

# And This Will We Do, If God Permits

## An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**

### Chapter 2: God Speaks Now through Jesus

#### **Hebrews 1:1-2**

#### 7: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 2

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WAOY Tuesday 01/06/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the superior way that God speaks to Man under the New Covenant by looking at **Hebrews 1:1-2**. So let's read those verses together:

#### **Hebrews 1:1-2**

**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;**

Now the writer of **Hebrews** tell us in these two verses that Christ is superior to *everything* else in all Creation, and that Christ is superior to *everyone* else in all Creation. And as we will see as we journey verse-by-verse through this Book, Christ is presented to us as being better than the best... more perfect than the perfect, more eternal than everlasting, more sure than certainty, higher than the heavens... more beautiful than beautiful, more important than kings, more lasting than nations, stronger than walled cities, and more glorious than civilization itself.

This entire Book, written to Christian Jews, gives us a picture of Jesus that will absolutely take your breath away. It will cause you to put your hand over your mouth. It will amaze you, startle you, astound you, and deeply trouble you as you see unfolded before your eyes the magnificent and spectacular Glory of the exalted Christ.

It is important to know that the writer of **Hebrews** does not create a new religion with this Book, and neither does he in any way reduce the importance of the Old Testament to the New Covenant believer.

No, this writer, moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit, ties the Truth of the God-given Scriptures of the Old Testament with the inspired writings of the New, and brings the Hebrew Christian and the Gentile Christian into a correct understanding of the promised Messiah and Christ. In the late 1800's Adolf Saphir, a converted Jewish theologian of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, said this:

*"The writer of Hebrews confirms and seals the doctrine which was held by the Hebrews, that unto them had been committed the oracles of God; and that in the writings of Moses and the prophets they possessed the Scripture which could not be broken in which God had displayed unto them His Will."*<sup>1</sup>

Now I want to carefully look at verse one again. So let's read that verse together:

### **Hebrews 1:1**

**God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,**

And as I told you last time:

- **Sundry** comes from the Greek "*polumeroos*", which means *various, or miscellaneous, or by many portions.*
- **Divers** is from the Greek "*polutropoos*" which means *many, different, or in many manners.*

*God, Who at various times and in many different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.*

**In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways... (NIV)**

**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways... (NASB)**

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<sup>1</sup> Adolf Saphir, Commentary on Hebrews (Word Publishers, 1869, page 9)

**Long ago, at many times and in many way, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets... (ESV)**

So this verse tells us that as marvelous as the five natural senses of Man are, they are utterly incapable of knowing anything at all about the one true living God by themselves. In order for us to know anything at all about God, God has to reveal Himself to us. And the writer of Hebrews tells us very clearly here that God "*used to*", he uses the phrase "**in times past**". In the past, God *used to* reveal Himself to Man in divers manners:

1. God revealed Himself to Man through His Creation.
2. God revealed Himself to Man through heavenly visitations.
3. God revealed Himself to Man through dreams and visions.
4. God revealed Himself to Man through signs and wonders.
5. God revealed Himself to Man through direct communication.

And as we discovered last time, all of those various and sundry ways and portions by which God made Himself known to Man were faithfully recorded for us by the Prophets, and they were accurately written down for us and copied throughout the centuries by scribes and priests, so that we would have a reliable copy of all that God said about Himself and all that God did... by and through and in the lives of sinful men, under the First or the Old Covenant.

But now, please read with me the first part of **Hebrews 1:2**:

**2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...**

Here the Holy Ghost inspired the writer of **Hebrews** to tell us that "in these last days", or in the "last days", or in the "days following the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ", or in "the Church Age", or in "the dispensation of the full number of Gentile converts"... all of those phrases mean the same thing: the period of time that began with the Resurrection and that will end with the Second Coming of Jesus back to this earth that is now over 2,000 years and counting.

In these last days God has chosen a more excellent way, a far superior way to communicate His Divine Revelation to Man than through frail and sinful prophets. God has chosen to communicate to

Man now through His Son Jesus the Christ, which is the highest, and the best, and the most perfect of all the various ways in which God has spoken to Man since time began.

