

1. God Has Spoken Heb 1:1-4

The Bible teaches emphatically that God has spoken and that he has spoken through his son. Heb 1:1-4 sets out this basic premise underlying all the revelation of God:

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 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.

Introduction

In our modern world, we find many who claim to speak for God, for they contend that God has spoken to them; and they proceed to speak pseudo revelations that contradict what God has spoken through his son.

For example, Roman Catholics believe that their clergy from priest to Pope are successors to the apostle and still possess the powers of inspiration. When they speaks ex cathedra (i.e. from his papal chair), he speaks the word of God. Most Protestant denominations retain this right for a continually evolving, developmental Christianity through their pastors and priests, synods and conventions.

Modern 19th and 20th century religions, such as Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventist, etc., claim latter day revelations to their modern day preachers and prophets. A good example of this is the Book of Mormon.

Today, a new class of latter day prophets and apostles are emerging, claiming the extraordinary power of inspiration from God. For example, there is an international "apostolic and prophetic" movement called the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). The NAR is closely associated with other Pentecostal and evangelical groups identified as Dominionists. What all these groups have in common is the belief that God reveals his will today to inspired men (apostles and prophets) living today and the belief that God wants Christians to acquire dominion of the entire world in preparation for the coming of Christ to reign over an earthly kingdom. It is not uncommon today even to hear politicians saying: "I get my instructions from God," or "God told me not to run for office." When one asks members of these groups, what sort of person you would like to see elected, they answer that they would like to see a "God-man" elected. God allegedly speaks directly to "God Men." The "God Men" will rise to and govern from their "Seven Mountains:" (1) Business; (2) Government; (3) Media; (4) Arts and Entertainment; (5) Education; (6) Family; and (7) Religion.

In order to accomplish this, they must intepret the scriptures to their liking and have their present day apostles issue utterances to fill in in the gaps. They are teaching that Christ kingdom is yet to come. For the return of Christ rule, they must dominate the world.

Thus, we have a new age of latter day revelation upon us. That there are people today, who claim God speaks directly to them, runs completely counter to the Hebrew's statement: "God has spoken (past tense)." If what the Hebrew writer says is the true word of God, all these modern day prophets, apostles, and their followers are teaching false doctrine; and they are an

extreme threat to Christians and to the church of Christ described in the New Testament. This extreme threat requires that we study what God has spoken and how that differs from what these modern, people preach.

Other among us deny the Biblical accounts of matters like creation, looking to science to answer age old questions of where this all came from. Many ridicule those who adhere to what God has revealed concerning his deep mysteries, choosing rather to speculate from their limited human perspectives. In our day, presidential candidates are openly challenged: "Do you believe in evolution?" Somehow to believe that God created the heavens and the earth and everything else disqualifies one to be President of a county whose motto is "In God we trust!" As we move to listen to what God says, we will reject the term *creationism* as a biased word which tries to equate creation by the God of heaven and earth with other *isms*; such as, communism, socialism, capitalism, and other isms created by the puny mind of man.

In this series, we will look, as much as possible at passages, were God is speaking directly, and we will set what God says along side of what man says.

God is the Alpha and the Omega

Although Jesus Christ revealed the *Revelation of Jesus Christ* to John, the apostle, and speaks himself for the most part, God did speak directly in Rev 1:8 declaring his eternal existence and supremacy:

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

In Rev 21:5-8, God he speaks directly of his word as trustworthy and true, and his eternal power to dispense rewards and punishments:

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

All who ridicule and naysay the pronouncements of the Almighty God, should quake in their shoes.