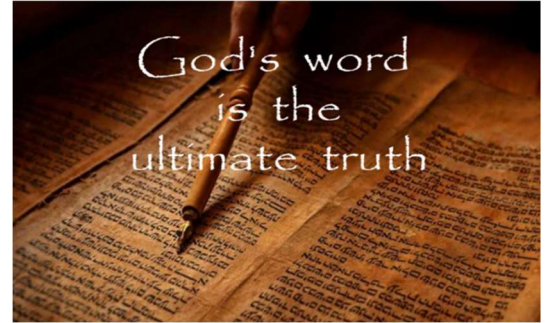


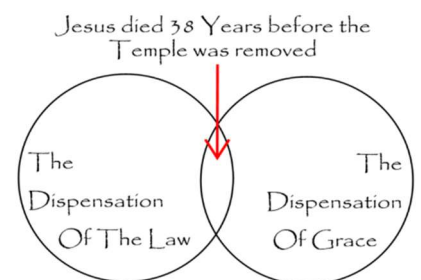
- ° The book of Hebrews is different than any other NT writing because it doesn't argue from the authority of the writer, but solely on the authority of the OT scriptures.
 - I believe Paul intentionally avoided using his name & apostolic authority because he wanted His Jewish readers to put their faith in the authority of those scriptures.
 - Hebrews meticulously lays out the superiority of Jesus over every other Jewish tradition.
 - It explains to us, like no other book, who Jesus is, & why we should love & trust Him.
- ° Hebrews is not an evangelical letter written to bring unbelievers to God; (Although it can do that).
 - It assumes the readers already believe in God, but have fallen back into their old traditions instead of pressing on in faith.
- ° As we go thru this letter, we need to keep in mind that the readers of this letter were living at the intersection of two great dispensations of time.
 - The dispensation of the Law had just come to an end, but the temple was still standing.
 - The temple sacrifices & priestly duties; the position of the high priest; the laws & regulations; They all pertained to the Old Covenant.
 - Those laws & regulations had been given by God, but He is now doing a new thing in the earth, & that new thing supersedes that Old Covenant, even though the old regulations were still being observed by the unbelieving Jews.



Heb 10:1-4 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- Those old sacrifices are part of the previous dispensation; the Old, incomplete, Covenant.
 - This new dispensation; The New Covenant, is superior in every way to "The Law" because it's based on a better, complete, sacrifice, with better promises.

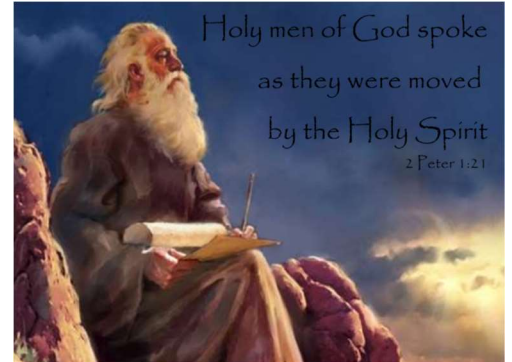
Heb 9:11-12 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.



- The old covenant could never give eternal redemption because as soon as a person sinned they were guilty again & needed to be cleansed with another sacrifice.
- The beauty of the new Covenant is that it was made with the sacrifice of Jesus, once for all.
 - This New Covenant is between Jesus & the Father, & we enter into His covenant by faith in His perfect sacrifice, not our works & efforts, like the old covenant.
 - That's why believers are said to be "In Christ" so many times because it's His covenant.

- Jesus will never break this New Covenant & so our redemption is secure forever.
 - Our good deeds didn't save us & our misdeeds can no longer condemn us.
 - Our eternal salvation is based solely on our continued faith in Jesus; & if that faith is sincerely from our heart, we will be born again & our actions will naturally change.
- In the midst of their persecutions, the Hebrew believers had somehow forgotten these things, & this letter is written to encourage them to return to faith in Jesus alone, not the Jewish Traditions.

Heb 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³Who, 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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high ...



- What an opening statement! Those commentators I've read who know Greek tell us that in the original language, this opening statement is one of the most beautifully written in the bible.
 - Even in the English we can still hear that beauty if we'll stop to meditate on it.
 - These first three verses give us a summary of the point this whole letter is making.

