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God's Revelation of Himself

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

God's Revelation of Himself*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

Bob Bradley

Hebrews 1:1-3

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

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;

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;

The book of Hebrews is a wonderful book. It is a book that when you read it sometimes some say that it is a hard book to understand. I will grant you that. It is. When you read some other things, there are portions, or books in the Bible that are easier to be understood than what Hebrews is. The writer of the book of Hebrews, we do not really know who it is. We can speculate and we can look at how some things were written, and different sayings in here would indicate that the Apostle Paul wrote, but we do not know that for sure. The writer is writing unto Hebrew people, or Jewish people. This probably happened somewhere before 70 AD because when 70 AD rolled around we know that is when Titus, the Roman came and tore down the city of Jerusalem, tore down the temple, destroyed so many people and killed so many people. As the writer is writing here, he makes no mention of that. He mentions the temple worship and everything that went on there. It happened somewhere in the mid 60s or somewhere around there.

He is writing to people who have been saved. This is 35 years after Jesus has died that they writer is writing these verses. Many folks who followed Jesus, folks that were saved, no doubt, when Jesus was here, many have died. We can say this is the second generation of Christian people. Many things have happened. Many of these folks because of persecutions, hardships and things like that and some of it was just because of a lack of understanding about some things; wanted to go back and start worshipping at the temple. They wanted to go back and start again offering their sacrifices as they used to do and to go through all the rituals. The writer here in his writing—this whole book is about Christ being superior to the Law, or Christ being better than the Law, or being greater than the Law. The theme of this whole book is about (Jesus) being better, being superior, and how Christ is superior to all of that. He wants them to know that they have something a whole lot better than they left. You have something here that is a whole lot better than you want to go back to. He is superior. He proves that in this writing in this book, as he writes these chapters. He proves that Christ is superior to the Law and everything that Moses did.

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

He was making a statement here. He says "God" first of all. He says, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake unto the fathers by the prophets." He is telling these people here that God has spoke. God has spoke. It is wonderful that God has spoke. If God had not spoken then we would not know anything about God. If God had not spoke to the prophets then there would be so many things that we would not have. If God had not spoke in the Old Testament, then all of the Old Testament we would not have. It would not be here. Since God has spoke, we are not out in darkness. In other words, we are not just out here wondering around because God has spoke and we know that God has spoke. We know that He has told us different things about different situations on how to live and so forth. We know that God has spoke. We know that God's Word, is in the Old Testament because he said he spoke by the prophets. He said that He spoke to the fathers by the prophets. We know that we can look here and see that God's Word is in the Old Testament scriptures.

This is important why we believe what we believe and that we can prove what we believe. We can go back in the Old Testament and prove many things. God spoke.

The phrase "In sundry times" means "in many parts." We will explain that in a moment. It means that God spoke in the Old Testament, in ancient times. It also means "in many separate revelations." It also means "in many different times," but in a way that they all were not alike. Keep that in mind because that is important.

The reason that is important is this. There is not an individual on planet earth that knows the whole Revelation of Almighty God. God did not reveal the whole revelation of God to any man. God has never revealed that unto any man. I am going to prove that to you. We have an understanding about God today. We have some very smart people that live in the world today who dedicated their whole lives to studying the Word of God and God has revealed some great things unto them. However, they do not know it all. There are things about God that they do not know. There are things about God that they do not have a clue about. God has not revealed His complete total self unto any one individual. You keep that in your mind because that will make sense in a minute.

What He did do was speak in ancient time, "in sundry times" or in different times. He also says that He spake "in divers manners." Not only did He speak at different times in history, but He also spoke in "different ways" in history. We are going to talk about that here in a moment.

If you look at Genesis 3:15, God spoke to Adam and told Adam that the Savior would come from the seed of a woman. We know that. He did not say anything to Adam about what He was going to reveal to Moses. He did tell him that the Savior was going to come through the seed of a woman.

Genesis 3

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

If you read Genesis 12:3, you find out that God spoke to Abraham and told Abraham that the Savior would come from his seed. To Adam He was going to come through the seed of a woman. To Abraham He was going to come through his seed.

