

Jesus is God's Ultimate Revelation

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrews 1:1-3

Does verse 1 sound familiar? (Matins, LBW and ELW, p. 302)

Verse 1

1. **God Spoke** through the prophets
 - a. Literally means **"IN"** the prophets, not *"through."*
 - b. This little word is not insignificant
 - *Through* would indicate that God speaks **regardless** of the messenger
 - *In* indicates that the prophet is not incidental to the message, but **essential** in how and what God communicates
 - c. Prophets are those whom God uses as mediums for communicating His **will**
2. Who were some of the prophets who have brought the revelation of God to humanity?
 - a. Who are the biblical prophets? **Moses, David, Elijah**
 - b. Are there contemporary prophets? **Martin Luther, Dr. Martin Luther King, Billy Graham**
 - c. Are there non-Christian prophets? **Ghandi, Buddha**

Verse 2a

1. **But...**
 - a. Once again, the smaller words are sometimes the most **significant**
 - b. The word *but* indicates that God has created a paradigm shift by changing the manner in which God **communicates** with humanity
2. **Last Days...**
 - a. This is not apocalyptic: in other words, it does not refer to the last days of the **world**
 - b. The Jews believed that there were two ages:
 - 1) The *"present days,"* in which **evil** was rampant
 - 2) The *"latter days,"* or the *"Messianic age"* in which God's peace and justice **crash** into the world
 - c. The author of Hebrews believed that we ARE in the age of the Messiah, the days of God's **reign**
 - d. If we are in the Messianic age, where is the promised peace and justice?
 - The **blessing** is here!
 - Christians are given the task of spreading the gift
 - The world will oppose God's crashing into the world and bringing this new age.
 - The world does not like God being here, because God brings a demand of **love** (Hebrews 13)
 - e. These *Last Days* bring a change in how God communicates with humanity.
 - In the previous age, God spoke through human intermediaries
 - Now God talks to us directly in the...
3. **Son**
 - a. Jesus is the **whole** truth.
 - The prophets could only bring fragmentary and imperfect revelations of God.
 - God limited the message to the abilities and strengths of the **messenger**.
 - Even Moses was just an imperfect revelation, a stop-gap.
 - There had been a 400 year period of **silence** before God spoke again.
 - b. This time, God speaks through a Son
 - In the past, God sent a messenger
 - In the Last days, God sent the **message**

Verse 2b to 3

1. The Son is known and distinguished from the prophets in two ways:

a. His unique **relationship** with God

1) He is the heir

- The heir is the one who acquires the **inheritance**
- Therefore, if we want to deal with God, we deal with the heir

2) He is the power of **creation**

- He has not been created in these last days
- He has always been, and will always be

3) He is the radiance of God's **glory**

- We cannot look directly at the sun
- We look at the rays from the sun that touch the earth
- Are the rays a part of the sun? Yes!

4) He is an exact **representation** of God

- Literally means an impression, or mark, made by a **seal**
- Remember Gnosticism, and the inferior demiurges? The author wants to make sure that his words cannot be used by the Gnostics to say that Jesus was merely a demiurge from God, a rip-off, or an imperfect representation of God.

b. His Godly work

1) He sustains all things with a **WORD**

2) He **purifies** the world

- The author uses the word **catharsis**
- Jesus purges, or **detoxifies** us of sin

3) He sat down in the seat of heavenly **power**.
Explicitly expresses His Godly authority

2. The author of Hebrews distinguishes the difference between the Christian and Jewish view of Messiah:

a. The Revelation **died** to detoxify us from sin

b. This Revelation is **Divine** and omnipotent