Heb 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

- *God; Gk- Theos;* but there is a Greek word that's untranslated; *ho*, meaning "the".
 - This is the definite article, "The God"; We would understand this to be "The Father".
 - The Father decided that His words would come thru the prophets in the OT, & now in the NT His words will come to us thru His Son; Jesus.
- *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke;*
 - God spoke *at various times and in various ways*, to people of different times or ages.
 - God didn't speak to Adam the things He spoke to Noah, & He didn't speak to Noah the things He spoke to Abraham, & He didn't speak to Abraham the things He spoke to Moses.
 - The way God spoke to each of these men represents a different age, or dispensation of time.
 - Adam was only given one law to obey; Moses was given ten; (& then 613).
 - Noah was told to build an ark to preserve mankind's seed; Abraham was promised a son thru whom a great nation would come.
 - God spoke differently to men of different times so He could increasingly advance His plan of redemption, & bring His Messiah into this world.
 - Each successive age or dispensation being one step closer to the redemption of mankind & our eventual reunion with God living beside men on the earth.
 - In each period of time, men were given words & commands from God that were all good, but they were also incomplete.
 - At each new dispensation men would begin to interact with God based on the new directions they were given at that time;
 - Adam's sacrifices were different than those of Moses, but they all foreshadowed Jesus.



- *[God spoke] in time past to the fathers by the prophets;*
 - These fathers would have been all those men we've mentioned; Adam, Noah, Abraham ...
 - All those who were faithful to God & lived by the word & covenant they had at the time.
 - These fathers operated within those guidelines they had been given by God during the respective ages they lived in.
 - The words of those prophets are recorded for us in the OT, & are recorded in many various ways; (Israel's lack of faith in the wilderness vs. David's faith to face Goliath).
 - Some are recorded for us in spoken prophecy, some in types & shadows, some in laws & some in warnings, some in words & some in the actions of men.
 - God does not limit Himself to one type of communication, but many & various ways.
 - All of these ways are recorded for us in God's word for the ultimate purpose of bringing God's redemption promises to their fulfillment in Jesus.

*(¹God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets),
 Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,
 through whom also He made the worlds ...*

- *these last days*, Refers to the dispensation of the Church Age, which I always thought began after Jesus rose from the dead, or maybe after the day of Pentecost.
 - Jesus however said the dispensation of the Law was over when John the Baptist came:
Lk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.
 - Once John came preparing Israel for the coming Messiah, the dispensation of grace began.
 - God is now, during this new age, administering or governing His kingdom by His son; Jesus.
- *[He] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son;*
 - In times past God directed the affairs of mankind thru the prophets.
 - He still uses prophets, but unlike the past, God's Son, has now come to earth to lead us.

Mt 17:5 While He was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

- In these last days the Father personally spoke from the heavens & said: *Listen to My Son!*
- Jesus changed everything; He told us that faith in God is what saves us, not obeying the Law.



Jn 3:1-21 ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Unlike the law that says obey or die)

- In this age, the understanding of God's plan of salvation has now grown to the next level.
- It's not that the Law was wrong, it was just incomplete; it needed Jesus to be fulfilled.

Jn 17:8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

- While it was important that men believed the prophets, believing in Jesus is the central message of eternal life.

- Did Jesus tell us everything we could possibly need to know about God's plan?

Jn 16:12-13 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³However,

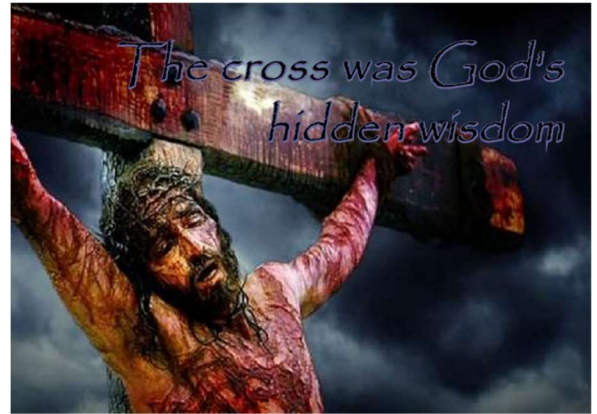
when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

- There were many things Jesus just couldn't say while He was here because they were hidden from the world & Satan before the cross.