Genesis 12

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

God is revealing things in pieces and parts of what He is about to do here. He did not tell Adam the whole picture. He is not going to tell Abraham the whole picture. However, He is speaking here; He is revealing things to different people.

If you go on down through here and read, you will find out that God spoke to Jacob in Genesis 49:10 and told Jacob that the Savior would come through the tribe of Judah. Do you remember that?

Genesis 49

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

He did not tell Abraham that. He said, "Abraham, He is going to come through your seed." He tells Jacob here many later that the Savior was going to come through the lineage, or the tribe of Judah, or through the seed of Judah. If you go on over here and read some things here, you will find out that God spoke unto David in II Samuel 7:13 and told David the Savior is going to be born in your house.

II Samuel 7

13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

He did not tell Jacob that. He did not tell Abraham that. He did not tell Adam that. Do you see what I am getting at here? Each one of them had a piece of what God was going to do. He spoke in many different ways to many different people. He did not reveal the whole revelation about Jesus Christ to one individual. He spoke here and that is why we have the Old Testament here. That is why we have this whole thing. Not only that but we go look in the book of Micah—He told David that He was going to be born in his house. He told Micah the Savior was going to be born in Bethlehem. He did not tell David that He was going to be born in Bethlehem. Did he? He did not tell him that, but He told Micah that.

If you go over in Isaiah 7:14, He told Isaiah that the Savior was going to be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Do you see what the writer of Hebrews is saying? He is saying that God has spoken and we can see that in the Old Testament. He has spoken to the fathers, by the prophets. What the writer is saying is that

God has revealed Himself and revealed His Will unto different people down through history, or time and they have written that down. Keep that in mind.

We really do not scratch the surface about things. We really do not understand a lot of things. Moses knew a lot of things that God was going to do. However, Moses did not know how the Savior was going to come. Moses did not know those things. The great thing about all of that is that God is speaking. God spoke. The prophets were people that God called. They were people that God trusted and that God was going to use to carry on His message; the prophets were.

Get this.

He did not reveal His total Will unto any of them. Each one had a piece of it. When you take all the pieces and put them all together, you will come up with something that will make a nice looking picture. It will paint a picture for you and me. The thing is that God spoke. He spoke by the prophets. He says here "in sundry times," or in many different ways.

Hebrews 1

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;

Before we get there, let us look at something else here. Not only did He speak in many different ways to many different people, but also look at how He spoke. Look how He revealed Himself. If you look at "in divers manners," it means "different." Just as He spoke to different individuals at different times, He also spoke to them in "different ways." When you look at some things here... and we could on and on about how He spoke and different ways and who He spoke to and all kinds of different things here. However, He spoke here and said some great things here. When He spoke to Moses, He spoke to Moses in a great cloud of thunder, when you look at Exodus 19:19.

Exodus 19

19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice.

I Kings 19:12 He spoke to Elijah in a small still voice.

I Kings 19

12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

Do you remember that? When you read Isaiah 1:1, He spoke to Isaiah in a vision.

Isaiah 1

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

When He spoke to Samuel in I Samuel 3:5, (10), or (15) He spoke to Samuel in a dream.

1 Samuel 3

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision.

Not only did He speak to different prophets and people at different times, but He also spoke to them in different ways. That would have been a blessing. Would it not? That would have been a great blessing to have God reveal His Will unto you in the Old Testament. That would have been a great thing. It would have been a wonderful thing. These guys were great people. It would have been great to have been a prophet in the Old Testament. It would have been a great time for God to speak unto you and reveal His Will unto you so that you could go out and proclaim God's Will. That would have been a great time. That would have been wonderful. However, he says something here that is going to prove to them how much greater it is for them and how much more they are blessed than the people in the Old Testament were.

Look what he says here.

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;

He had made the statement that God has spoken. He spoke to the fathers by the prophets in the ancient times. Now he says here "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." It would be one thing for a prophet to come up and tell you something. It would be one thing to be able to speak to Moses, Elijah, Samuel, Jacob, Abraham or one of these great individuals. That would have been blessed for them to speak to you. How much more are we blessed that Jesus Christ is speaking unto us today. We are so much more blessed than these guys ever were. Do you know why? We are so more blessed because God did not reveal His total self in essence unto them. They got a little part here and a little part there in different ways. **The great thing is that God has revealed Himself totally unto you and me in His Son.**

When we look at Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ is the full revelation of Almighty God. When we look at Jesus Christ, He is the total package. He is God Almighty. There is nothing lacking in Him when we see Him. There is nothing lacking in His understand about God because He knows it all. The prophets did not know that. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know that. Jesus Christ does know that. He says in these last days, speaking unto us, through His Son, or by His Son. We are blessed. We are blessed people to know that we are being spoken to, by none other than Jesus Christ. That is great.

