

WHAT DID GOD SAY ABOUT MAN?

Hebrews 2:2-10

Intro: In this series of messages leading up to the day that we commemorate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, I am using as my theme the words found in Hebrews 1:1 and 2. Let me read them to you:

- 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds (Heb. 1:1-2)

This passage reminds us that in the past God has frequently spoken, spoken to people. He spoke by prophets, and it was the business of the prophets to pass on the message to the people for whom God had given it. And it was to be passed on as it was given. The prophets were not allowed to delete anything, nor were they allowed to add anything. In this way the message of the prophets was the word of God. And whenever God spoke, it was always important, very important. He intended that people would hear His message, that they would believe His message, and that they would make whatever changes in their lives they needed to make to bring their lives into harmony with His message.

Sometimes people listened. There were other times that they refused to listen. Sometimes when they listened they obeyed. At other times they knew what God wanted them to do, but they refused to do it. That is the story of the OT, and we have recently been reminded of this in our OT Bible reading, as well as in our study of Ezekiel during the Sunday School hour each Sunday morning.

But our text tells us that God Who spoke at different times and in different ways to the fathers in the past, “hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son.” Now let me ask you a question: *How many people who are living today do you think consider the birth of Christ and all that followed in His life here on earth, as a time when God was speaking? How many of us have thought of the birth of Christ as a time when God was speaking a message which He intended for us to hear, first of all, and then to believe and to obey?*

Historically we know that there were about four hundred years between the close of the OT and the beginning of the NT. They are often referred

to as *the four hundred silent years*. They were silent because God did not speak during that time. Then quite suddenly the silence was broken when God sent angels to speak to Zacharias about the birth of his son whom we know as John the Baptist. And then that angel spoke to the virgin Mary that she would have a child whose name would be JESUS, but who also would be called “the Son of the Highest,” meaning that He would not only be a real human baby, but He would also be what no child before Him had ever been called, “the Son of the Highest” (Luke 1:32) which meant that He would also be the Son of the living God. Then Joseph who was engaged to Mary was told the same thing when he did not understand why Mary was pregnant. The angel of the Lord told her that the baby in her had been conceived by the Holy Spirit, that His Name was to be JESUS because He would save His people from their sins. See Matt. 1: 20, 21).

While we are thinking about this statement at the beginning of the book of Hebrews, let me point out that much of what God had said before to the fathers through the prophets, was concerned with the message here in Hebrews. In fact, from Genesis 3 on, this message is never out of sight. It keeps emerging from the many messages that God had given before. That is why our Lord, to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then to the eleven, took them to the OT and explained from those ancient Scriptures much of what they had to say about His coming into the world, and the work that He would do.

But just stop and think about this with me for a moment. What an amazing thing it is that God would send His own Son into the world. And He would not come in a blaze of glory, but He would be conceived by the Holy Spirit, born as an infant of a human mother, the fulfillment of much of what God had spoken before, and yet never was there such a message as God was giving, beginning with the birth of the baby Jesus.

We can't find anything in all of human history that can begin to compare with what was happening with the conception and birth of the virgin Mary's baby Jesus. God was speaking, speaking as He had never spoken before. The message is far more extensive than any message that was ever given before. Prophecy was being fulfilled. And as we look back on history from that day until this, we can say that nothing comparable to that birth has taken place up to the present hour. The crowning point of all human history took place with the birth of Christ. God was speaking then, and He continues to speak through His Son, and has spoken to every

generation through the birth of His Son, but, alas, how few there are who have seen in the coming of Christ, a message, and how few there are who understand what God was saying when He sent His Son into the world!

In dealing with the first three verses of Hebrews 1 last week, I sought to bring out that when the Son of God became of Man, a major part of what God was saying in His message, had to do with Himself. The coming of Christ into the world can be defined as *God speaking about Himself*. *Every true prophet who preceded the Lord Jesus Christ, came to tell us about God. But with our Lord, He also came with a message as to Who the Father is, but that message was not just in His teaching, but it was in our Lord Himself. He was God. He is God. He could say what no prophet before Him could say. He said most faithfully, "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).* All that had ever been taught about God by the former prophets, and even more, could be seen and heard when the Lord Jesus Christ became a Man. The book which God had given with His message for over 1500 years, was completed in less than 100 years after Christ came, because the revelation of God was completed when Christ came. He became a Man, but in no way did He for even an instant cease to be God. God's revelation of Himself was completed in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That alone should have made people perk up and pay attention to the fact that God was speaking in a most unusual way, in a way in which He had never spoken before.

It is hard to find Scriptures which speak of the coming of Christ which do not tell the whole story, that is, which do not give the whole message. But it should have been enough to arouse the interest of all men for One to appear on the human scene Who claimed to be the Son of God. And it would have aroused their interest if it had not been that spiritually man was dead, unable to see the truth, and unable to hear the truth. Instead, men then and now simply believed that He was an impostor, and became His enemies. In addition to all of the marvelous truth that our Lord taught and the miraculous works which He did, the majority still did not hear the message when He claimed that He was the Son of God.

But what did the coming of Christ have to do with human beings, people like you and I are?

Have you considered the message in the very fact that Jesus Christ became a Man?

