

MESSAGES FROM HEAVEN

TEXT: *Hebrews 1:1 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; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high*

THESIS: To show that God has indeed communicated with man and that the nature of the communication is vital to man's destiny.

INTRO.: A. We live in a day of supersonic communications. Someone presses the right button and messages, photos and information fly through the air, unseen, across oceans and from outer space.

B. In our day a breakdown of communications could be disastrous. A misunderstanding could bring about the annihilation of the human race. Our very existence is wrapped up in the content of communication.

C. So too communications are that important in relation to spiritual things. Either God has spoken about our eternal destiny or He has not and we are yet in our sins. A breakdown or misunderstanding of God's communications could be even more disastrous than in the material realm. ***What shall it profit a man if he understand all communications, but Gods...and lose his own soul?"***

I. I. THE MEANS OF HEAVENLY COMMUNICATIONS:

NOTE: There are three basic assumptions concerning heavenly communications: 1) God exists, 2) God has spoken, 3) God's Word is inspired and preserved in the AV1611 or King James Bible.

A. *"God...spake..."* (Communicated His mind)

1. Given orally...Mt. Sinai...Eden
2. Were inscripturated...(written down in the O.T....prophets, patriarchs, scribes)

B. The Writer (Paul?) acknowledges the O.T. to be of Divine Origin: (text)

1. He is about to show that O.T. revelation was fragmentary & preparatory to the final revelation in Christ
2. He attempts to show that the God of the O.T. is the same One Who is revealed in Christ.

I. THE METHOD OF HEAVENLY COMMUNICATIONS:

A. *"Sundry times..."* Not all at once, but progressively (in installments or portions)

1. Approximately 1600 years; He could have revealed everything in Eden, or to Abraham, Moses, etc.
2. This does not mean the message was incomplete in the O.T., rather that it was complete and perfect up to the time it was given and included all God desired men to know at any given time

B. *"Divers manners..."*

1. Face to face communication to Abraham and Moses on Sinai
2. In human form to Abraham
3. In angelic form to Jacob

4. A **"still small voice"** on Horeb to Elijah
5. In visions to Ezekiel
6. In dreams to Daniel
7. In the Urim & Thummim to the priests
8. By law, warning, judgment, exhortation, type, parable and symbol, etc.

C. **"By the prophets..."** Anyone commissioned by God as His special messenger

2 Pet. 1:21 **"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."**

D. **"Unto the fathers..."** (of the Jewish nation)

1. A great honor and privilege
2. A great responsibility

II. THE MEDIUMS OF HEAVENLY COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. **"The prophets..."** past and incomplete as to the final revelation
- B. **The Prophet – Jesus Christ**

NOTE: The distinction between the two is not that O.T. revelation is inferior or of minor importance or insignificant, but that God speaking **"by His Son"** is final and the culmination of past communications.

1. Recent and final: v.2a
 - a. The end of the Mosaic Dispensation
 - b. The new economy will never pass until Christ returns
2. Different and distinct: The distinction is not in the communications but in the communicators: men writing under inspiration vs. the Son of God
3. Complete and perfect: **"by His Son"**
4.
 - a. O.T. written over centuries – N.T. written in one generation
 - b. O.T. was the seed plot – N.T. was the harvest
 - c. O.T. was shadows – N.T. was the substance
 - d. O.T. was streams in the desert – N.T. is rivers of living waters
 - e. O.T. : God spake unto the fathers – N.T. God speaks unto us

CONCL.: Truly we have a message from heaven; complete and final, fresh and perfect in a King James Bible.

v. 2b & 3 describe the fullness of God's communications to us. The meaning of the message is given us in the latter part of **v.3**. There must be no misunderstanding of this message on pain of eternal death.

**GOD HAS SPOKEN...ARE YOU LISTENING?
HAVE YOU RECEIVED HIS WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE?
AS A BELIEVER ARE YOU LIVING ACCORDING TO HIS WORDS?**

