

GOD HATH SPOKEN

HEBREWS 1:1–4

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 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; 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; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

- God spoke in time past to the fathers (the Old Testament Israelites) by the prophets. That IS the Old Testament. The fathers are the ancestors of the people being spoken to, who are themselves *"the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed"* (Acts 3:25).
- God spoke by a prophet. The prophet was God's mouthpiece. As we will see in future lessons, a priest speaks for men to God, Hebrews 5:1. The prophet speaks for God to man.
- Sometimes, the prophets spoke and we do not have their words recorded. The words that God preserved for us in His word are sufficient to know the whole counsel of God. Many of the words of the prophets were recorded in a book named after the prophet who spoke them.
- Elijah, one of the most revered prophets, did not have a book named after him, but his words and deeds are recorded in the books of the Kings.
- The people receiving this epistle would have looked back with "national pride" at how they were the people privileged to have been spoken to by the Creator of the Universe, even though through a prophet.
 - Deuteronomy 4:7–8 — *"For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"*
 - Romans 3:1–2 — *"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God."*
- The Israelites receiving this epistle are being told that they, along with the author, are among the much more privileged group who, living at the time that they did, "in these last days", were spoken to by God, not by the prophets, but by His Son.
- This must not be thought as limited to the "red letter words" in the 4 gospels, but really as the Lord Jesus Himself being the Word of God.

Read Acts 13:16–41

HEIR OF ALL THINGS

John 6:37 — *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me..."*

There is an inheritance due Him as the Son of David.

"Jesus Christ of the seed of David" — (Romans 1:3, 2 Timothy 2:8)

More importance, inheritance as the Son of God. *"Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Mark 1:11).

"All power in heaven and earth is given unto me" (Matthew 28:18).

He is heir of all things, and has all power in heaven and in earth.

Psalm 2 brings the aspects of Son of David and Son of God together. It was written by David, see Acts 4:25 — *"Who by the mouth of David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?"*

This then is applied to the rulers, Herod and Pilate, as well as to Gentiles and people of Israel in verse 26, as they gathered together to crucify God's Christ.

THE SON AS CREATOR

"By Whom also he made the worlds"

Let's be clear on this. It is Christ who is the creator. Another pillar to hold as to the fact of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God.

The first verse of the Bible, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"*, Genesis 1:1

The witness of John 1:1–3:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."

The witness of Paul, Colossians 1:15–17:

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

We can see that Christ in His position as creator is already there with God, as God, from the beginning. Also, as we try to wrap our minds around this, it is almost impossible to explain much of this without ruining it. Yet we see it stated plainly, He is God from the beginning.

Yet we see in Romans 1:3–4, this:

"Concerning His Son Jesus Christ or Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Going back to the second Psalm, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee".

If we solidify the fact of the Son as Creator, all the attacks against His Deity fizzle.

THE PURGING OF SINS

The importance of consistency here:

Personal, collective pronouns — “us, we, our”.

“spoken unto us by His Son” us here is particularly the Hebrews. This does not diminish the fact that God has spoken to us, who are not Hebrews, also by His Son; but it is not the point of the verse.

“When He had by Himself purged our sins...”

The Bible is very clear that Christ has purged the sins of all who come to Him in faith. It is said in the terms, redemption, and it is in His blood. Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Romans 3:24, Titus 3:5 to name a few.

But lets think of this in the same terms, “purged our sins” collectively of the Hebrews:

Isaiah chapter 1.

Vss. 4–6, 15–18, 25

Malachi 3:1–3

An aside:

The Douay-Rheims (Roman Catholic) version:

Who being the brightness of his glory and the figure of his substance and upholding all things by the word of his power, **making purgation of sins**, sitteth on the right hand of the majesty on high:

This is from a religious organization that made up a place of “purgatory” where the sinner must be purified.

Notice it is missing “by Himself”.

Yet it is the Son that made purgation. Even in a RCC bible.

There is another purging of the nation of Israel that will take place. Baptism of fire, Matthew 3:10–12/Luke 3:7–17. That is the events of the book of Revelation, or “The Day of the LORD”. This where the wicked among them, “the chaff”, are burned away. The RCC has used the scripture about this to teach its pernicious false doctrine of purgatory where even the faithful must purify their own sins by their own pain (or by a generous donation, a purchased indulgence).

Here we have a full purging, and a call to take heed, 2:1–4.

We will now see how the Son of God, by inheritance, is greater than the angels. What He did is great, but by His inheritance, it is by the fact of who He is that He is so much higher. We will see this as we proceed in this epistle.