

“In these last days, God has spoken to us by his son ” Hebrews chapter 1 verse 2

The writer of the New Testament letter to the Hebrews sets himself the task of reframing the Jewish understanding of the Old Testament in the light of Jesus, presenting Jesus as a superior revelation. He speaks of the prophets, through whom God spoke “long ago” or “in the past” and contrasts them with Jesus, through whom God speaks “in these last days.”

In what ways is Jesus superior to the prophets of old? One way in particular. They were ordinary people through whom the world of God came at various times and in various ways, but Jesus is God's son.

He is greater than the prophets because, we are told, *“God has appointed him heir of all things.”* Everything has been given to Jesus by his Father. The universe was also created through him. Elsewhere in the New Testament we find that *“everything was made through him, and without him nothing was made that has been made.”* Jesus is the Word of God by which all things came into being. We can read of it happening at the very beginning of the Old Testament; “God said *“Let there be light” and there was light.”*

But God doesn't just speak through Jesus by his words. Hebrews goes on to say that he is *“The radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature.”* In Jesus, we don't just hear God's word of truth, but we get an accurate picture of who God is as a person. God introduced himself to Moses as *“The Lord - the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the father's iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.”* And it is these very characteristics that we see perfectly embodied in the of of Jesus.

Not only were all things made through him, but he is also the sustainer of all things *“by his powerful word.”* Science can describe the physical laws by which things work and hold together, but in the deeper, spiritual sense, the universe hangs together because of Jesus.

He is also the answer to the problems of the world. All that is wrong in the world is caused by the corruption of sin. In his life, death and resurrection Jesus dealt with the problem of sin once and for all, providing purification for the world, returning to heaven and sitting down on the right hand of his Father. Whoever believes in him is included in the redemption that Jesus earned for the world, and becomes part of the solution, not the problem.

God once spoke through prophets, now he speaks a better word through his son.

Prayer

Father, I know that the limitations of my humanity prevent me from being able to fully understand all there is to know about you, but I thank you for the revelation of yourself that you provided in Jesus. In coming to him, I come to the author of life, the exact representation of your being and the living answer to every question. In Jesus name, amen.

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