

The Climax of God's Self-Disclosure

Introduction:

Theme: The climax of God's self-disclosure is His revealing Himself through His Son.

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

I. A series of contrasts in the way that God reveals Himself now and the way in which God revealed Himself previously.

A. A contrast in era

1. In the past

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2. In these last days

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

B. A contrast in recipients

1. He spoke to our forefathers

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2. He spoke to us.

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

C. A contrast in agents

1. He spoke through the prophets.

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2. He spoke by His Son.

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

D. A contrast in extent.

1. He spoke bit by bit over an extended period of time.

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

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2. He spoke completely through His Son. (implied)

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

E. A contrast in ways.

1. He spoke in various ways.

Heb 1:1 (NASB) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2. He speaks in only one way (implied)

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

II. The uniqueness of the Son.

- A. It was through the Son that all things were made.

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom

He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Heb 1:8 (NASB) But of the Son He says, "THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

Heb 1:10 (NASB) And, "THOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING DIDST LAY THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THY HANDS;

John 1:1 (NASB) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 (NASB) He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 (NASB) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- B. The Son is depicted as the one to whom all things are given.

Heb 1:2 (NASB) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Col 1:15 (NASB) And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

Col 1:16 (NASB) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him.

- C. The Son of God not only made all things but sustains all things by His powerful word.

Heb 1:3 (NASB) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Mat 14:32 (NASB) And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

Mat 14:33 (NASB) And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

- III. The Son reveals the Father perfectly.

- A. The Son manifests the glorious presence of the Father.

Heb 1:3 (NASB) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right

hand of the Majesty on high;

1. The Son of God bore a unique glory.

John 1:14 (NASB) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Luke 9:32 (NASB) Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him.

- a. The Son of God revealed that Glory.

John 2:11 (NASB) This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

- b. That glory was most fully seen in the redemptive work of Christ.

- (1) The New Testament summarizes Christ's glory as being full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NASB) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- (2) The Old Testament depicts God's glory as being full of grace and truth.

- (a) Moses requested to "see" God's glory.

Exo 33:18 (NASB) Then Moses said, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!"

Exo 33:19 (NASB) And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

- (b) What God showed Moses was His grace and truth.

Exo 34:6 (NASB) Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

Exo 34:7 (NASB) who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

- (c) We have seen that grace and truth of God revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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- B. The Son fully and accurately reveals the Character of God.

Heb 1:3 (NASB) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Phil 2:6 (NASB) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Col 1:15 (NASB) And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

IV. We need to reveal the person of God.

1 Cor 11:1 (NASB) Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

We need to be full of grace and truth.

We need to be fully committed to the incarnational gospel of Jesus Christ.