

GOD HAS SPOKEN IN CHRIST--ABOUT WHAT?

Hebrews 1:1-4

Intro: As we gather together on this Christmas Day evening, I want to consider a passage with you from the Book of Hebrews which we do not commonly associate with the birth of our Lord. But the subject of this introduction to the Book of Hebrews is that we have a God Who has spoken throughout history, and He has finally spoken in His Son. As we begin to think about when and how and where He has spoken in His Son, we soon realize that He spoke during His life here on earth. And His life here on earth began with His birth. Therefore, what God has said in His Son would never have been said if Christ had not been born. So we find ourselves immediately confronted with that miraculous birth, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus Christ was born, God, who had been speaking throughout history, continued to speak "in his Son." The Greek could probably be best translated, in such a One as His Son! God had spoken in different ways and at different times, but He had never spoken like this! The Son of God certainly appeared in OT times, e.g., as the angel of the Lord, but God's message through Him in those times was not to be compared with this most incredible of all ways when the Son of God became a man. So this is a message which stands by itself.

Therefore, as we think of the baby Jesus in the manger, let us remember that God was speaking. And let us make sure that we understand His message as well as the Lord enables us to grasp it. From our text, what were the main themes that the Father was speaking about when His Son came to the earth?

I see five distinct messages in these four verses.

First of all,

I. GOD SPOKE ABOUT THE BIBLE.

Notice the words: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son."

God had been speaking to people for at least 1,100 years when suddenly He became silent. Then His silence was spoken after a break of almost 400 years, and He began to speak again. But this time He spoke as He had never spoken before: He spoke (lit.) in such a one as a Son. Evidently the writer of Hebrews expected his readers to be impressed with the nature of this message. God had

sent prophets. He had given visions and dreams and had spoken directly in some instances. There were theophanies, but those were only temporary. But at last He spoke in His Son. His Son was born as no one else had ever been born--of a virgin. He continued to be God, but became a true human being. He spoke as no one had ever spoken before. His messages are without parallel even to this present day. His works gave proof that He was the Son of God. Finally, and tragically, His enemies put Him to death, and yet He expressed to the very last that what He was doing, and all that was happening to Him, was His Father's will. There is no person in all of history that can even begin to compare with the Lord Jesus Christ--in His birth, His life, His teaching, His works, His death, and all of this was followed by His glorious resurrection, and His return to heaven.

In all of this God was speaking, speaking as He had never spoken before! All that God had said before which was to be the permanent possession of His people had been recorded in a Book. Thirty-nine books made up this one book. It had anticipated the coming of Christ. And finally He had come!

But let me call your attention again to the words I read to you a moment ago. The writer of Hebrews said that "God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us in his Son." Do you see what is implied in those words, "hath in these last days spoken unto us"?

It is this: God had been speaking and speaking over hundreds of years. But then, after a long period of silence, He spoke again--this time, in his Son. And we have the clear implication that this long, extended time of was coming to an end, after which there would be no further revelations.

The Bible was being completed. That which had started at least 1,500 years before, was now to be brought to a close. And so, within only one century, the books of the NT were written, and the revelation of God was completed.

All of this brings us to this conclusion. God has nothing more to say to people than He has said in His Son. Anyone who adds to what God has said about His Son is a false prophet. SO, when the Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem God was speaking to say that the Bible, His Book, was being completed.

Christmas should mean this to us. The Bible is a finished Book. Beware of those who claim to be able to add to it. And beware of those who try to take away from

it. All that God has to say to us now is written between the covers of this marvelous Book: our Bible.

But the birth of Christ conveyed another message, not unrelated to what I have just said. It was a message ;

II. GOD SPOKE ABOUT HIMSELF.

What had been the gist, the crux, the core, the very essence of what God had been saying all through those years of special revelation?

Let me ask another question: What was one of the primary messages that Christ came to make known?

The answer to those two questions is the same. God had been seeking to reveal Himself. Christ came to reveal the Father. This is what our text tells us! We learn something about God from every Book of the OT--many things! The truth concerning God was building up and up and up. Then it stopped. And after those 400 years a Person came Who was "the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person." He sent His own Son. And His Son has given us in Himself a final, full, and glorious consummation to this long series of revelations that had been given throughout all of those years.

But, just as the Bible was being completed, so this revelation of God was being completed. God has no more to tell us about Himself than we are able to learn as we look at His Son. We see nothing in Christ that contradicts anything that was revealed before, but we see more in Christ than we can see if we were to understand perfectly all of the previous revelations.

So when baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God was bringing to a close all that He intended to say about Himself.

