Sermon Notes for October 11, 2015

The God Who Speaks

Hebrews 1:1-4

Introduction

Why Hebrews?

- Because of its clear focus on Jesus Christ as Lord.
- Because of its encouragement to be strong and stay faithful.

“Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish Christians whose world was falling apart. They had never seen Jesus in person, yet had believed. Their conversion had brought them hardship and persecution with the result that some had slipped back into Judaism.”

“Theyir Christianity had not been a worldly advantage. Rather, it set them up for persecution and the loss of property and privilege, and now could possibly even cost them their lives.” William Lane

“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.” Hebrews 10:32-34

Did God know what was going on? Did he care? Why doesn’t God speak?

I. God has spoken through creation.

General Revelation

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.” Psalm 19:1-3

“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

The Anthropic Principle states that the entire universe with all of its laws appears to be designed for man.

Astronomer Robert Jastrow observes that the anthropic principle is the most theistic result ever to come out of science.
Yet many still refuse to believe.

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:21

II. God has spoken through his prophets.

Special Revelation

God spoke at many times and in various ways.

- Abraham – audibly and in dreams. Genesis 12, 15
- Moses – audibly from the burning bush, on Mount Sinai and in the Ten Commandments, written by the finger of God. Exodus 3, 20 and 31:18
- Isaiah – in his vision in the temple. Isaiah 6:1-8

God has spoken – that’s how we have the Scriptures.

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter 1:20-21

For the author of Hebrews, what Scripture says, God says.

God’s word is living and active. Hebrews 4:12-13

God’s word points us to Jesus Christ. He is the fulfillment of Scripture.

III. God has spoken through his Son.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Jesus is the fullest and clearest revelation of God.

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

- He is fully God. John 1:1, 14 and 18
- His words are the Father’s words. John 14:10
- His deeds are the Father’s deeds. John 5:19
- To see Jesus is to see the Father. John 14:9

To fall away from Jesus is to lose everything.

Jesus is supreme. He has no equal. He is:

- The Heir of all things.
• The Creator of the universe.
• The Radiance of God’s glory.
• The Exact Representation of his being.
• The Sustainer of all things by his powerful word.
• The Purifier.
• The Ruler – He is Lord of All.

There is no one like him.

Conclusion

Does God see our needs? Yes he does!

Does he care about us? Look at his Son!

Does God speak? He has spoken through creation, his word and best of all, through his Son.