

Spiritual Growth Questions for April 19, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

- 1.) **Read Genesis 28:10-15; Exodus 3:1-6; Exodus 20:1-21; Exodus 31:18; 2 Peter 1:21.** Examine the following passages and list some of the “various ways” God spoke to men in days past.
- 2.) **Read Hebrews 1:1-2, John 1:1-4.** What do you see in 1:1-2 that indicates a basic unity between the Old and New Testaments?
- 3.) Why do you think God decided to communicate with us? What does this show about God’s character? What keeps us from communicating freely to God? How does Hebrews 1:1-4 address it?
- 4.) The concept that Jesus is God’s ultimate revelation is weighty. How has God spoken to us by His Son? Why wouldn’t God just keep communicating through prophets?
- 5.) How do we know Jesus was with God from the beginning? (Hint: John 1☺) Why is this such a stumbling block for people?
- 6.) **Read Hebrews 1:2, Romans 8:17.** What difference does it make that Jesus is the ‘heir of all things?’ Discuss how we are also heirs as well. What do we inherit?
- 7.) **Read Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17.** What difference does it make to you that Jesus sustains everything by His powerful word? How could these words help in current situation?
- 8.) What one insight from 1:1-4 seems most personally significant to you right now?
- 9.) How would you like this truth to affect your life, thoughts, attitudes, habits and priorities?
- 10.) This passage presents Jesus as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Which of these do you need to dig deeper in knowing Jesus? Why?
- 11.) What action can you take this week to start putting this into practice or to cooperate with God in bringing about this transformation?
- 12.) This week, who could you share with about what you’re learning?

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Letting God Speak to Us

April 19, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Let’s take advantage of this time to listen to Him and pray this study will help us grow and be Better with Jesus!

Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **Memory Verse:** 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Background for this letter:

Who wrote it: _____

When was it written: Before 70 AD. (Hebrews 13:10)

To whom and why was it written: It was written to a group of Jewish Christians who believed in Jesus but never met him in person. The author assumes his audience has an extensive knowledge of the Old Testament, (35 direct quotations and 34 allusions to the OT). There was a temptation for them to reject Christianity and return to Judaism proper. NT Wright

The author of Hebrews was writing to admonish and encourage his friends, a small group of largely Jewish Christians who were scared stiff. Some had begun to avoid contact with outsiders. Some had even withdrawn from the worshiping in community. (10:25). The author feared there might be those who, if arrested, would succumb to the conditions of release—a public denial of Christ (6:6; 10:29). The tiny home-church was asking some hard questions: *Did God know what was going on? If so, how could this be happening to them? Did he care? Only God could protect them, but where was he? Why did he not answer? Why the silence of God?* Hughes

Hebrews is a book of examination. Better 13x, perfect 14x, eternal 9x
Hebrews is a book of encouragement. Hebrews 13:22, 3:13, 6:18
Hebrews is a book of expectation. Hebrews 2:5, 9:15, 11:10, 13, 26, 12:2
Hebrews is a book of exaltation. The person and work of Jesus Christ is exalted.

Big Idea: The more we hear God speak, the more we grow like Him.

Key Question: How do I help my people maintain their commitment to Christ in the face of rigorous opposition to their perseverance?

1. God has spoken in many ways. 1:1
2. God speaks through His Son. 1:2
3. God speaks through His Word. 1:3

Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

I. God has spoken in many _____.

A. God has spoken and speaks through his _____.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Romans 1:20, Acts 14:17

Our response: Ask God to show us His revelation through nature.

B. God has spoken through the _____.

Hebrews 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Hosea 12:10 "I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them." 2 Kings 17:13

Our response: Listen and Respect the words of the prophets who were looking forward to the coming Messiah! **Hear His prophets!**

II. God speaks through His _____.

Hebrews 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

Matthew 3:17 "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Our response: Expanding souls encounter an expanding Christ! Ask God to show the greatness of Jesus. Listen to Him. May His Voice be Louder!

III. God speaks through His _____.

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high The Word of God is our stable reference point in an unstable world.

What does God say:

A. Jesus Christ is _____ of all things.

Hebrews 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things,

B. Jesus Christ is _____ of all things.

Hebrews 1:2 b through whom also he created the world.

C. Jesus Christ is the _____ of all things.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. NIV (Colossians 1:17)

Psalm 75:3 When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm. Selah.

D. Jesus Christ provides _____ for our sins. 1:3b

Hebrews 1:3b After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

He speaks to us as the heir of all things, as our creator, as our sustainer, and as our redeemer. Jesus is able to save all who humbly come to Him.

Our Response: We want to hear your voice! The more we hear and follow Jesus the more we will grow more like Him. I commit to making time to listen to God through His Word and prayer.