We do not think about sometimes. We just think, "We are saved. We are Baptist and on our way to heaven." Baptist does not mean a whole lot. When you get to heaven, they are not going to ask you whether you are Baptist or not. There will not be anyone standing at the gate asking if you are Baptist, or Methodist. That is not going to happen. If you think that they are then you are wrong.

Jesus Christ is speaking. Just for thought. He uses the term "in these last days." We talk about the last days, and we can talk about that a lot. Since Jesus Christ was here, God looks at the thing as being the last days, even though that has been 2000 years. We talked about that one day with the Lord is a thousand years and a thousand years is one day. Time means nothing with God. It does to you and me, but it does not mean anything with God.

God's Word and God's full revelation of His Word is found in Jesus Christ. There is nothing that Jesus Christ does not know about God the Father because He is God the Son. There is nothing hidden from Him. As it was the prophets, the prophets just got a little piece of the puzzle. However, Jesus Christ is the full revelation of Almighty God. Since that is the case, how blessed are we? Since that is the case, how really blessed are we? Since Jesus Christ is the full revelation of God, since that is the case, then how much do we know about Him? Really? It is His Will for us to know about Him, to learn about Him. We do not learn about Him or know about Him without reading His Word and studying His Word, praying and seeking His face. If you want to know something about God, then live a life that is pleasing to Him. Live in the Will of God. Study His Word, then you will find out some things.

God loved us enough that He is speaking unto us by His Son. We were lost. We were doomed. We were damned. All the things that were spoken of in the Old Testament were great. However, there was nothing in what God spoke unto all these in the Old Testament that would save you and me. It was there. The Law was there. They sacrificed animals. They did this every day. They made all kinds of sacrifices every day. The priest would go into the holiest of holies; the most holy place on the Day of Atonement. Offer blood for his sins and for the sins of the people. That did not take away their sin. That did not make them to have a clear conscience before Almighty God. When Jesus Christ came, since He has come, since He has spoken then you and I can have a right relationship with Almighty God. We can live a life where our conscience is defiled.

What that means is this. We can lay our heads on our pillows of the night and know that there is nothing standing between me and God. When you do something that you know is wrong, it does something to the inside of you. When you do something that you know God is not pleased with, and you are one of His children, then you automatically know that. Very quickly, you know that because you have a conscience. If we have been saved, then God will remind us that what you did here was wrong. Since that is the case, and since we understand that, then we will want to repent.

Many people have over-rode their conscience. Their conscience has been seared with a hot iron. Their conscience has no feeling in it anymore. They live in sin, go, and do what they want to and it does not bother them anymore. It does not affect them anymore. Their conscience is not defiled before God anymore because it is just as if you took a hot iron to it and burnt it repeatedly. It is just calloused over. The Spirit of God no longer penetrates it. If you are in that shape, I would feel sorry for myself. I would

be finding me a place to pray somewhere and I pray continuously. I would do some very serious praying because that would be a bad place to be.

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;

The word "heir" means Jesus Christ is to receive and to be lawful owner of everything. Do you know why? It is because He made it all. He created it all. He is the heir of A-L-L things. The Bible talks about you and me being heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Since He is an heir to all things, we are going to be a part of that also. If we are saved, if we go to heaven then we are going to be able to inherit all things. That ought to make us shout. If we really realized how blessed that we are, and how that we do stand upon Holy Ground and what all God has done for you and me; that ought to make us shout.

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;

I want to say something here. We know that He is the Creator. We know that He is the maker. The Bible uses the word "worlds." That word means "ages." It also means "universe" and things like that, but it means "ages." When it talks about that, not only did He create matter that we see, but He also created time, generations, and ages. What I mean by that is this. One generation comes on and lives for 60 or 80 years then they die. Then another generation comes on after them. Do you know what happens? Things continue to go on.

