

*God Has Spoken to Us in His Son*

Hebrews 1:1-2

September 16, 2001

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

23

I. Introduction

A. Today: 3 Things God Wants Us to Know today

1. The Son is His Final Word
2. The Son is the Key to Understanding Ourselves
3. The Son is the Key to Understanding Him (who God is)

II. The Son is His Final Word

A. Many portions & many ways (v.1) v. Son (v.2) = God's Best & final word

B. Implication #1 = 2 possible errors b/c Son is final word

1. Falling short: (audience & Judaism)
2. Overstepping: "Christ Plus"
  - a. Lewis: not a "good teacher" (e.g. Islam)

C. Implication #2 = We Can Stop Our Search

1. Acts 17 & Athens : *nothing other than telling or hearing something new.*
2. Our culture teaches us to be restless: new = better
  - a. change = only constant
    - ❖ Advertising's 2 messages: "This is it" & "keep looking"
    - ❖ Mirage to mirage *Mirage to Mirages*
  - b. Computer shopping:
  - c. Business & Diet books: always the "next one"
3. Jesus promises no more mirages, but an oasis for our souls:  
"Come to me and you shall find rest for your soul."  
"Living Water"
4. God is not a moving target

*imp!*



### III. "To Us" --We Understand Ourselves Through the Son (God's Speech in the Son)

#### A. Humankind's 2 sides: mixture of wonder & horror

1. <sup>World Trade Center</sup> WTC: man designs & man destroys
2. Kursk: salvage plans & its original design purpose → war!!

#### B. Christianity's account of both truths about man

1. wonders → we bear imprint ('image') of our great Maker
2. horrors → we are 'bent' b/c of sin

#### C. 2 implications from text about who we are

1. We need redemption & can't provide it for ourselves → God spoke for saving purpose
2. Our importance to God → He sends His best, His Son!
  - a. Engagement ring = statement of worth!
  - b. If you weren't precious to God, if your worth and eternal destiny weren't treasures, then the precious blood of His Son would not have to be shed for you!
  - c. God would not squander His Son!
  - d. Humanism's lie: best & most powerful statement of individual's worth is not made by man, but by God, in sending His Son!
    - ❖ Young people--apply

< if xtianity tries, must account for both, and it does

Mozart + Manson

you start out as  
0020, muck & the  
dependent of a gorilla

### IV. God's Speech in the Son is the Key to Our Understanding of God

#### A. Luke 6:45 = relationship between speech & heart

1. God's saving purpose--Luke 19:10
2. Not judgment--John 3:17

if man speaks from that which fills his heart, so does God!


#### B. Historical Context & Timing of God's speech in His Son/not a vacuum

1. Exile = hardest event to understand in OT
2. 400 yrs of silence: Malachi → Matthew
  - a. Moses & Israelites
3. Return from Exile & restoration falters

- a. temple?
- b. throne: Davidic line disappears
- c. priesthood
- d. Jerusalem

4. Foreign conquerors (again) Greeks, then Romans
5. Longing among Jews for freedom
6. He came quietly, in a stable and brought a much greater liberation

C. God speaks into the midst of rubble of exile & failed restoration

- 
1. End of all man-made solutions
  2. God utters His best speech at the moment of greatest discouragement & confusion, when nothing has worked, and the attempts to rebuild have failed.
  3. God speaks in order to restore
  4. What this means for you and for me: He can rebuild; He says make me the cornerstone of your life.

Have you come to the end of yourself? The end of your strivings? That's where you can hear Him. "Come to Me and you will find rest for your souls."

so, who is God?

## God Has Spoken

- ❖ He didn't have to [under no obligation]—Aslan & Shasta
- ❖ He has spoken consistently, with one voice, across the centuries. He is not confused or divided. He does not send inconsistent messengers
- ❖ Life is not a tale told by an idiot; not a bunch of sound and fury signifying nothing
- ❖ The God we worship is a God who speaks, who does not remain silent and aloof [Exodus 3—I have heard their cry; "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry b/c of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their suffering so I have come to deliver them from the power...."]

→A silent God is an unknown God: God speaking is God expressing, revealing Himself.

→caution: be attentive here to Rom 1, being careful to distinguish between speech about God (via general revelation --i.e. His fingerprints, and footprints, and echo) in creation and speech by God (special revelation).

→Ch. 1 appears even to introduce further distinctions within special revelation: speech by God through messengers (prophets/angels) and speech by God through Son.

→God formerly spoke prophetwise; now He speaks sonwise.

- ❖ He intervenes in human history; He doesn't just leave His fingerprints or His footprints (like some kind of fossil record); He speaks!
- ❖ Unless He did, we would never be able to find Him. [Lewis passage on the "Universe" in Joyful Christian]
  - ❖ God is no need of a megaphone; He commands w/authority
  - ❖ He says so much; and we are so aloof from His Word

Jesus = a speech that walks, feels, sweats, bleeds, cries & dies. Not a stream of irrelevancy.

Next Week

God's word in Christ is not only redemptive and gracious, but climactic. We dare not go beyond that Word. We dare not "overstep" that final Word. See Calvin.

Son fulfills all the offices:

Prophets speak as sinful men with the word God has given them to sinful men, the Fathers. [compare—high priest, taken from among men, on behalf of men]. Isaiah 6: his commission is marked by recognition of his own sinfulness. What if the prophet were not only not sinful, but was the very word of the Lord Himself? Isaiah 49, servant of the Lord.

