

JESUS IS BETTER

A Study in Hebrews

HEBREWS 1:1-3 // A Better Word
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
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SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

One of the great truths of Christianity is that God speaks. He is not silent and we're not left to ourselves to figure out life's biggest questions. God is a communicating God. God speaks. And He has something to say to you. - Pastor Joe

General Revelation

God's self-disclosure of His character in all of creation. It is accessible to all humanity apart from Scripture due to their basic rational abilities.

Special Revelation

Special Revelation is God's self-disclosure of His character, works, and expectations to specific individuals.

Ways that God Spoke Prior to Jesus:

- Narrative stories of God and His interactions with His people, as in Exodus, where He guided the Israelites out of Egypt, and in Ruth, where His providence is seen in the life of a Moabite widow, and Ezra, where God's faithfulness is demonstrated in the rebuilding of the temple.
- Poetry and Songwriting of King David in the Psalms, where heartfelt prayers and praises reflect God's character and promises.
- Wisdom sayings in Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, where God imparted practical and moral teachings for daily living.
- Prophecy as in Jeremiah and Isaiah, where God's warnings, promises, and future plans were revealed to His people.
- Visions and the interpretation of dreams, as in Daniel, where God provided wisdom and prophetic insight during Israel's exile.
- Symbolic actions, as in Ezekiel, who was instructed to lie on his side for 390 days to symbolize the years of Israel's sin.
- Miraculous signs, like the burning bush in Exodus where God called Moses, or the fleece of Gideon in Judges where God confirmed His will.
- Angels, such as when Gabriel appeared to Daniel to explain visions, or when the Angel of the Lord appeared to Balaam and his donkey in Numbers.
- Nature, as seen when God spoke through a storm in Job, revealing His power and sovereignty.
- Direct encounters, such as when God spoke face-to-face with Moses on Mount Sinai, giving him the law for the people of Israel.
- Lives and actions of His prophets, like Hosea, whose marriage to an unfaithful wife was used by God as a living illustration of Israel's unfaithfulness to Him.

“The piecemeal communication through the prophets serves as the foil against which the directness and immediacy of the new revelation is placed in sharp relief. Whereas the nature of a prophet is to be a go-between, to encounter the Son is to meet God face-to-face. The prophets are not God, but they speak for God. Their communication lacks directness. The Son is different. His own presence is the presence of God. He gives the final word from God in a way that could never characterize the prophets. The prophets could only point to the goods to be delivered. The Son delivered them. The prophets offered God’s promises. The Son fulfilled them.”

-Sigurd Grindheim

Chiasm

A literary form in the Bible where ideas are presented in a specific order that is both artistic and point us towards the most important idea.

1a - first idea

2a - second idea

3a - central idea

3b - central idea repeated/accentuated

2b - second idea repeated/accentuated

1b - first idea repeated/accentuated

When we say He reigns, we mean He holds supreme authority over all things.
When we say that Jesus rules, we emphasize His active exercising of authority.

“Our trusting the Lord does not mean that there are not times of tears, and I think it is a mistake as Christians to act as though trusting the Lord and tears are not compatible. As a matter of fact, it is my opinion that the greatest trust in the Lord comes when we trust Him in the midst of tears.”

- Franci Schaeffer

“In him (Jesus) God displayed not some facet of his truth; God displayed Himself fully revealed to men....The prophet had to use human methods to transmit his part of the truth of God. Jesus revealed God by being himself.... The prophets grasped part of the mind of God; but Jesus was the mind of God.”

- William Barclay

SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

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 1:3