When I die, the world is not going to stop turning. When you die, it is not either because God has created the ages and everything that is here.

He uses the word "all" by which He has made the worlds. Every planet, every star, every galaxy that was created, was created by Christ. If there is a planet out there that has little green men on it, Christ created it. If there is another race of people out there somewhere in one of those galaxies that is a hundred million light years away, if there is, they were created by Christ. That is what that says. That is what that is teaching us there. Since that is the case and since He is the heir of all things, that make Him greater than the Law. Since He is the Creator of all things that makes Him greater than the prophets. He is greater than all those things because He is the heir. He is the Son of Almighty God. He is the Creator; therefore, He is greater than all the prophets are.

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;

Christ possesses the very glory of God. When you look at the word "being," it means "absolute and timeless in existence." That is what the word "being" here means. "Who being" means that Christ always has been. Before the worlds were ever created, Christ was. Before there was a universe, before there was a planet earth, before there was anything out here, Christ was. That is what that means. The

absolute and timeless in existence, that means He has always been. That makes Him greater than the prophets. They came, lived and they died. He is greater than the prophets are.

Not only that, but it also says “the brightness of his glory.” In the Greek it means “the brilliance,” “his radiance,” “splendor,” “the light of God,” and “purity.” It goes on and says here, “dwelling among us in Jesus Christ.” What that means is when we look at Jesus Christ we can see the splendor. We can see the glory. We can see the purity. We can see the very light of Almighty God when we look at Jesus Christ. When we look at the prophets, we cannot see that. However, when we look at Jesus, we can see that. That is what makes Jesus better than the prophets.

I know some of these things a little difficult to understand sometimes. However, these are things we need to know and things we need to understand.

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;

The Bible says that He is “the express image of his person.” The word “express image” means “the very stamp,” “mark,” and “impression.” One of the definitions that I did not like was “reproduction.” What He is saying here, when we look at Jesus Christ—He being the express image of God—means that when we look at God the Father, and we look at God the Son, there is absolutely no difference there. They are totally, and completely one in the same. Even though they are different, when we look at them, when we look at their goals, when we look at everything they are doing, when we look at their wills, when we look at what their plan is, God the Father and God the Son are absolutely and totally the same. That makes the Son of God, Jesus Christ, a lot better than the prophets.

He has the whole plan. They just had a little piece.

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;

The word “image” means “substance,” “the very being,” “person,” and “the embodiment of God.” Therefore, when we look at Jesus Christ, when we see Him, we are seeing God.

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;

Do you know what makes the earth spin tonight? The Word of His power makes the earth spin and that is what started things spinning. Do you know what keeps it all together? Do you know what brings different seasons and different times? Do you know what makes it all work together? Do you know what is holding this whole thing together to keep the planets from running into one another? The Word of Almighty God is holding it all together, today. That makes Him better. Since His Word is holding it all

together, that would make Him a whole lot greater than the prophets. They could not hold anything together. They could not even hold their own lives together; many of them could not. That is true.

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;

Not only is He holding all things together, but He is also our Redeemer. When it says here “purged our sins.” The prophets could not do that. That makes Jesus Christ greater than the prophets because they could not save themselves. They could not save anybody. Jesus Christ has purged us. He has cleansed us from our sin. The Bible says here that He “sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Not only has He saved us, not only has He redeemed us, but He is also our intercessor today. He is sitting at right hand side of God the Father making intercession for you and me. What that means is this. When I need to go to God about something, Jesus Christ is sitting there listening to me and He will take my petition right before the throne of Almighty God.

The prophets could not do that. That is what makes Jesus Christ so much greater than everything that we find in the Old Testament.

I said all that tonight to say this. Since He is the Creator, since He is holding all things together, since Jesus Christ has done all these things, He has redeemed us. He is our intercessor. He is sitting on the right hand side of God today. Since all these things are fact, that should make us live better lives.

If you are not saved today, that should make you want to get saved today. He is holding it all together.

Wherever you are at, find a safe place to pray. Find you a safe place to call upon the Lord. He will forgive you. He will save you. He will cleanse you. He will do that if you will just ask Him. Come tonight?

Come—