

Hebrews (1)

What is the word Hebrew? It is an ancient name for the Jewish people. It is the official language of the state of Israel. It means "one from the other side of the river." So we know that the people in mind for this letter, which is more like a book, are the people who can say, "that is who I am." Because of that we need to determine why this book/letter is important to me/us.

What is the foundation of Christianity? What was the source for the teaching of the early church? What did Jesus use as the basis of His teachings? Answer: the Old Testament, the Hebrew Scriptures.

This book will reveal much that was foggy for a couple thousand years.

Heb 1:1

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

The first word is God. It is theos in the Greek language. It can refer to any being considered to be divine. It can refer to a source for all moral authority; a superhuman being having power over nature or luck or fate. Some of those gods take on weird shapes and supposedly require absurd physical worship. Humanity has had great success in making just about anything a god such as money, job, kids, movie stars and even the Internet.

What comes to mind with this word? Since this book is written with the Jew in mind, we have to think about what they would imagine. But we know from our study of the Old Testament that they have had some trouble grasping this concept. But fret not! That is what one of the goals of this book is about.

This verse continues by saying that at all kinds of occasions with different methods God spoke, which means to make a sound that is recognizable and can be understood. Many events come to mind from the OT such as the burning bush, Mt Sinai, Joshua at Jericho, etc.

Heb 1:2-3

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;

Now we are going to use our teeth to chew some tough meat.

Last Days: a period that indicates a definite end to time.

In many of the sermons of the apostles in the early days of Christianity this was a prominent theme. It was first the concept of Israel becoming a free nation but as was revealed along the way it was much more expansive than just one nation but would mean the whole world. So if in 67AD it was called the last days, what do we call 2021? Last Hours, minutes, seconds?

His Son: a very close relation. But not named. Who could this be? How would we recognize Him? When was He here? What can we know about Him?

The attributes of the Son: He inherits everything, He made everything, He reflects God's glory, has all the personality of God, keeps everything where it is supposed to be and operating as it should, and keeps the shape as its supposed to be. You name it, He controls it. He is the Son.

The deeds of the Son: now a clue, a hint about who we are talking about. Remember now that we are thinking with the mindset of a Jew. Purged our sins. This is a word used in reference to a purification process of washing and cleansing. To the Jews this would bring to mind the sacrifices in the temple at the altar. There were many different kinds that would be needed for purification. Sins, faults,

offense, trespass, violate a law. These words cover about everything mentioned in the book of Leviticus. And they would represent very deep purity concerns of the diligent orthodox Jew.

Sat down: that means he is finished. Nothing more to do. Whatever was required was accomplished. All that is left is to accept the fact and to be convinced of the completion.

Right Hand: the place of ultimate authority the same as He who is on the throne. None higher, all lower.

Now to us we know Who we are talking about but there are some people who need a little more proof about this Son which is in the remainder of the chapter. Next time.

Our take away today is our purification was accomplished on the cross at the direction of He who sets on the throne and remembered with Communion.