Therefore, beware of people who want to go beyond Christ when they supposedly are telling us about God. And beware of anyone who wants to talk about God but has nothing to say about Christ. Everything that God said about Himself in the OT was leading up to Christ. And when Christ came, the revelation of God was completed.

But our text gives us another message that is very important, a message that is bound up in the birth and life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. GOD SPOKE ABOUT CHRIST.

God not only spoke by Christ, and through Christ, but He spoke about Christ. Do you remember those times when He actually spoke from heaven, and said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"? Cf. Matt. 3:17 and 17:5. And here we read about our Lord that God spoke through the One and Only Person Who ever lived upon the earth Who was "the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person."

Anyone who does not believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, does not believe God. Anyone who does not believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ, does not believe God.

On one occasion when the Lord was reviewing the witnesses He had that He was the Son of man and the Son of God, he said this,

And the Father himself, which hath sent me,
hath borne witness of me (John 5:37).

But then he went on to say that they did not have God's word abiding in them, they had not really heard the message, because they had not receive Him, the Christ, the Son of God.

Everything about the birth, the life, the messages, the miracles, the death, the resurrection, and the ascension of Christ was in reality God speaking, telling men that Jesus Christ was indeed His Son.

God has spoken. Let us not pay any attention to those who would tell us otherwise. He has declared that Jesus Christ is His Son, and there is no room for any other opinion about our Lord Jesus Christ.

But I see a fourth part to this message that God spoke in his Son.

IV. GOD SPOKE CONCERNING DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

What do we mean when we speak of divine providence?

We are speaking of the way in which God has ordered His purposes on earth and the manner in which He is carrying them out as He has ordained.

Notice three expressions in our text: two of them are in v. 2 and one is in v. 3. Their order is not chronological, but let us take them as they are.

- A. Christ has been "appointed" by God as "the heir of all things."

When Jesus Christ was born, there in that manger was not only the heir of the throne of David, but the heir of the universe itself! All things were not only created by Him, but FOR Him! Cf. Col. 1:16. And God appointed by Him to be the Head also of the Church "that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Cf. Col. 1:18b).

That is what the writer of Hebrews was saying in chapter 2 when he said that we do not yet see all things put under man, "but we see Jesus" (Heb. 2:9), the One Who will eventually occupy that position.

This is the goal of divine providence.

Note the second statement:

- B. "By whom (Christ) also he (God) made the worlds," or the ages.

This word looks at the world from the standpoint of successive periods of time. Christ not only created the physical world, but He ordained the successive stages of history, thus ordering the affairs of men and nations so that the purpose of God would be accomplished.

And so we see that the Lord is the Creator. He is the Architect of the plan from start to finish, and He is the One Who is destined to inherit all things.

But we still have one expression to consider in this fourth message that God spoke through His Son. It is this:

- C. "And upholding all things by the word of his power."

This is most unbelievable, and yet it is true. There in that manger lay the Lord of the universe, the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of the universe, and the ultimate Heir of all that God had planned.

Does this not make us marvel all the more at what took place in Bethlehem when our Lord Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary? And yet all of this was obviously a part of the divine plan.

And this leads me to the fifth and last message contained in these verses, the climactic message of Scripture:

V. GOD SPOKE CONCERNING "OUR SINS."

I refer to the words, "When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a better name than they."

The low point (and yet in some respects, for us, the high point) in God's message, is in those words, "When he had by himself purged our sins."

When did He do this? At the Cross. What was the price? His death. What does "purged" mean? It means cleansed, made pure, free from any and everything that would defile us. You see, sin makes us dirty, too dirty for God to have anything to do with us. And though we try to wash ourselves with repentance, or good works, or money, or anything else, the defilement is still there. That is why Christ came: to cleanse us from our sins, and make us acceptable with God.

Remember those glorious words of Isaiah in Isa. 1:18:

Come now, and let us reason together,
said the Lord:
though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.

Or listen again to the words that I read at the close of the service this morning. The Apostle John was speaking of Christ when he wrote:

Unto him that loved us,
and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
And hath made us kings and priests unto God;
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
Amen (Rev. 1:5b, 6).

Concl: Would you agree with me if I said, **WHAT A MESSAGE?** I never cease to marvel at the fullness, at the riches, of the Word of God. Who would want to stoop to lesser things when we have the Word of God?

But the important question as I close tonight is, Have you heard the message? Do you see all that God has spoken in His Son? Do you believe it? Are you resting in it? Are you rejoicing in it?

Whoever we may be, and whatever our relationship to the Lord may be, there is a message here for us. Let spend this holiday season with a note of thanksgiving in our hearts for God, for His Word, for His Son, for His providential wisdom and power, and most of all for the cleansing blood of our dear Saviour Who has made us acceptable to God by His death on Calvary's Cross.