I. THE SON OF GOD BECAME A MAN.

I mention this in contrast with the possibility that, if the Lord has wanted to, He could have come in some other form. But He came as a Man! This means that the primary objects, the creatures whom God was seeking to reach with His message, were people, human beings, men, women, young people, children – all people, regardless of color, or language, or sex, or nationality, or generation. He didn't come as an angel. He came as a Man, a true human being. Therefore, it is very evident that the audience that God was speaking to was the world of human beings, all of the world, in every generation. God's purpose in sending His Son into the world as a Man was to show that He had a message which every person needs to hear.

This is a very obvious point when you stop to think about it, but it ought to make every person, whether Jew or Gentile, sit up and take notice that God sent His Son into the world as a man because Jesus Christ Himself is a message of supreme importance for every person to hear.

Let me point out a second point of importance in this message which God has given in His Son.

The fact that Jesus Christ came as a Man is an indication that people have a special need which man himself is incapable of meeting.

II. MAN HAS A SPECIAL NEED WHICH HE CANNOT MEET.

I am speaking of all human beings when I use the word "man."

Most people will admit that they have problems, that they are not perfect, and that they would like to be better. And so they turn to various things in order to improve themselves. But they don't really know what is wrong, and so how can they find the remedy. When the Bible speaks of man's need and its solution, it says that it is "not of yourselves," and that it is "not of works." And most of you know that I am taking two phrases out of Eph. 2:8-9. If the remedy is not in me, that means that I don't deserve it. And if it is not of works, that means that I can't do what it will take to meet my real need. If I deserved what I need, or if I could work for it, then the Son of God would not have needed to come. But the very fact that He did come is God's way of telling me and you and everyone else that He came to meet our basic need in our relationship.

But what is that need? Man's greatest need is the forgiveness of his sins. Man's problem is he is a sinner by nature, and under the judgment of God. We don't deserve the forgiveness of our sins, and we certainly can't work for it. The price is too great, and our strength is too small. In addition to that, man by nature doesn't believe that he is a sinner, and really has no interest in seeking God. It is only as we see why God sent His Son into the world, and get the message of His coming, that we see that we have a need in our relationship to God which we cannot meet, and that Jesus Christ, and only Jesus Christ, can save us from the divine penalty we are under because we are sinners.

III. IN THE COMING OF CHRIST WE HAVE THE MESSAGE THAT ONLY CHRIST CAN MEET OUR NEED.

The Bible never lets us separate the birth of Christ from the death and resurrection of Christ. He became a Man so that He could die for people. And although He was a Man, He was never guilty of sin, and thus He could be a Substitute for you and for me, taking our place, becoming sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. See 2 Cor. 5:21.

This is what we read last week in Heb. 1:3, “. . . when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” And this is what we have in Heb. 2:9 and 10 which Lee read to us this morning. (Read it again.) “Made a little,” or for a little while, “lower than angels” – that is His humanity. “Crowned with glory and honor” – that is His Deity. “That He, by the grace of God” (which covers our unworthiness and what we justly deserve) “should taste death for every man.” And for whom did He die? Verse 10 tells us. It is the “many sons” He is “bringing . . . unto glory.” The Lord Jesus, God's Son, is “the captain of” our “salvation.” And He was qualified to be our Savior because of what He, the perfect, sinless, Son of God suffered for our sins.

You see, it took a perfect Savior to save guilty sinners, and the Lord Jesus was the only One Who met all of the qualifications before God. What a message there is for all of us in the very Person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But let me add one point in this message before I close. It is for those who have trouble believing they are sinners. You say that you believe in God, and you believe that there is a life after death, and you want to go to heaven, not to hell. But how can you know that you are a sinner, a

hopelessly lost sinner, bound for hell? That takes us back to the part of the message we considered last Sunday.

IV. CHRIST IS THE REVELATION OF GOD.

Actually it is the Holy Spirit Who convicts us of our sin. We are told in John 16:8 that when the Lord sent the Holy Spirit, He, the Holy Spirit, would “convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” But how does He convict us of sin? He convicts us by showing us the glory of God and of Christ. Read Isaiah 6 and you will see that it was when Isaiah saw the Lord, *i.e.*, when he saw the glory of the Lord, he said,

Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts (Isa. 6:5).

But, you say, how can I see the Lord?” And my answer to that question is, you and I see the Lord as we read about Him in the Word of God. Read the Gospels, and study carefully what they tell you about Christ. If you are not like Jesus Christ, you will never be admitted into heaven. But again you say, but how can I be like He is when He is the Son of God and I am only an imperfect, sinful human being? That is where the Gospel comes in. When we turn to Christ we are covered in the righteousness of God. Again let me remind you of 2 Cor. 5:21. God declares those righteous who are trusting in Jesus Christ, and Him alone, for the salvation of their souls.

When we “see” with the faith that God will give us, Him Who is the brightness of God’s glory and the express image of God’s Person, then in the light of Who God is, we see by contrast who we are, and we will not need anyone to tell us that if we ever expect to have our sins forgiven, and if we ever expect to be in heaven, then we must have Christ as our Savior. All of our arguments come to an end once we see the glory of God and the glory of Jesus Christ.

Concl: And don’t be fooled by any other religion. Islam has no savior.

The men who commit suicide as martyrs for Islam are headed straight for an eternal hell. There is only one Savior, and His Name is the Lord Jesus Christ. Only in Christ can we have the forgiveness of our sins. And only in Christ can we be covered with the righteousness of God. “Neither is there salvation in any other . . . “ (Acts 4:12).