



Hebrews 1:1-4 – *God has spoken through His Son*

Sydney loves to start the New Year with fireworks and music on the magnificent Sydney Harbour. It starts with a bang. It is impressive when the Harbour Bridge is lit up like that. Big and impressive. It captures our attention.

The writer of Hebrews wants to capture the attention of the 1st listeners. So it is a majestic and impressive opening. This is what the 1st hearers needed. They needed to have Jesus recapture their attention.

They seemed distracted and some of them were showing signs of drifting away. This was maybe because of the threat of a fresh experience of suffering.

Lets hear how the opening verses he do this.

1. GOD HAS SPOKEN - before His Son

Read: V.1

Notice three crucial things about God speaking before His Son:

1) God spoke

Starts by saying God has spoken. He was not silent. God communicates. He means to connect with us. He is not an idea to be thought about. He is a person to be listened to and understood and enjoyed and obeyed. He is a speaking God. There is no more important fact than this: There is a God who speaks that we might know him and love him and live in joyful obedience to him. God spoke. We would be in the dark without this.

2) God spoke "in the prophets" or by the prophets

This means that God's *usual way* of communicating with his people as a whole was by inspiring human spokesmen as go-betweens.

It was not God's way to write his word in the sky, or to shout it from mountains for all to hear, or to whisper it one by one in the heart of every Israelite. His usual way was to call a prophet and then inspire the prophet to speak and to write to the people what God wanted said.

3) God spoke to the fathers by the prophets "at many times and in many ways"

He spoke to the forefathers. The Jews of the past. When God spoke to the fathers in the prophets, *God spoke to the Fathers!* When the fathers heard and understood the prophets they heard God speaking.

It is *God speaking* to the fathers when the prophets speak and write.

This verse stresses variety of God's communication. In "many times and many ways!"

He spoke to Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, Samuel, Daniel. Who all lived at different times.

Some who God spoke directly to. Others had visions dreams. God spoke through a donkey he wrote on walls. A variety of ways he spoke.

That's how he spoke in the past.

NOW -by His Son

This is in contrast to God spoken before His Son.

Read: V.2

Let's look at three ways that the speaking of God in the Son in these last days is different to what has spoken before.

1) God has now spoken not just by prophets, but by his Son

The last days began with the coming of Jesus into the world. We have been living in the last days since he came. It is the last days before Jesus 2nd coming.

The last days of a war are the days after the decisive battle has been fought or the decisive bomb has been dropped. Everyone knows who will win. It is only a matter of time. The resistance may go on for some years, but the mortal blow has been struck to the enemy and the high ground has been captured. The days of fighting that remain are the last days of the war.

So it is since the Son of God came into the world. In his death and resurrection, the decisive battle with sin and death and hell has been fought and won. It is only a matter of time before the results are seen everywhere.

But the point for the writer of Hebrews is this: The Word that God spoke by his Son is the **DECISIVE WORD**. It will not be followed in this age by any greater word or replacement word. This is **the** word of God—the person of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus and the work of Jesus.

In these last days God is still speaking but he has done something very different: to communicate, he sent his Son.

Here it is Jesus the **prophet**.

In other words, God has not just spoken by inspiring prophets and apostles. He has spoken by coming to us in the person of his Son. Who Jesus was, what he said and what he accomplished by dying and rising from the dead is God's Word to us. This is what God has said, and what we should hear—what we need to listen to far more earnestly than we do.

So the first way that the speaking of God is better in these last days than in the prophets of old is that he has now spoken in the coming of his Son.

2) God has spoken to us by His Son one way

Notice to us whereas the past speaking was to the forefathers.

This is a word **TO US** in live in the time period he is talking about. The last days.

It was in various ways in the past now the last days it is **ONE WAY**. By his Son – Jesus.

Being a typical male the street directory is the last thing I go to. I rely in intuition or something rather than clear directions. We love to live life our own way and people search for God in all sorts of ways but the reality is God has given clear and direct word about himself. Unlike the new edition that keeps coming out of the Gregory's God's word to us in Jesus is final.

Knowing the truths of these verses will give you the right expectation about God speaking. You know he has spoken and you know that he has had a final word in Jesus.

There are only two stages of history and two stages of God speaking.

1. Before Jesus
2. By Jesus

There is **NO 3RD STAGE**. There is not a stage where God will speak like he has in the past. He has spoken in his Son. The Holy Spirit speaks in a way that points to Jesus.

Wrong expectations will creep in so that you expect God to give you a specific word to you on a specific issue. This would be wrong because God has given His final word in Jesus.

