

Family Devotional Guide
For the Week of January 8, 2012

“God Has Spoken” Hebrews 1.1-2

Monday: Hebrews 1.1,2 tells us that God has spoken. He has revealed Himself to us. Note that revelation is not the same as discovery. We would have never discovered God; He had to reveal Himself to be known by us. The ultimate revelation of Himself was by “Son-ness.” Think about some of the attributes of Jesus, manifested as He lived on earth, and what they mean in terms of our relationship with God.

Tuesday: God’s revelation is recorded in the Bible. Read 2 Timothy 3.16. The word, “inspired,” means “God-breathed.” Every word of the Bible is from the mouth of God. Discuss how you personally can testify to the truthfulness of the Bible.

Wednesday: God’s revelation of Himself is recorded in the Bible which is the inspired Word of God. One of the works of the Holy Spirit is to illuminate His Word. It is by the fullness of the Holy Spirit that the believer can understand and apply the truths of Scripture. Read 1 Corinthians 2.12-14 and discuss how to take advantage of the Holy Spirit’s illumination of the Scriptures.

Thursday: God spoke in times past through the prophets of the Old Testament. Read your favorite Old Testament story and discuss what it tells us about the character of God and what it means to you.

Friday: Hebrews 1.1-2 teaches us that Jesus is the full and final revelation of God. God has spoken in Christ and has nothing else to say. Discuss the earthly and eternal perils of ignoring and/or rejecting Christ. Give your testimony of when you received Christ and share how others can know God through Christ. (Suggestion: Go through the tract: “Have you Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?” with your family for this devotional time).

Saturday: Read Hebrews 1.1-3 and express praise for who Jesus is and what He has done. Pray with your family/friends that God will give you a ready heart for Bible Study and worship tomorrow as you gather with your church.

Further thoughts on the Book of Hebrews . . .

While the authorship of Hebrews is a mystery to us, the Jewish nature of the book indicates that the original recipients were Jewish and believers in Christ. Many argue that the original recipients of the book can be divided into three groups:

1. Jewish Christians
2. Jewish non-Christians who were intellectually convinced of Christianity's truthfulness, but remained unconverted because tradition had a strong hold on them, or they were afraid to leave the Jewish faith.
3. Jewish non-Christians were not convinced of the truthfulness of Christianity.

Thus the author wrote to encourage, exhort, and convince each group of the superiority of Christ.

Another issue that baffles scholars is where the recipients were. There are some who say that the epistle was written to Jews in or near Jerusalem. Others suggest it was written to the Jewish community in Rome. I find the Roman destination doubtful because Hebrews 13.23-24 indicate that the epistle was written from Italy – perhaps Rome in particular. Another idea is that the epistle was written to Jews in Antioch in Syria.

I don't know for certain the location of the recipients. However, I will tell you what I do know.

1. From the text, I glean that the original recipients were Jewish Christians who needed encouragement, edification, education, and even rebuke.
2. The book is obviously Jewish in theme. A former Jewish priest, who was saved, would fully appreciate and understand the lessons contained therein.
3. While other New Testament epistles address Jews (along with Gentile believers) who came to Christ and were forced to leave Jerusalem because of persecution, there is not a particular mention of the priests who were saved. Acts 6.7, *And the word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.* It could be that Hebrews was written to these priests who had left behind the symbols of religion and followed the substance of relationship with God through Christ. As a matter of fact, the priestly book, Leviticus, is the key to understanding Hebrews.

The fact is Hebrews was written to you – and addressed to your current address. The original recipients may have been Jewish, but they were believers just like you. Their issues, their hardships, their temptations, their need for instruction and encouragement were the same as yours and mine. They needed to go forward in their walk with Christ. Therefore, let us study Hebrews and let us go forward.