

The Christmas Story: God Has Spoken

Hebrews 1:1-4

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Introduction

As we head into the final week before Christmas it is a busy time. There is a lot to do as we prepare, but what about preparing our hearts? This morning our focus will be on preparing our hearts to fully celebrate and worship Jesus.

In Hebrews 1 we have this reminder about the birth of Christ, that when Jesus was born God revealed Himself to the world in a way that He never had before. God has always communicated, but this communication was different. He spoke into our world and showed Himself in a new and glorious way.

The Theme of Hebrews – The big idea of Hebrews is that Jesus is better. He is better than all that has come before Him. The better prophet, priest and king.

God Has Spoken (vs. 1-2a)

God's Communication Before the Incarnation of Christ (vs. 1)

- As Hebrews begins the author points backwards. He shows how God has communicated in the past, through prophets. And while God's communication was always true, it was not always full. There were still things they prophets didn't understand; they longed for a clear word from God (2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Peter 1:10-12).

God's Ultimate Communication – His Son (vs. 2a)

- After years of speaking through prophets, God spoke in a new and glorious way – He took on flesh and entered our world. (John 1:14)
- **Application:**
 - The fact that God spoke to us by sending His Son is a gift that we did not deserve – it is a gift of pure grace. This Christmas we should take time to thank God for this magnificent gift.
 - It's not uncommon to hear people make statements like, *I really wish God would make Himself known to us.* Christmas is a reminder that God HAS spoken. He HAS made Himself known. He spoke through His Son.

The Substance of God's Communication (vs. 2b-4)

Through Jesus God Proclaims His Glory and Character

- **Jesus is the Radiance of the Glory of God (vs. 3a)**
 - The word *radiance* comes from a Greek word that means to send out or to project light. Jesus is the one who projects the light into the world, and the light is the glory of God (John 1:4-10; Luke 1:76-79; 2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:14).

- **Jesus is the Exact Imprint of God's Nature (vs. 3b)**

- When Jesus was born God was revealed. Through Jesus we see God; Jesus is the image and fullness of God revealed (Colossians 1:15, 19; John 1:18, 14:8-9).

Through Jesus God Proclaims His Power and Authority over All Things

When Jesus enters the world He proclaims the power and authority of God. The baby who was born in Bethlehem as a man is also the one who created all things, sustains all things and stand as the heir of all things.

- **Jesus is the Heir of All Things (vs. 2)** (Psalm 2:7-8)

- **Application:** For those of us who believe, the Scriptures tell us that we are co-heirs with Christ. With Him we will inherit all things and we will reign with Him (Romans 8:16-17; Galatians 4:4-7)

- **Jesus is the Creator of All Things (vs. 2)**

- Some may think that because Jesus was born He is part of creation, but that is not the case. In fact, He is the creator. (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16)

- **Jesus is the Sustainer of All Things (vs. 3)** (Colossians 1:17)

- **Application:** As we consider that Jesus, the creator, sustainer and heir of all things, humbled Himself and came to earth our response should be worship and awe. As we go into Christmas and are reminded of the baby born in Bethlehem we should be drawn to worship – the God of all power and authority entered our world to save us (Romans 11:36).

Through Jesus God Proclaims His Plan of Salvation (Priest) (vs. 3)

- When Jesus came He came for a very specific purpose, He came to die. He came so that He could be the better sacrifice. As we celebrate Christmas we must celebrate why He came. (Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 10:11-14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Luke 1:68-69)
- **Application:** It is not enough to believe that Jesus came to earth. In order to be saved we must believe that He came to shed His blood for our sins.

Through Jesus God Proclaims His Ultimate Victory (King) (vs. 3b-4)

- Jesus is the better and the final king. The Scriptures are clear that the one who humbled His self to be born as a baby has now be exalted to the highest place and He will reign forever as the king of all things. (Hebrews 10:12-14; Philippians 2:8-11)

Conclusion: Christmas is a great time to remember the way that God has revealed Himself to us. God has spoken, He has spoken through His Son and revealed His glory and power and salvation and His position as king of all.