

Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 9:12 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Session--on Heb.1:1-14

"Long ago--at many times and in many ways--God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world!"

That's Hebrews 1:1-2 (our memory verse for Lesson #2) which sets the tone for all that follows in the book of Hebrews! Implicit in these verses is the presumption that God exists, that He is sovereign, and that He has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to mankind! Earlier, the psalmist (in Psa. 19) wrote that "the heavens declare the glory of God"! And here, the author of Hebrews (possibly the Apostle Paul) notes that God had actually spoken (in the past) to "our fathers" (the children of Israel)--at many times and in many ways--through the prophets (as recorded in Old Testament Scriptures). But "now"--even more explicitly and as part of progressive revelation--He "has spoken to us by His Son" (speaking of Jesus Christ)! And, he adds, that God the Father has "appointed" Him "heir of all things"--and, almost as an afterthought, that it was through Him also that He "made the world"! Wow!

The author wanted his readers to clearly understand who Jesus, the Son of God, really is--and what He accomplished when He was sent by the Father into the world! And so he adds that He also is "the radiance of His glory and the exact image (or representation) of His nature...that He upholds all thing by the word of His power...and that when He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..." Again, wow! Can we really comprehend, and fully appreciate, who Jesus was and is? And what He has done for us!

The author wanted to emphasize that Jesus Christ was so much better than any person or thing that his readers (primarily Jewish believers) held in their highest esteem, including angels! How could they even think of "giving up" their faith--and going back to their old ways and a religious system, without Christ, that could never free them from guilt and sin? And he proceeded to use seven quotations from the Old Testament to describe the unique relationship which "the Son" had with the Father--including His deity and "lordship" over all creation, all of which were never before recognized or fully understood until their fulfillment in the coming of Christ! Hagner puts it this way: "God sending His Son is the pivotal event that holds the interpretative key to unlock the meaning of all that preceded in the history of God's dealings with His people!" A turning point in the ages has been reached! All Old Testament expectations come together in Jesus!

And so the author makes the case for one of his first arguments: Jesus was/is far superior to anything that could be said of "angels," who are commanded to "worship the Son" (Heb. 1:6), and who are "merely" (merely?) ministering spirits, "sent out to render service for the sake of those who would inherit salvation" (1:14)!

Is it any wonder that Hagner titles this lesson "the most important thing God ever said"! My New American Standard version captions Hebrews 1 as "God's Supreme Revelation"!

Other Scripture, of course, is consistent with what we learned in Hebrews so far! The author writes in Colossians 1:15:17: "He (speaking of Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation! For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities! All things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together!" Peter adds: "As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow!"

What could be more important for us as believers and followers of Christ than to fully understand--and be able to share with others--what the Scriptures have to say about who Jesus is and what He has accomplished by coming into our world?

And so the bottom line message of Hebrews is to choose Jesus and make Him Lord of your life! We can all identify with the words of the song so beautifully song by Beverly Shea: "I'd rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today!"

Next week, we move on to Lesson #3, covering Hebrews 2 and the realization that Jesus was not only fully God but also fully man! What are the implications? Join us as we pursue our study of this very special book of the Bible!

Have a great week, men!

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