There is no final authority in a dream, a vision, or a voice or leading.

There is no final authority in experience or tradition which says we have always done it this way and so it is final.

You cannot go away from this passage expecting God to speak to you in some way apart from His word. You cannot go away from this passage making deals with God. If this happens I know it will be a sign from you that this is the direction I should take.

The focus of this passage and the book is God's final word in His Son.

SO why is God's word in Jesus final?

3. The message of the Son is better and so final.

There are 7 statements made about Jesus, which show His greatness and why the new revelation in Him is the best God can give.

Read: 2-4

1. God has appointed him 'heir of all things'

He owns everything. What we have has been given by God b/c everything is His.

2. Through him God 'made the universe'

Heir because he made everything. Through Him everything was created.

3. He is the 'radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being'

All that God is the Son is. Perfectly radiates who God is. This is the image of light. Jesus radiates or reflects like a mirror the glory of God. He communicates God.

The next image is a stamp or seal. Jesus bears the stamp of God's nature. The image of God's glory. Again Jesus makes God known. Like a coin makes known something about who is on it.

Here we have perfection like you've never seen before. What we know in Jesus is a perfect display of what the Father is.

He owns the world he made the world and

4. He 'sustains all things by his powerful word'

He keeps it going. He has got the whole world in His hand. He keeps it going towards the goal he wants it to. Everything and everyone. He does this by his word. A word you need listen to. This is a good word to hear if you are thinking your world is out of control. It is not. It would have been a great comfort to the 1st hearers as it is to us.

This qualifies him for the next job:-

5. He made 'purification of sins'

He achieved the forgiveness of sins. He being Jesus. We are not told here how he did but we know from other passages that it was through his death. Something else we will hear more about from this preaching of Hebrews. Only he can deal with the problem of guilt we have. A theme that you will hear again and again.

To know what it means to be purified we need to know what we need to be purified from.

So purification means being forgiven. Being able to approach God. Being clean. It means we have access to God.

Like the surgeon having to scrub up before going into the operating theatre so we needed cleaning up before we could enter into relationship with God.

6. He 'sat down at the right side of the majesty in heaven'

As we come to God we come to a King. Jesus is seated as King. He is next to the God the throne of heaven. The place where the rule of the world goes on. It is where he sits as master of the universe.

Jesus is not out of sight and out of action but well and truly in action. Ruling. It is only when you are standing before the throne you have no authority but Jesus is sitting.

7. He 'became much superior to the angels'

This we will speak about next week.

These verses show Jesus to be *Prophet, Priest and King*.

I haven't had a lot need for a CV or resume. That document where you put your life on paper to impress. For some it is easier than others. You put down your qualifications, experience and so on.

I discovered some websites that help you do this. They talk about:-

How to knock the socks off your next prospective employer; How to add power to your resume with powerwords; resumes that sell in seconds; blow your competition away; design that gets a attention; content that sells

This is Jesus CV if you like. He has the powerwords and he has the content. There is no more impressive person than him. When it comes to experience he's done it all, when it comes to qualifications he has them all.

What are the impossible applications to these truths about Jesus.

1. That you would go out and dabble in another religion.
2. That you would seek to find the truth in some further revelation.
3. That you would some how think that sure it is good to believe in Jesus but that you shouldn't be too full on of even extreme in your belief in him so that you force it on others.
4. That you wouldn't stand for Jesus.

NO.

Bryan Chappell, a preacher from the US preached in Japan on one occasion and was asked back to the family home of a delegate of the conference he spoke at. He went with them and upon entering the family home realised this was a poor family. The family started to give him gifts. It was getting embarrassing and so finally he said please no more gifts. They said just one more. The mother went into another room and reappeared with a Kimono. He knew that it was an expensive gift but accepted it and said thanks. When he arrived home he had it framed behind glass and placed it on the wall of his house. One night when a group of students we're having a tour of his home a Japanese student stopped at the framed Kimono and said where did you get that? Another student joked and said I suppose you're going to tell us that it is worth a lot of money and if you sell it you could buy a car. She said that is a kimono of the royal family, not only is every thread pure silk every thread is in laid with gold. It is a Japanese national treasure. If you sold it you could buy a Rolls Royce.

Bryan Chapell thought it was a nice but ordinary kimono.

Sometimes what is genuinely spectacular we miss or what we used to think was special the glory has faded. So it can be true of Jesus.

When you know someone as wonderful as this you treasure the relationship you have with them. You do everything you can to honour them and give them the praise they deserve. Not misrepresenting them but showing them for who they are.