jesus to be our great High Priest; our only Savior and Lord; the only way to God Himself; the only way to eternal life. When you hear that Jesus was born in a stable, and wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger, what does this say to you? It says that God has spoken by His sending His Son into this world, for the lowliness of persons, the most disadvantaged of persons; to the most needy and sinful of persons. He is given Him in this way to show you that even if you see yourself as a beast before God in your sins, that still He has been given for you, to spiritually feed upon Him by faith. He has given Him to sinners, so that Jesus might obey His own law fully, and satisfy all the righteous demands of it perfectly, and even given Him to die as a sacrifice; offering Himself up on the cross for your sins, so that you might believe in Him. This was God speaking by Christ to you, whatever kind of sinful person you have been, and whatever you have done to try to make up for it. God spoke His final word on the subject in Christ. You should know that God’s final word is; that you cannot be saved by the works of the law or by you trying to merit favor by anything you do yourself, or by anything that you have done for you by earthly priests. Therefore come directly to Jesus. Jesus saves.

Turn over with me to Hebrews Chapter 7, verse 19. “For the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.” “And inasmuch as Jesus was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Mechizedek’”), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.” “Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.” “But He, because He continues forever has an unchangeable priesthood.” “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, and undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, (under the law) to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for all when He offered up Himself.” “For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.” This, my beloved friends, is how God has spoken by His Son. He appointed Him a priest and He appointed Him to be your priest forever. You can tell Him all your sins. You need not go to the Catholic priest. You have a High Priest who has been perfected forever by His sufferings on the cross for you. He learned obedience from the things that He suffered, and He will see to it that by His blood, all of your

sins shall be cleansed and purged away, and He will intercede for you when your faith is small or weak or failing. God has spoken to us by His Son. And He is still speaking to us by Him.

And then 3rdly and Finally - We want to see that God has spoken and declared that our Lord Jesus Christ, is indeed the heir of all things.

Verse 2 says, “God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” When the Father spoke in His decretal appointments before the foundation of the world, and begot, or brought forth the Person of the Son, He was bringing forth His Son to someday be, in the eyes of all men, King and heir of all things related to this world and all the people who would ever live. This is proved by the High-Priestly Prayer of Jesus in John 17: 1 and 2. “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come.’ “Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.” There are two things to note here in relation to these verses. Christ’s being the heir of all things was the Father’s definite appointment; not only something that He decreed in a general sense before time began; but more particularly in the very tangible sense that that His inheritance is specifically related to those whom He would give eternal life to by means of His work of loving obedience rendered to the Father. Christ’s was a particular redemption of persons. These persons had been given to Christ before the foundation of the World. They and everything related to them and their future everlasting good, are the “all things” that Christ is heir to. Secondly – This authority which was given to Christ over all flesh, relates not only to His right to give salvation to the Elect, but also that He be the final judge over all men at the last day when He returns. This inheritance which Christ will receive will be a righteous and a holy inheritance. We shall be changed to be like Him. Everything material and physical in the New Heavens and the New Earth, and everything wonderful and spiritual in the fellowship between Christ and ourselves, His Church, has been planned for by the Father, and it will be established by the Father, to the praise of His glorious grace. This grace was purchased by Christ in His sufferings, and so in His inheritance, “He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied” that it was all worth it. His inheritance was appointed to Him by the Father. And the Father’s justice and judgment against all the sins of His people has been fully satisfied. All justice and judgment therefore, have been given to the Son that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.

But all the plans for the Son’s inheritance of all things are being fulfilled, and they will continue forever, to be fulfilled by the Father. When Jesus comes back; then will come the resurrection from the dead, and the end of all things as we know them now. 1 Corinthians 15: 24 – “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.” “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.” At that

time, Christ who has become the heir of all things, will present to the Father His kingdom which the Father had first given to Him. And then God will become “all in all”, it says there. But even as Jesus walked the earth and worked and labored for the salvation of God’s Elect people; this inheritance was in His holy mind. Psalm 2, verse 6 – “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to me, ‘you are My Son, today I have begotten You.’” “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.” “You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.” “Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.” “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.” “Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.” “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

You see – When Jesus was born a King; He, the King of Glory, found Himself in the lowliest of settings. Yet He, the One who was destined to inherit all things, humbled Himself; being content to become the Word which the Father spoke; to become a man. “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory; glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. This same Jesus will one day become the greatest of Kings over all the earth; and that which was given Him, He will inherit. He will be a great King over all the earth someday, and His name be the only One. But let us remember that the Father once spoke the Word and He who was the King of Glory was born a baby in the stable at Bethlehem, that you might be part of His eternal inheritance.