

Lakewood Church  
Monday Night Bible Study  
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July 2021

**“When God Speaks”**  
Hebrews Chapter 1

The book of Hebrews is a sermon. A rousing speech of theology (The study of God, Yahweh) meant to shake the weary and the persecuted and the broken from their fear and anxiety, and their hopelessness. Hebrews was written to a group of people who were being persecuted and shackled for their beliefs. Jews who decided to follow the Messiah, Jesus, were treated with terrible anger and hostility by haters of The Way. And this sermon was pointed directly at them to say, “You cannot go BACK!!!” YOU have tasted the heavenly gift of Jesus Christ. You’ve participated in the power of the Holy Spirit. And NOW you’re being tested! You’re being persuaded to go back to sacrificing bulls and goats, and slaughtering animals to be made right before God. But you CAN’T! It will NEVER be enough.

- Hebrews is the revelation of Jesus Christ to Jews in the time of the Apostles.
- It was written to show Jesus as the sacrificed lamb of God who entered the world to be King.
- And that’s EXACTLY what the Bible is describing.
- What is the Bible?
  - o Is it a Love letter?
  - o Is it a book of devotions?
  - o Is it a Moral behavior book?
  - o Is it a theological dictionary for making an argument about God?
  - o It’s the revelation of the person of Jesus → “It’s one single story that leads to Jesus”

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(1:1) In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

*Hebrews opens with a poetic description of divine revelation as the speech of God. God is pictured here, not as a distant force, but as a talker, as One who has been speaking, arguing, pleading, wooing, commanding, telling stories, and spinning words between heaven and earth since the beginning of time.*

*REVELATION is more than just a discernment or an understanding about a Holy God. It is an ACT of God. Revelation is not human beings bringing ourselves to*

*the place where we can see God hidden in every flower, star, and cloud, but God bringing us to the awareness that the heavens are preaching a word we would never be able to know on our own. It's the revelation of Himself to us. Every talker needs a partner... and God's audience has been "our ancestors."*

<sup>2</sup> but in these *last days* [every day since Christ rose from the dead] he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

**Matthew 17:1-5** - *After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup> There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup> Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. <sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three temples—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

Jesus is the "Logos" → The logic of the universe

**John 1:1-4** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Jesus is the "Truth" → The Reality of the universe

**John 14:6** - *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth (reality) and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**Colossians 1:15-17** - *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

*The irony is that the son, who is heir of all things, also created all things. Jesus, who is the "last word," is also the "first word." The preacher of Hebrews connects Jesus to the figure of Wisdom, who was understood to be the hand of God in fashioning the creation. (Proverbs 8:22-31) → When God created the world, what did he do? [write it in the chat!]*

**When God wanted to create the world, what did He do?**

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<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance (reflection) of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

*Where have we seen THIS before?*

*(1) Joseph and the Pit.*

*(2) Daniel and the Lions.*

<sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? (Psalm 2:7)

Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? (2 Samuel 7:14)

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” (Deuteronomy 32:43)

<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire.” (Psalm 104:4)

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” (Psalm 45:6,7)

**Daniel 7:9-14** - <sup>9</sup>“As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. <sup>10</sup> A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. <sup>11</sup> “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. <sup>12</sup> (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority but were allowed to live for a period of time.) <sup>13</sup> “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

**Matthew 26:64** - Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.

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<sup>10</sup> He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

<sup>11</sup> They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

<sup>12</sup> You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." (Psalm 102:25-27)

<sup>13</sup> To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

<sup>14</sup> Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? (Psalm 110:1)

Why does the preacher of Hebrews spend SO MUCH TIME talking about angels?

Does the preacher's audience have a mistaken view of angels?

Do they have a view that's too HIGH? Are they worshipping angels?

What's the problem with their view of angels?

I don't think their view of angels was too high.

I think their view of Jesus was TOO LOW.

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We need to be reminded tonight...

Jesus is King.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Healer.

Jesus is Savior.

Jesus is Friend.  
Jesus is Comforter.  
Jesus is Advocate.  
Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 12:25-29**

<sup>25</sup> See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” <sup>27</sup> The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our “God is a consuming fire.”

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