

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 _____ the prophets, not "through."
 - b. This little word is not insignificant
 - *Through* would indicate that God speaks _____ of the messenger
 - *In* indicates that the prophet is not incidental to the message, but _____ in how and what God communicates
 - c. Prophets are those whom God uses as mediums for communicating His _____
2. Who were some of the prophets who have brought the revelation of God to humanity?
 - a. Who are the biblical prophets? _____
 - b. Are there contemporary prophets? _____
 - c. Are there non-Christian prophets? _____

Verse 2a

1. **But...**
 - a. Once again, the smaller words are sometimes the most _____
 - b. The word *but* indicates that God has created a paradigm shift by changing the manner in which God _____ with humanity
2. **Last Days...**
 - a. This is not apocalyptic: in other words, it does not refer to the last days of the _____
 - b. The Jews believed that there were two ages:
 - 1) The "*present days*," in which _____ was rampant
 - 2) The "*latter days*," or the "*Messianic age*" in which God's peace and justice _____ into the world
 - c. The author of Hebrews believed that we ARE in the age of the Messiah, the days of God's _____
 - d. If we are in the Messianic age, where is the promised peace and justice?
 - The _____ 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 _____ (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 _____ truth.
 - The prophets could only bring fragmentary and imperfect revelations of God.
 - God limited the message to the abilities and strengths of the _____.
 - Even Moses was just an imperfect revelation, a stop-gap.
 - There had been a 400 year period of _____ 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 _____

Verse 2b to 3

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

a. His unique _____ with God

1) He is the heir

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

2) He is the power of _____

- 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 _____

- 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 _____ of God

- Literally means an impression, or mark, made by a _____
- 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 _____

2) He _____ the world

- The author uses the word _____
- Jesus purges, or _____ us of sin

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

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

a. The Revelation _____ to detoxify us from sin

b. This Revelation is _____ and omnipotent