



CBC Studies: An Exposition of the first sentence of **The Book of HEBREWS** JANUARY 2016

Introduction: It was to this family, the Hebrews, that the “old” covenants were spoken and written; The Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Palestinian, Mosaic, and Davidic. The first men were Adam, Cain, and Abel. Seth, Adam’s son, replaced Abel and then had a son named Enos. Men began to call on God. Noah was born some 750 years later of this lineage. God made a covenant with him after the great flood. Because of “The Noahic Covenant”, the descendants of Noah have been followed and have chronicled more of their own history than any family on earth.

We often hear the title “Shemite”, (Semite), or someone may be accused of being an “Anti-Semite”; Shem was Noah’s son. Shem’s great-grandson, “Eber”, is the man for whom the “Hebrews” get this title.

Some 470 years later with Abraham, himself being a “Hebrew”; God made another covenant. The Hebrew people became known as the Israelites, through Abraham’s grandson, Israel. The titles, “Hebrew” and “Israelite” are both used to describe the family lineage after the flood and throughout the New Testament. It is to these people, through Moses on Mt. Sinai, that the conditional “Mosaic Covenant”, which we generally call The Old Testament, was given, some 3400 years ago.

It is also true that the fourth son of the man, Israel, was named Judah. Judah is the tribe of Israel through which Jesus Christ was born and while Judah is only one of the twelve tribes of Israel, today, all Israelites are commonly referred to as “Jews”.

It is to these people and to the people of the New Covenant that The Book of Hebrews is written, around 70AD. It is a comparison of “the old way” to “the new and better way” God has made for all of His people. The author is unknown though it has been suggested that Apollos, Barnabas, Priscilla, or Phillip may have written it. The traditional view is that the apostle Paul is the author. The value of the book of Hebrews to every Christian, Jew or Gentile, is to the saving of our life. It is a letter written to all who fall under the election of God’s grace; an explanation of the New and everlasting Covenant of our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

This is a short exposition on the first sentence of the book of Hebrews, four verses. What an introduction -to the Son of God!



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(Vs1) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets...”

God speaks. He has spoken since the foundation of the world. He created the world and all that in them is by the Word of His power. He has spoken at various times and in many different methods. His Word should be held in the highest regard. We consider the words of man to have great import; we place tremendous value upon them in so much that we write untold numbers of volumes of literature concerning both the words men speak and the languages in which those words are spoken. Words are a means of conveyance of thought. Words reveal the mind of the speaker. Words inspire actions that produce human effort. Whether spoken, written, “Signed”: any way they are produced, words create the communication of the will of the speaker to the listener.

God has never hidden His Word from man. God has kept His Word and promoted His Word. The value and efficacy of His Word is denied by man because men refuse to submit to exhortation (the call to fellowship to hear His Word) which by default causes the hardness of heart and deceitfulness of sin¹. Only His Word will keep us tender and honest. How much could we say about the deceitfulness of sin? Time here does not allow except to say that to reject Christian fellowship (not attend church) is to flay ourselves open to every foul spirit of man and device of Satan which are all seeds of hardness and deception. Can a man who is deceived know that he is deceived? If he knew he was deceived, he would no longer be deceived. And so The Word of God dilutes and dissipates every unholy thing and creature It reaches. The Word of God keeps us tender-hearted and is an impenetrable barrier for deceit. It is The Truth and has been from the beginning.

God spoke to Adam, He spoke to Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and many patriarchs of the families. These men were to raise and lead their families in truth, creating and passing on Godly traditions and characteristics –it is the reason He spoke; the perpetuity of God’s will in creation. To begin the lives of their children with intellectual and spiritual understanding by which their lives would fulfill His will including the expression of the fruit of His Spirit which fulfills their lives and at the same time refutes the works of the flesh; God’s Word destroys destruction.² What a responsibility a father has! What fear! What awe. What adventure!

1. Hebrews 3:13

2 I John 1:1

3. Grace (Def): 5485; *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life)

4. I Corinthians 2:14-16 & Philippians 2: 1-5

5. Express Image (Def): G5482; a *graver* (the tool or the person), that is, (by implication) *engraving*, the *figure* stamped, that is, an exact *copy* or [figuratively] *representation*): - express image.