1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- Those things Jesus couldn't then speak into the world, & those things the disciples couldn't yet bear to hear, are now being spoken to us by the Spirit of Truth, thru the bible.
- This bible is Jesus' word; In fact John tells us, Jesus is the word;

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



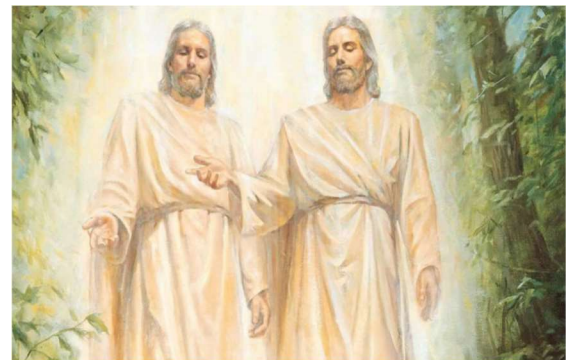
- The Son whom God sent to speak words of life into this world is still today speaking those words of life into the world, because He is Himself "*the Word*".
 - Jesus is on every page in the bible, & Jesus is the fulfillment of the bible; It's all about him.
- ° *whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds*
- Jesus is the rightful heir to all of the heavenly realm of God, because He is God.
 - But what most believers don't realize is that Jesus is heir of the whole world because He is the son of man, Adam's only brother; *Gen 1:26-30, God gave the earth to man.*
 - It's in the little book of Ruth that this truth is revealed in the understanding of the kinsman redeemer; (another one of God's words, spoken thru prophets which Jesus fulfilled).
 - For more understanding on this visit: DelightingInGodsWord.com/Ruth
- ° *through whom also He made the worlds;*
- Jn 1:3-4** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- Jesus is the creator of this world because it's "*In Him*" that all life comes from.
 - That life is described as light in the bible, & the rejection of that light is described as darkness.

Heb 1:3 *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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high...*

- ° Jesus is not the Father, but He is the exact representation of the Father.

Jn 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

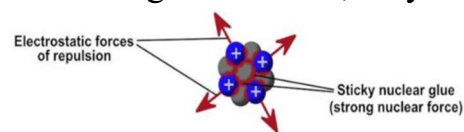
- The Father & the Son are two separate persons, & yet they are so completely united in mind & purpose that they are One God, along with the Holy Spirit.



- ° *upholding all things by the word of His power;*

- Jesus is not only the creator of our universe, but He is also holding it all together.
- Science has no idea why the atoms we're made of, don't fly apart.

- They know that opposite charges attract, & like charges repel, (like magnets).
- But the particles that make up the atoms in this universe are charged the same; they shouldn't stay together, but they should fly apart.
- They call this strange force that hold them together "nuclear glue" because they don't actually know or understand what it is.
- This verse tells us Jesus is the one holding them together, moment by moment.



° *when He had by Himself purged our sins,*

- There is another untranslated Greek word here that adds additional depth to what Jesus did for us, that the English translation didn't include.
- The sentence structure of the Greek is different than English, so it doesn't sound nice to us, but it's important to know it's there, so we know what the Holy Spirit was telling us.

Thru Himself deeply cleansed committed to the sin of us.

δι' εαυτοῦ καθαρισμὸν ποιησάμενος τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν,

- Not only did Jesus comply with the Father's wishes that He alone pay for our sins; but this untranslated word tells us that Jesus was Himself committed to paying for our redemption.
- Another way of saying this might be: *Jesus Himself was committed to purging our sins.*
- As unlovable as we often are, Jesus has a depth of love for us that compelled Him to commit all that He had to our redemption; including His very life.



° *[He] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...*

- The sacrifice Jesus made is complete; It was enough for all people, & for all time.
- No other price need be paid; no other price can be paid; *Tetelestai, It is Finished!*
- After Jesus paid the one, all inclusive price for sin, He sat down beside His Father in heaven.

° Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Father's plans; & He is the source of everything we need to live eternally in God's kingdom.

- The book of Hebrews is dedicated to revealing to us that Jesus is worthy of our devotion.