This sermon is designed to teach you two things:

1. Why Jesus is the highest, the best, and the most perfect of the various ways in which God has spoken to Man.
2. That all God has done in the earth, He has done for His own Glory, and He has done it in the Face of Jesus the Christ.

The point of this **Epistle to the Hebrews** is to let the reader know that God desires to make Himself known to you *personally* through Jesus Christ, so that you may know Him in fullness, and enjoy Him forever, and give Him the praise, honor, and worship that He is entitled to receive, so that God will be glorified and so that your joy will be full.

Now, first of all, we must realize that there are two ways in which God gives man Revelation. When God reveals Himself to men through His own Creation, it is called "General Revelation". The reason that it is called "General" is because the understanding of God that one can get from God's own Creation is general in nature.

For example, Creation causes us to wonder and to be amazed and to explore and to understand certain basic qualities about God. From Creation, we can assume certain details about God:

- God is more important than His Creation.
- God is more powerful than His Creation.
- God is superior to His Creation.
- God is wiser than His Creation.
- God is holy.

The Bible boldly declares that everything that is made was made by God. This makes God to be the Creator while everything that God made, including us, is called His Creation. By definition, this sets God apart from everything that He made.

This "set-apartness" or "otherness" is what makes God to be "holy". The word *holy* as used in this case does not mean "sinless". Sinless is sinless, and righteous is righteous, but *holy* means "to be set apart", to be distinct, or to be separate.

God is holy in that God is not like anything or anyone else. God is set apart or different from everything that He made. And God is better and more important and more beautiful, and wiser and more valuable and more powerful than everything that He made.

And it is in God's Apartness or His Uniqueness or his "set aside-ness" that makes it proper and correct to worship God. There is no one likened unto Him. And we worship God *not* because it makes us noble to do so... no, we worship God precisely because He *deserves* our worship, He has *earned* our worship, He is entitled to our worship. God has laid claim to being the exclusive and only Being worthy of our worship, adoration, obedience, devotion, faithfulness, allegiance, and service.

And that is why for us to bow down to or to worship anything else besides God is such a horrible sin. That is us worshipping something inferior to God... something less holy than God, and something that is part of Creation and Not the Creator Himself. To worship an idol is to worship something that was made. But worship is only proper if it is given to God because He is above all things. So because God is Holy, He deserves our worship, and because God is Good, He is right to judge us when we worship something else.

You see, dear friends, all of Mankind is trapped inside a box called "the natural", and Man cannot comprehend anything outside of that box unless it is revealed to Him by God... Who is *always* outside the box of "the natural". A very important concept to remember about God is that because God is the Creator, He is not a part of His Creation. God exists separate and distinct from His Creation.

The only time that God imposed Himself or inserted Himself into His Creation and became a part of the Creation that He made was when God took on flesh and became Man and was born of a virgin in the greatest miracle known to Man called The Incarnation. But other than that, God dwells continually *outside* the Box of the natural in an area that is called the supernatural.

Now it is interesting to note that all the other false religions try to teach Man how to escape the natural box to get to the supernatural, but only Biblical Christianity teaches Man how to escape the natural correctly, properly, rightly and fully. And the reason that this is true is because only Biblical Christianity gives proper Glory and Honor and

Praise and Adoration to Jesus Christ, Who is the Focus and the Center of all that God has done in the earth.

Unless it is *to* Christ and *through* Christ and *for* Christ and *about* Christ and *with* Christ and *for* Christ's Glory, *all* worship, all forms of religious worship, are nothing more than a vain exercise in idolatry and self-centeredness. And this is true because God has chosen to glorify Christ and give Him a Name that is above every other name.

**Philippians 2:9-11**

**9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:**

**10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**

**11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

It pleased God to bring the focus of all that He has done in Creation and all that He is in Eternity into the Person of Jesus Christ; thus it is the highest form of love *to* God and the highest form of worship *of* God, and the highest form of respect *for* God, and the highest form of adoration and honor for all of God's Creation, especially Man, for all of us to bow before Jesus Christ and to confess Him as Lord.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.