6. Genesis 3:21

7. Hebrews 10:1-10

8. Romans 7:7-13

9. Ephesians 2:1-5

10. Purge (Def): From G2511; a *washing* off, that is, (ceremonially) *ablution*, (morally) *expiation*: - cleansing, + purge, purification, (-fying).

11. Romans 6:1-7

12. Hebrews 6:13-20

13. Colossians 1:15-18

14. Daniel 8:16

15. Jude 1:9

16. Colossians 1:16 & Ephesians 6:12

17. Matthew 10:29-31

18. Revelation 2:17

19. I Peter 1:12 & I Timothy 3:16

20. Isaiah 9:7 & Revelation 19:16

Strong, James. 1886. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. Oxford Press, England.

The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, 1991 (1689) King James Version. AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN. 27422, USA

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. 1999. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. Published by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

(Vs 4) “Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Jesus’ *being made* better than angels is a statement of fact that Jesus Christ from the beginning was better than the angels. The promise made to Adam was one of redemption. The promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12 is unmistakable yet clarified in Galatians 3. Jesus was the seed to Whom the promise was made and passed through Abraham to us.¹² Jesus was from all eternity The One to Whom the world would bow. He was always better than the angels and it was always His to inherit the Earth. Made *by* Him and *for* Him.¹³ Now! The time had come for Him to publicly receive recognition by the angels of Glory and all the elect of God that His name is the name above every name –soon all of humanity will know.

This fact surely wasn’t entirely removed from the angels before He took His seat. We know that the angels have names –Gabriel ¹⁴, Micheal¹⁵. We know there are categories of angels.¹⁶ Jesus, existing from all eternity before His birth into flesh, must’ve called them by name. As He knows us as individuals ¹⁷ and has a new name designated for us in Glory.¹⁸ He calls to our heart (our will) by name. We react in acknowledgement and worship. These angels surely knew His name, but never in the history of their existence had they seen Him perform such an act of kindness, meekness, generosity, love. That He would submit Himself to the will of His creation, in a body fashioned like His creation, letting man subdue Him to the point of physical death? Angels desired to look into this matter as their eyes beheld Him incarnate¹⁹ –God suffering, God restraining Himself in the face of evil, God in a body, bleeding out, God crying, their God; keeping his sworn promise to fallen man.¹⁹ Oh! How He must’ve laid to rest any question in their minds as to His power and Majesty! Oh! How they must’ve worshipped Him upon His return –and to this day! Oh! How they must’ve been inspired to the new work at hand!

Of all the names ascribed to Him in the eternal history of Glory: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, KING of Kings, LORD of Lords...²⁰ Never before had there been such a definitively descriptive name. A name *more* important, *more* powerful, *more* humbling, provocative, majestic; A name carrying more weight than any other word that man or angel can utter with voice. The only name by which life can be saved. A name so very much better than theirs: The only name that means anything: A name that means everything. Jesus.

In verse one he mentions, “unto the fathers by the prophets” because this is a letter to the Hebrew people and the context is their national history. The prophets of the fathers: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and so many others, some with some without their own book of the Bible, were the voices of God to men under the covenant that God instituted with the Hebrew people on Mt Sinai.

God has existed through all time and space and has intervened repeatedly to direct man as to his commands and wishes which most often culminated into man’s rebellion and God’s judgment. Man has known God’s Word since the beginning yet man has both refused and had no capacity since the fall of Adam to react faithfully within the will of His God. Therefore, the depravity of the Nation of Israel progressed from the simple murmuring and complaining to the first prophet of their covenant, Moses, to the regularly accepted murder of the prophets sent by God, for their good³.

The sinful nature of man was and is such that the best solution, the only solution was for God to speak, in these last days, through His own son.

(Vs 2) 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...”

In these last days God has spoken to us by Jesus Christ -the Spirit of Whom, speaks to us today through the written Word. God no longer used the office of the prophet after the Lord Jesus came in the flesh because Jesus Himself told us all we need to know. He has allowed men, by inspiration of His Spirit, to write down His will. The Bible is an effect of grace in the lives of men. Grace ³ is applied directly to our hearts, our will, through the written Word, by Jesus Christ. It is a Living Word because Jesus lives and without Him we would not have it. Without His Divine, direct influence, men cannot understand it.