The Son speaks as sinless man to sinful men & is the very Word of God.

Priest: taken from among men, on behalf of men. Son is taken from among men and is also from God, so He does not have to make an offering for his own sin. He is utterly qualified and His power lies in the fact that he is both.

King: real power. Anointed of the Lord and totally loyal to the Lord.

E. Heb 1 = not just a statement about ultimate reality, but also about the meaning and divisions of human history. Different ways to organize history—presidencies, centuries, empires, depressions, Dark Ages, age of automobile, etc. Most significant divisions in human history have to do with God's speech

G. God's revelation in Jesus Christ can only be understood within the context of God's revelation to Israel & We can't understand that prior revelation without Jesus Christ.

1. i.e. Christians must be students of OT; cornerstone of Reformed approach to Scripture, namely that the Bible is one, unified book, containing a progressively unfolding story of God's redemptive plan. We are not to pit the OT against the NT, Israel against the church, any more than we would pit the orange blossom against the orange. Reformed approach to the Bible—sees the main organizing principle as one of covenant, i.e. God's determination, preparation, initiation, and execution of His plan to redeem a particular people.

2. This means WE are the primary audience for the Old Testament and the events in the OT.

a. 1 Cor. 10—these things were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

b. 1 Pet 1—the Spirit revealed to the prophets that they were serving us; things into which angels long to look

3. Hebrews will help us do this together. We've got strong Biblical biceps, but we overexercise them; we need to know where we're weak and work on those muscles. It'll ache at first, but will improve over time.

G. If God has spoken it would have something for everyone. Implications for everyone on the planet. Implications for missions & evangelism. So, then, why did He speak just to Israel in special way, and then in Jesus Christ?

1. Israel His letter to the world, finished in the church 2 Cor 3
2. We must show same love in bringing that word to our world.

#### Next Week

God's word in Christ is not only redemptive and gracious, but climactic. We dare not go beyond that Word. We dare not "overstep" that final Word. See Calvin.

He does not need to speak either (a) because of His nature (although He is by definition a communicator—this happens within Trinity; they have fellowship) because if He had to speak/reveal Himself to creatures, He would not be God, because He would need the creatures in order to be God, dependent upon creation for His deity, which is obviously false. If God spoke and no one was in the universe, it would still make a sound!

Son fulfills all the offices:

Prophets speak as sinful men with the word God has given them to sinful men, the Fathers. [compare—high priest, taken from among men, on behalf of men]. Isaiah 6: his commission is marked by recognition of his own sinfulness. What if the prophet were not only not sinful, but was the very word of the Lord Himself? Isaiah 49, servant of the Lord.

The Son speaks as sinless man to sinful men & is the very Word of God.

Priest: taken from among men, on behalf of men. Son is taken from among men and is also from God, so He does not have to make an offering for his own sin. He is utterly qualified and His power lies in the fact that he is both.

King: real power. Anointed of the Lord and totally loyal to the Lord.

9/23/07

Our Father, we lift the eyes of our hearts up to You this morning,  
You, who are the Lord of all the nations, all the peoples,  
All the tongues, all the tribes, all the families in heaven and on earth  
You, who hold those same nations in the palm of Your hand.

With King David, we call upon You this morning as the God of  
deliverances, the one to whom belong escapes from death. We ask You,  
Father, that, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, You will answer us this  
morning with Your saving truth. Answer us, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness  
is good; turn to us according to the greatness of Your compassion.

Father, we draw near to Your throne of grace to receive mercy in the  
name and for the sake of Christ, as we confess our sins before You in silence

[Silence]

Dear Father, our days are filled with more turmoil than we would like.  
Decisions with enormous implications for our nation and the rest of the  
world are before our civilian and military leaders, especially President Bush.  
We ask You to grant these leaders wisdom, and, yes, humility, before You.  
Father, we ask that You would deliver those responsible for the recent attacks  
into the hands of authorities.

Baumann family

Michael Savery & family

Pepper family--Wayne

9/23/07 Helsh: 1-2

\*God's Final Word

DATE

Introduction

- \*son = key to understanding ourselves
- \*son = key to understanding God

I. God's final word in His Son v. 2

- A. fragmentary/complete shallow/deeply
- B. 2 pivots = Falling short & overshooting
  - ① audience
  - ② "Christ-plus" - Lewis (not a good teacher)
- C. We can stop looking!

Acts 17

- ① 'opposite of culture's messages: change = only constant
  - \* advertising's 2 promises = mirage
  - \* computer
- ② Promise of rest for your soul Matt 11:28-30!
  - \* Not a mirage; Christ never obsolete 13:58!
  - \* Christ ≠ moving target

II. son = key to understanding ourselves "to us"

something wrong

- A. Humanity full of contradictions: wonder & horror
  - ① WTC, Mozart, Josef Stalin
- B. Christianity's account: wonder (image) & horror (sin)

C. If God has spoken "to us," in His Son

- ① We need redemption + can't provide ourselves
- ② We're loved! → He sends His Son!

lie of secular humanism

My kids

- \* engagement ring = sign of love
- \* son = infinite worth. God did not squander Him

III. son = key to understanding God

A. Luke 6:45 → Luke 19:10 → John 3:17!

B. Timely: Exile → failed restoration → <sup>4074</sup>silence → occupati

- ① End of themselves: He speaks when they can hear
- ② End of themselves: He builds from rubble: ask anyone

\*land  
\*temple  
\*throne