

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 1:1-2

Date: October 7, 2012

Title: "How He Speaks"

Focus: The manner in which God speaks, yesterday and today.

Intro:

1. In Ezekiel 3:1-11 it is seen that God chooses to speak to mankind. Doing so in a manner that causes Him to be clearly understood. What a life-changing realization to live by the fact that God speaks and can be related to.

2. However, grasping God speaks and recognizing when He does so are two different issues. So, what does it look like when God speaks?

Body:

V. 1 - "*God spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,*"

- Some see "many portions and many ways" as being synonymous and a restatement for emphasis.
- The writer of Hebrews is making point by way of emphasis, but **they are not synonymous**.
- He is emphasizing that previously God spoke only partially **and** through a variety of means, methods, & appearances.

In time past God spoke "in parts"

- "*in many portions*" (NAS), "*at many times*" (NIV), "*at sundry times, a variety of times*" (KJV).
- The idea is on again, off again and incompletely. The people of the OT did not have *full* awareness of God and what He was doing. (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- Why? Because this was the nature of God's relationship to humanity in general and Israel in particular.
- It was an external relationship in which sin impeded association with God. His indwelling presence was not a constant reality (Psalm 51:11 / 1 Sam. 16:14)
- This is balanced against the complete and clear revelation and the indwelling presence of His son, Jesus.
- Some of the varied methods experienced:

Jacob had a Dream [a dream is what takes place while one is asleep] (Gen. 20:3, 28:10-16)

Prophets had Visions [a vision is the seeing beyond what is there when one is awake] (Gen. 46:1-5, Num. 12:6) - Hence the term for a prophet, "seer."

Some experienced a **Physical Appearance** (a burning bush or His physical presence)

This is a "theophany," [an appearance by God in some form] (Ex. 3, Isaiah 6:1-8)

Most cases of the "*Angel of the LORD*" are physical appearances by God, particularly the second person of the Godhead.

A careful reading of the passage will indicate the difference (NOTE Gen. 16:7-14 vs. Judges 13:3-22 - Focal v. 16).

Zachariah, Mary, and Joseph all were visited by **Angelic Hosts** - (Luke 1:1:8-12)

God spoke to Balaam **Through an Animal** (Num. 22:27-31)

V. 2; "*in these last days has spoken to us in His Son,*"

- Jesus is the "*radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.*"

- Only Jesus can clearly convey the heart and intent of God.

This is what makes the incarnation so significant. God did not send a messenger. He came Himself.

- He is **the means** by which God speaks to people today.

The previous methods are "*in the past.*"

This doesn't mean they cease (Acts 2:17). They are just not primary.

Don't look for inferior means of God speaking. Today there is a "*more sure word of prophecy.*" (2 Peter 1:16-19)

- Jesus is the message God seeks to declare.

Any word that does not serve the news of the redemptive work of Jesus (the Gospel) is false. - 1 Cor. 12:3

Closing:

1. When thinking of hearing God speak, don't focus so much on what is being said, but in knowing Him in what He says.

2. God is not working to fill heads with knowledge, but hearts with a familiarity of Him.