Jesus has been appointed the Heir and Possessor of all things. Our Great Owner is The One Who speaks direction and commands our lives. He is the Owner of every creature, every plant, every animal, star, universe, Heaven and Earth, and every hair on our head. All of creation cries out to us of its Creator: He meant for it to be so. There is no longer any human mediator between God and man –we must deal with Christ alone.

We all must and will deal with our Creator, Jesus Christ, alone. He made the worlds, He owns the worlds, He is The KING of all things.

(Vs 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

Jesus Christ “being” the brightness of God’s glory... Jesus has always been and will always be the brightness of God’s glory! Oh to see and describe God’s glory! In His Word, spoken by His Son, His glory is manifest. We can see! We can see! All we need to know about the glory of God we find in Jesus! Jesus is the image of God. What does God look like? Look at Jesus’ life. God’s picture and person is there, expressed to man in living color. The eyes of man have seen God; Jesus Christ. God is a person. A person has attributes. God came in the *person* of Jesus Christ and all of the attributes of God are in Him. His children also have His attributes. Of course God has arms, legs, a head, and so forth. We know this not only from descriptions of Him in Scripture, not only because He made man in His image, but because Jesus Christ had these attributes as well. What’s more important is that we have the *mind* of Christ.⁴ This only because God has revealed Himself to us in Christ. If one wants to *know* God they must *learn* Christ, He is the only image of God ever ordained *of* God; His express image, i.e., the exact representation of His “Self”.⁵ He upholds all things, not by the magnitude or fullness of His power –upholding all things does not require that much of His power, simply by The *Word* of His power. What credence for His Word! What evidence of His power! All *things* are borne by His Word and His Word is of such power that it alone bears up all things! His Word: the glue and fabric of *all things*, everything in existence. God speaks and it reverberates throughout creation holding everything together until the end of His Word is heard. Oh! How blind the unregenerate hearts eye is to Him! It is impossible to fathom the distance of the heart of the sinner from the heart of God –from the sinner’s perspective. We live, and breath, and every movement of our physical body is in His presence; we are single threads woven into a fabric created and upheld by His Word. Every creature is naturally engaged in the essence of His Being, yet most, do not even know His presence.

Grace! Grace! Marvelous Grace! It opens the blind heart and flows life into the dead eyes! Grace –His Word to our heart that allows us to hear Him and see Him in all things.

He by Himself purged our sins. Adam couldn’t purge his own sin even though the very first thing he ever laid his eyes upon was the face of The Almighty God.⁶ The Mosaic Law couldn’t purge our sin because it was for a remembrance of sin ⁷ which in turn makes us lust for sin.⁸ A man cannot purge his own sin because until sin is purged he is *dead in* sin. ⁹ A “purge” is a cleansing, a washing, a purification.¹⁰ Jesus did not only set our sin aside, He did not hide it from Himself, He didn’t cover it with a time-soluble blanket; He destroyed it. He seized it from us, took the sin of the entire world into His flesh, and crucified it inside His body on the cross.¹¹ We are “washed in His blood”. Clean from sin. His life for ours. Man, at judgment, will not be compared to the Mosaic Law, not to the will of his own conscience but to the perfect and sinless life of God in the flesh, Jesus Christ. We will either stand *clothed in* His righteousness or *compared to* His righteousness. Jesus is all that matters now.

When He had completed the purge, He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high. Jesus had worked hard for a living, taught the rulers of Israel, created a ministry, proclaimed the gospel, tolerated and loved the lowest of men, ushered in a New and unconditional Covenant, healed and comforted untold thousands, taught and preached everyday, had little rest or sleep for over three years, He stood accused of sedition and blasphemy, He withstood the trial and scourging by the Romans and the Jews, He walked the way of suffering carrying His cross -our cross, He had been betrayed, tortured, humiliated, and crucified but then, He rested. From His labor of love He rested. The process was complete. Redemption and rest.

He did not just take any seat, though He could have sat anywhere in all of Glory –He took the seat dedicated to Him and created for Him, the seat He earned, on the right hand of the Majesty on high. The right hand denotes the seat of power and preference, and that of the “Majesty” –The Greatness; God Himself. Jesus Christ IS the power of God. From perfect and unadulterated spiritual meekness and physical weakness at His own discretion, to all power over every creature in all of everything in Heaven and Earth. If I want to know the Power of God, I must learn Jesus Christ.